

Coagulation diathermy

Nature of procedure

Use of high-frequency electrical current to thermo-coagulate blood vessels in order to stop wound bleeding.

Indications

Wound bleeding which cannot be controlled with conventional methods such as compression and suturing.

Contraindications

Patients with implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD), pacemaker or any electrical stimulators.

Intended benefit

Stop wound bleeding.

Operative procedure

1. Patient needs to lie on the couch with wound exposed.
2. Operation is performed under local or regional anaesthesia.
3. A metal plate will be adhered to the patient, usually at posterior thigh, if monopolar diathermy is used.
4. A diathermy instrument in the form of pen or forceps will be used to generate heat and coagulate the bleeding vessels.
5. Wound dressing

Aftercare

1. Keep the wound clean and dry.
2. Wound dressing (if necessary) in GOPC as scheduled.
3. Take the analgesics/ antibiotics as prescribed; tetanus immunization as directed.
4. Consult a doctor for wound related problems.

Complications

1. Skin burn
2. Wound infection
3. Delayed wound healing

It is impossible to mention all possible complications that may happen after the procedure and the above is only a few important complications which may occur.

Consequence on refusal of treatment

Persistent bleeding

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In different patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information, please contact your doctor.