

Section: Division of Nursing  
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**PROCEDURE**  
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**OR**  
(Scope)

**TITLE: USE OF DISPOSABLE DERMATOME HEAD AND DAVOL/SIMON DERMATOME POWER HANDLE**

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**PURPOSE:** To provide assembling instructions for use of disposable Dermatome head and the Davol/Simon Dermatome power handle

**PROCEDURE:** How to assemble:

Step 1: Peel back the sterile package containing the cutting head. Carefully drop onto the sterile field. Packed with the cutting head is a sterile bag and twist type fastener. Remove the protective cardboard jacket and the sterile plastic bag from the cutting head.

Step 2: The non-sterile power handle should be disconnected from the re-charger unit. The scrub nurse should cuff the sterile bag as the circulator places the power handle nose first in the sterile bag. The scrub nurse seals the bag around the power handle by folding it over twice and sealing it shut with the fastener.

Step 3: The power handle and disposable cutting head are joined. To do this simply center the blade in the cutting head by moving the pivot arm manually, and then push the funnel-shaped end of the head over the power handle. The plastic bag will perforate and a slight "click" will be heard. Always try the motor and be certain that the instrument operates smoothly before use. NOTE: The disposable cutting head should engage the handle with ease. If resistance is encountered, realign the pivot arm so that it engages the shaft of the handle.

Step 4: Before performing the procedure, put a light coating of lubricant on the donor site and also on the cutting head. Avoid touching the blade to prevent willing or accidental injury.

Step 5: Use the dermatome with enough downward pressure to yield a satisfactory graft thickness. The flat underside of the dermatome should be parallel to the donor site. Advance the instrument slowly and steadily. To detach the graft from the donor site, move the cutting edge upward with the motor running.

**After Use:**

Step 1: Dispose of the cutting head in the sharps box. Also discard the plastic bag.

Step 2: After use, the power handle should be wiped clean and dry. Insert re-charger plug into handle jack. Leave "on charge" until needed for the next use.

Step 3: For maximum battery life, the unit should be completely discharged once monthly.

**Precautions:**

- Never use in the presence of explosive gases.
- Never sterilize the power handle using steam or ethylene oxide, and never immerse in cold sterilizing solutions.
- Grafts should be harvested using minimum hand pressure. Graft thickness may be altered by varying the pressure applied. Special attention should be given to the skin of children and infants.

Reference: Bard Davol/Simon Dermatome  
Instructions, 2005 Reference from Bard