

A New Tissue Retractor

Dr. Ramesh Chandra, M.S., M.S., FRCS

KEY WORDS

Kilner, Modification.

SUMMARY

Kilner's tissue retractor is familiar to Plastic Surgeon's the world over for several decades. Certain modifications and improvisations were thought desirable and prototyped and tested and changes made, have proved to be beneficial. A set of three sizes is considered necessary.

The need for a new retractor was being increasingly felt because of the inherent drawbacks in the design of the Kilner's "Cat's Paw" retractor. The Kilner's "Cat's Paw" retractor which is in use since the time of its production in early fourties has the following drawbacks. The shaft of the retractor is flat (oblong in diameter) from side to side and does not provide a good grip which at time slips during use. The "cat's paw" end is quite sturdy and has three sharp hooks. It is designed to provide powerful retraction which is not always required when the retractor is in use in different locations, like the face, neck, superior and inferior extremity. The "Cat's Paw" : and offer catch the glove in the palm of the hand

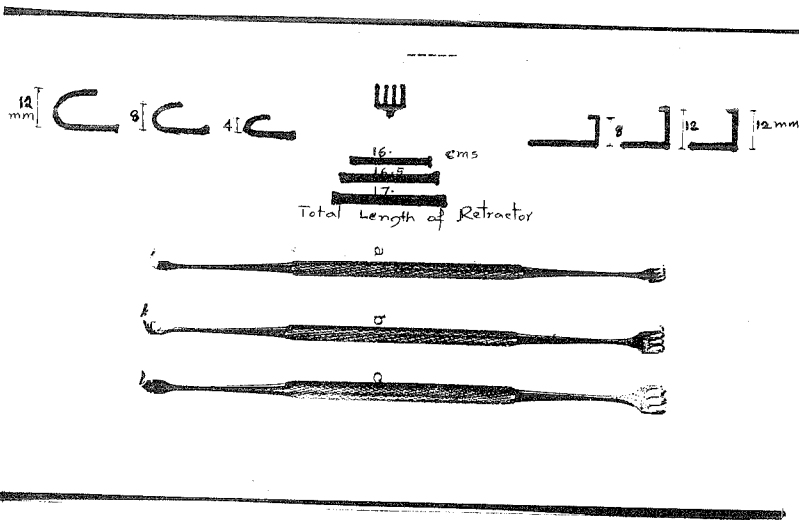
or rub against the thenar eminence of the assistant while the other end of the retractor is being used for retraction. The glove gets damaged or develop puncture holes. The other end of the retractor which has a flat L-shaped bend in the opposite direction is too long for situation like the face and neck or the superior extremity where the thickness of the subcutaneous tissue is not that much.

AUTHOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS :

Dr. Ramesh Chandra, M.S., M.S., FRCS,

Department of Plastic Surgery, K.G.'s,
Medical College, Lucknow, INDIA.

Photograph 1



The new modified set of retractors has a *roughened cylindrical shaft* which is designed for better grip. The length of the shaft of the retractor is 160 mm. The length of the other two retractors is 165 and 170 mm respectively. The "Cat's Paw" end has four prongs of 4 x 3, 8 x 4 and 12 x 5 mm in size respectively. The points of the prongs are semi-sharp. The L-shaped flat end also has three different sizes i.e. 8 x 4, 12 x 5 and 12 x 6 mm in size, so that one could choose, the desired retractor for a particular situation.

The retractor has now been in use in different situations and is found to be acceptable by the assistants as well as the surgeon.