

APPENDIX 1

EQUIPMENT FOR FISTULA REPAIR

ESSENTIAL SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT FOR FISTULA REPAIRS	
<i>Table</i>	Table with steep head down tilt (Trendelenburg) of 45 degrees and where the foot end of the table can be removed as otherwise it will be very difficult for the surgeon to sit for any duration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the foot end of the table is fixed and cannot be removed, check if you can turn the table around 180 degrees so that the head becomes the foot. • If there is not adequate head-down tilt, you can place bricks or step under the end of the bed. Tables of good quality are made by Fazzini, Nuova.
<i>Shoulder pads</i>	These allow steep head down tilt without the patient slipping down the table (Fig.1.3c).
<i>Light source</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bright light source e.g. Evolution LED lights, Astramax • A headlight is useful, as the table position will be changing during the surgery.
<i>Suction</i>	This is important to avoid using a lot of gauze for swabbing.
<i>Ureteric catheters</i>	Size 4, 5 and 6 F. If not available, infant feeding tubes can be used but are more difficult to keep in place.
<i>Sutures needles</i> The main sutures for repairs:	<p>Strong needle/ suture: for taking the lateral bites of para-urethral tissue including periosteum. A 5/8 circle 26 or 27 mm needle (available as UR6 Vicryl 2/0 J602H or Polysorb UL-878 or Novosyn 2/0 FR26).</p> <p>Fine needle/ suture: when taking the central bites of the urethra: A half circle 26 mm needle Vicryl 2/0 taper (VCP or J 417).</p> <p>Very fine needle/ suture e.g. work on a fragile urethra or ureter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/0 22 mm needle (Polysorb GL-182) or Novosyn HR22 or Vicryl 3/0 J305 3/0 or • Vicryl 2/0 VCP306 on a 17 mm 1/2c needle. <p>Special: A J shaped 22 mm needle (Vicryl W9223) is useful when working in confined spaces as it is easier to turn the needle e.g. when the fistula angle is very lateral.</p> <p>Vagina: any large needle e.g. 36 mm Vicryl J375H or Polysorb 40 mm CL-803.</p>
<i>Cautery</i>	Cautery (Bovie) is very useful especially for higher/ cervical fistulae.



Fistula repair set:

Upper row: towel clips, kidney dish with gallipots, sponge forceps.

Middle row: weighted speculum, Sims, Retractors, long and short artery forceps, long and short Allis forceps, vulsellum.

Lower row: Uterine sound, metal catheter, probe, dissecting forceps/ pickups, scissors, needle holders. On left, tray with suction tubing. Thorek scissors which are useful in fistula surgery are not shown in this set.

LIST OF INSTRUMENTS FOR FISTULA REPAIR SET	
Speculum + Retractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Auward weighted speculum</i> with an acute angle which allows it to sit nicely in the vagina. There are two sizes: (a) The larger one (Aesculap® EL 739R) is suitable for most cases. (b) A smaller one with a shorter and narrower blade (Aesculap® EL 736R) is suitable for small or scarred vaginas and is particularly useful to have. • <i>Sims speculum</i>: is useful for a shorter vagina. • <i>Deaver retractors</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small curved 8 ½ inch (Aesculap® BT601R) is very useful to help in retracting the bladder during large fistula repairs. ○ Large retractors are useful in high fistulas especially in obese patients. ○ Langenbeck retractor, 13 x 44 mm blade x 2
Scissors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissecting scissors, curved: Sharp ones are ideal e.g. Stille-Matarasso are particularly good for cutting scar tissue. The Stille tonsillar dissecting scissors are finer and sharp. • Suture scissors, straight, 18 cm • Thorek scissors
Needle holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayo-Hegar, 20.5 cm x 1 • Mayo-Hegar, 18 cm x 1
Dissecting forceps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissecting forceps, with teeth, 20 cm x 1 • Dissecting forceps, fine serrated jaw, 20 cm x 1
Single items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blade holder 7, Swann Morton, 159 mm x 1 • Probe with eye, malleable, 20 cm x 1 • Uterine sound, malleable, 30 cm x 1 • Metal catheter, 16 cm x 1 • Kidney dish, large, 34 cm and gallipots x 2
Allis forceps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis forceps, 20 cm x 2 • Allis forceps, 15 cm x 2
Artery forceps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large artery forceps, 23 cm x 1 • Mosquito's, curved, 13 cm x 4
Large forceps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponge holding forceps, 241 mm x 2 • Vulsellum forceps, curved, 229 mm x 1
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towel clips, Backhaus, 89 mm x 4 • Towel clips, Backhaus, 127 mm x 6 • Safety Pin forceps holder, 114 mm x 2
Special blades	Either size 11 or 15 are useful for incising in the vagina.

CHECK LIST OF ITEMS TO USE FOR FISTULA REPAIRS	
	Ureteric catheters
	Foley catheters sizes 12F 14F 16F
	Syringes: catheter tipped 60-100 ml
	Dye e.g. gentian violet paint or methylene blue
	Surgical blades: size 11 or 15
	Special sutures
	Probes: to help catheterize ureters
	Prophylactic antibiotics
	Spinal anaesthesia e.g. Heavy Bupivacaine
	Post-operative instruction sheet (Appendix 3) and post-operative charts (Appendix 4).
	Strapping of good quality
	The 3 essential instruments: Good scissors, needle holder and toothed dissecting forceps (pickups).