

Section: Division of Nursing
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PROCEDURE

Index: 7420.068a
Page: 1 of 2
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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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OR
(Scope)

TITLE: ZIMMER ELECTRIC AIR DERMATOME

PURPOSE: To instruct the operating room RNs and ORTs with the proper operation of the Zimmer Electric Air Dermatome use.

PROCEDURE: Operating Instructions

1. Place the power supply in the OFF (O) position. Place the dermatome in the SAFE position by sliding the safety lock on the on/off lever toward the blade end of the instrument to the safe position. Only the word SAFE should be visible.
2. Choose the proper width slate to satisfy cutting requirements. Four width plates are supplied: 1, 2, 3, and 4 inch. (2.5, 5.1, 7.5, and 10.2 cm)
3. Install the blade. Use caution when inserting the blade to avoid nicking it, which may result in an uneven cut. Use a new sterile blade for each procedure.
 - a) Place the on/off lever in the safe position.
 - b) Using the Zimmer screwdriver loosen the width plate screws approximately two turns. DO NOT remove screws from handpiece.
 - c) Remove width plate and used blade.
 - d) Place a new blade in slot on the handpiece.
 - e) Mate the drive pin with the hole in the blade. Note "Insert With This Side Up." message.
 - f) Place width plate over blade and tighten screws. Do not overtighten.
4. Control lever adjustment determines graft thickness. Factory markings indicate 0.002 in. (0.050 mm) divisions. Set control knob pointer to desired thickness.
5. To activate the dermatome, place the power supply in the ON position. Lift the on/off lever and slide the safety lock back to the ON position. Depress the on/of lever to start the motor. Do not run the Dermatome without cutting for an extended time, as this needlessly wears the blade.

Cutting the Graft:

1. Lubricating the donor site with sterile mineral oil or other lubricant may ease the travel of the Zimmer Electric Air Dermatome.
2. Hold the handpiece on the donor site at a 30-45 degree angle.
3. Depress the on/off lever to start the cut. Guide the unit forward using a slight downward pressure to ensure that the cutting edge remains in contact with the donor site.
4. Two methods of graft removal may be used.
 - a) Method 1: Allow the cut graft to accumulate in the pocket of the handpiece. Lift the handpiece away from the donor site to end the graft. Return the on/off lever to the SAFE position and carefully remove the graft.

- b) Method 2: Use tissue forceps to gently lift the graft as it emerges from the pocket area. Do not stretch or pull the graft as this causes irregular edges and non uniform cuts. Lift the handpiece away from the donor site to end the graft. Return the on/off lever to the SAFE position.
- 5. Do not run the Zimmer Electric Air Dermatome without cutting for an extended time. Release the on/off lever and return the safety lock to the SAFE position between cuts to remove the graft.

General Precautions:

- 1. Never connect the Zimmer Electric Air Dermatome handpiece to any source other than the Zimmer Electric Dermatome power supply. It has been factory calibrated to provide optimum cutting performance and maximum safety.
- 2. Never sterilize the power supply. Disconnect the dermatome handpiece from the power supply before sterilization.
- 3. Use of non-Zimmer Dermatome blades can cause the dermatome blades to take grafts deeper than what the user has selected.

Cleaning Instructions:

- 1. Never immerse the power supply.
- 2. Safely dispose of all used blades.
- 3. Thoroughly scrub the dermatome and width plates with a soft brush and water. All traces of blood, coagulated material, and stains should be removed.
- 4. Rinse dermatome and width plate under a faucet. Do not immerse in liquid.
- 5. Shake the dermatome and width plate free of water and wipe clean.
- 6. Always inspect the handpiece carefully for possible scratches, nicks, or burns. Inspect the dermatome's cord for cuts or missing insulation caused by extended use or mishandling. If necessary return to central supply for servicing.
- 7. If necessary, may be steam sterilized or send to central for sterilization.

Trouble Shooting Guide Table

PROBLEM	ACTION
Dermatome Not Operating Power light off	Check input fuses Check power cord connections Return for service
Dermatome Not Operating Power light on	Check blade fit Check handpiece connection to power supply Return for service
Dermatome Operating Too Slowly	Check dermatome for damage Check blade for damage Return for service
Erratic Speed Changes	Check handpiece connection to power supply Return for service

Reference: Zimmer Air Dermatome Instruction Manual (Zimmer)