

**How to keep the mini c-arm laser positional crosshair lit throughout a procedure**

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**Novel tip to prevent ear irritation with surgical face masks (FRSM) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

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It is frustrating to have to keep pressing the mini c-arm 'laser' button during surgery, as the positional crosshair has invariably deactivated since it was last needed (Fig 1). However, this can be prevented.

**BACKGROUND**

Guidelines have been issued by Public Health England in relation to the use of face masks for healthcare professionals during the



Figure 1 Laser 'on/off' button

Most mini c-arms have a dual mode function using the laser button. A single press of the button lights the crosshair for 60 seconds, before it automatically turns off. However, if one initially keeps the button pushed for two seconds, the crosshair flashes. Upon button release, the laser positional crosshair stays on indefinitely. This second mode ensures that the laser is on whenever it is required.

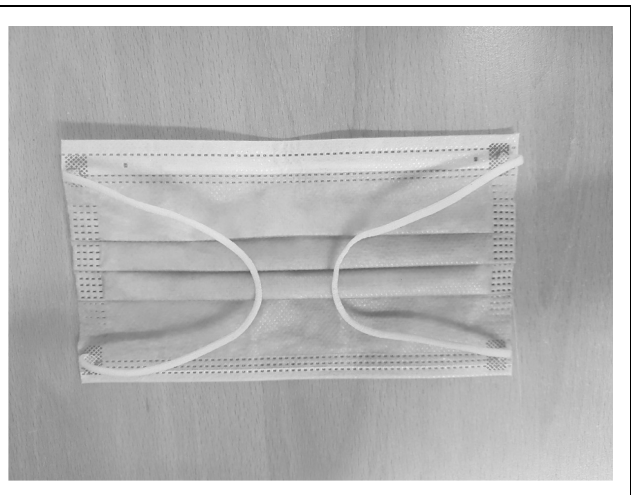


Figure 1 Fluid resistant surgical mask with tie

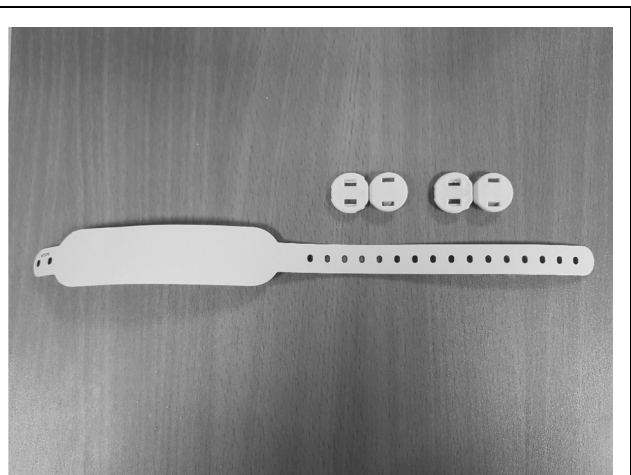


Figure 2 Wristband with clasps

COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> The current form of fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSM) used in day to day practice has got elastic ties which go behind the ears, and extended use of these masks causes discomfort and irritation behind the ears (Fig 1).<sup>2</sup> This is especially so if they are used for prolonged procedures.

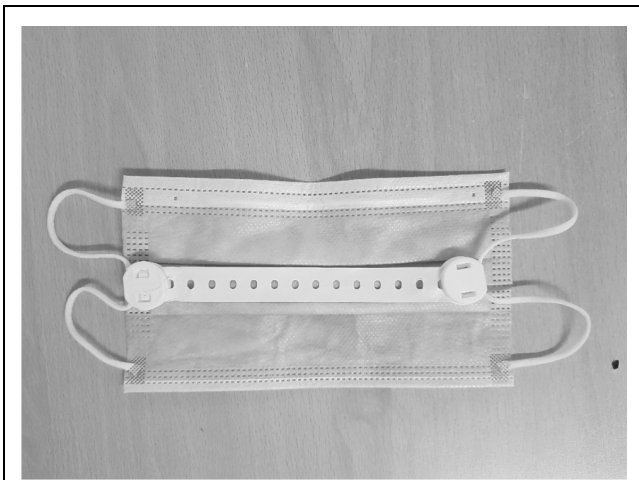


Figure 3 Face mask ties tied to wristband



Figure 4 Application of face mask with the band holding tie at the back of ears



Figure 5 Video of technique

**TECHNIQUE**

We describe a simple and effective method of using a standard hospital wristband (Fig 2) to hold the ties of the surgical mask (Fig 3). The long strip of the punched area of the wristband strap is cut and is used with clasps to hold the tie (Fig 4). The tension of the tie in the upper and lower limb can be adjusted by sliding it easily in the clasp.

**DISCUSSION**

Healthcare professionals may find this technique useful when wearing FRSMs on long shifts in theatres or wards. It allows good fitting of the mask with less irritation to ears. The length of the strip can be adjusted by using the different punched holes. Consequently, less masks are likely to be discarded due to discomfort.

**References**

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2. Gefen A, Alves P, Ciprandi G *et al.* Device related pressure ulcers: SECURE prevention. *J Wound Care* 2020; **29** (Suppl 2a): S1-S52.

**A novel technique for introducing sutures for minimally invasive paediatric surgery in children with a thick abdominal wall**

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**BACKGROUND**

Paediatric laparoscopic abdominal surgery generally uses 5mm trocar sites. Sutures for intracorporeal suturing can be introduced in a