

One size fits all? A novel application of the adult Meroce[®]l epistaxis pack

Dear Sirs

Post adenoidectomy haemorrhage is a potentially life threatening complication^{1–3} and postnasal packs are the preferred solution – although the use of such packs is associated with significant problems.

We have recently used an adult Meroce[®]l pack for this purpose after a five-year-old girl underwent

routine adenotonsillectomy with the adenoids removed by adenoid curettage. Six hours later she had to be returned to theatre for surgical control of bleeding from the adenoid bed. Initial treatment failed and standard postnasal gauze packs were not available. Therefore a pack was fashioned using an adult size 10 cm Meroce[®]l epistaxis pack.

We took one adult pack (Medtronic Limited, Watford, UK: Figure 1a), trimmed it to fit transversely in the postnasal space when folded, and cut off the pre-existing ties (Figure 1b): silk sutures were then inserted to control its position in the nose (Figure 1c). Insertion of the modified pack was achieved by introducing Jacque's catheters into the nose and, once in the postnasal space, saline was applied to the pack to cause it to expand. The pack was secured by tying the nasal sutures across a gauze bolster at the columella, while the oral suture was attached to the cheek.

The pack was left in situ overnight. There was no further bleeding and the pack was easily removed through the mouth the following morning and the child discharged after a further 24 hours of observation. We would recommend this as the pack was well tolerated, effective and easy to remove.

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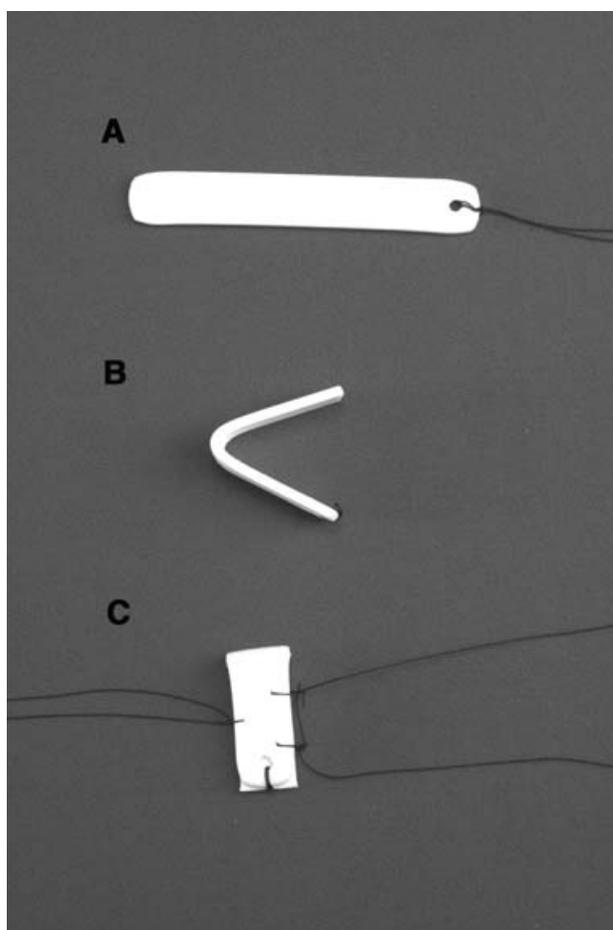


FIG. 1

(a) An adult size 10 cm Meroce[®]l epistaxis pack. (b) Pack folded in half with ties removed. (c) Modified pack with sutures, ready for insertion.

References

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- 3 Tzifa KT, Skinner DW. A survey on the management of reactionary haemorrhage following adenoidectomy in the UK and our practice. *Clin Otolaryngol* 2004;**29**:153–6