

Graft Site Depth Control Sleeves for Needles

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For creating graft recipient sites, 18- to 20-gauge disposable needles continue to be popular because of their low cost, convenience, and minimal scalp damage. Lacking depth control, however, remains a disadvantage when compared to many graft-site-making instruments designed for hair restoration surgery.

By accident, we discovered that our custom-made polypropylene (pp) plastic tubes with 18- to 20-gauge inside diameter make excellent depth control devices by cutting the tubes into sections that are 5mm shorter than the needles and threading the needles through the tubes (photo 1). Subsequently, we found tubes made of silicon rubber work as well or better. Ethylene dioxide gas sterilizes both pp plastic and silicon rubber tubes. Heat can sterilize silicon rubber tubes.

This simple sleeve allows us to create 5mm-deep graft sites faster and more uniformly. Thus, we hope to introduce it to our colleagues who use needles for graft sites. If anyone wishes to obtain some free samples, please e-mail tkshiao@yahoo.com.

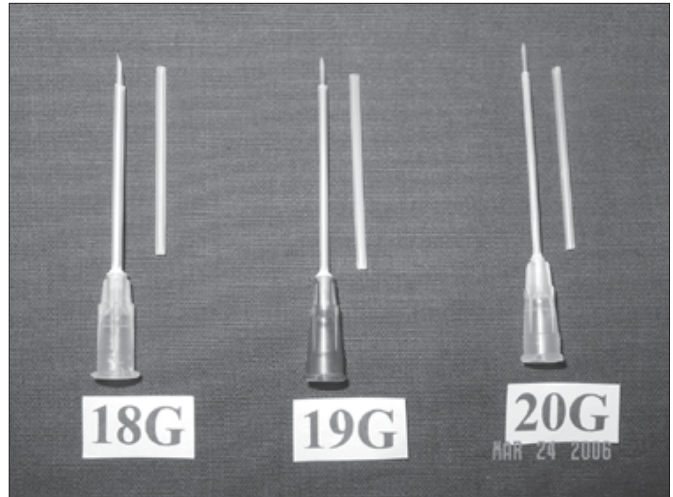


Photo 1. Disposable needles with their respective depth control sleeves.



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