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A Practical Solution for Preventing an Air Leak During Syringe-Assisted Liposuction

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Syringe-assisted liposuction is a useful technique, especially when the machine-assisted suction devices are not available. This is particularly important in office-based settings. Many advantages of this technique have been proposed, especially in terms of adipocyte survival as well as better surgeon control and precision [1]. However, certain drawbacks do exist such as extra time and effort required for adequate fat harvesting.

The literature contains various smart ideas for increasing the effectiveness of syringe-assisted fat aspiration. These ideas include the towel clamps or an extra syringe to stabilize the plungers, modified devices, connectors, and many others [2, 3].

Another problem that surgeons might encounter is air leakage between the syringe hub and the cannula. This might be seen especially after long-term repetitive use of the same cannula. The unstable connection between the syringe and the cannula can prevent effective generation of a negative pressure. In this brief letter, we address an effective and a simple way to solve this problem.

A piece of sterile latex surgical glove is cut and placed around a 60-mL syringe hub (Fig. 1). The cannula in connected to the syringe, with the stretched glove piece covering its hub. In this way, a very tight connection is obtained between the syringe and the cannula. An air leak

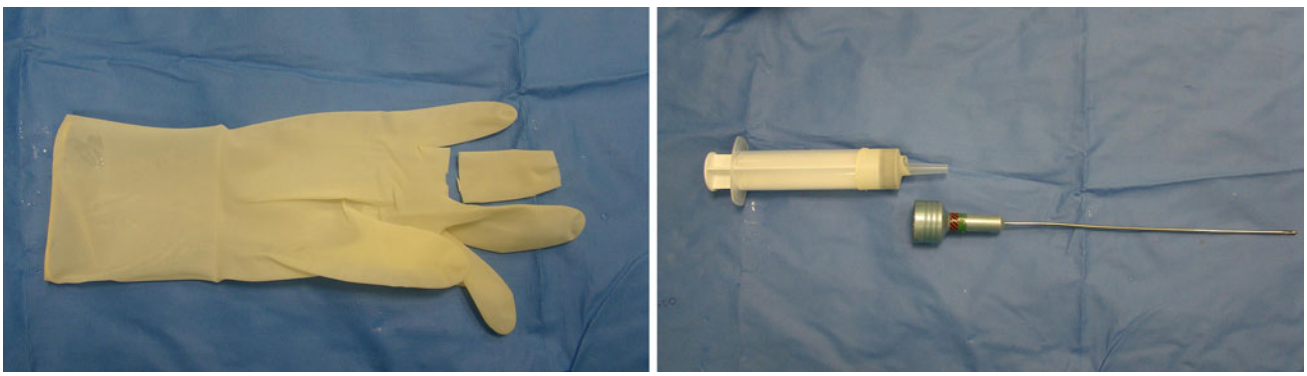

Fig. 1 *Left* a piece of sterile latex glove is cut. *Right* the distal end of the 60-mL syringe is covered with the piece of latex glove

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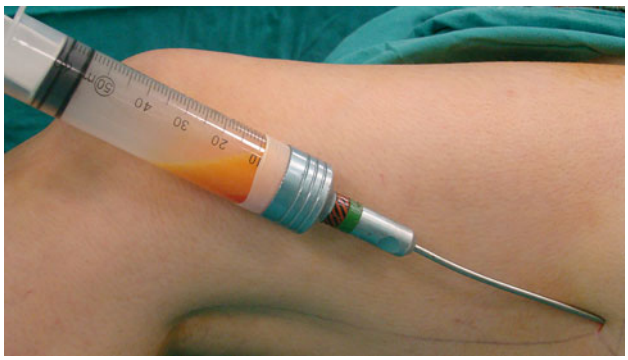

Fig. 2 The tight connection between the syringe and the cannula enables effective liposuction

and consequent loss of negative pressure is prevented, as demonstrated (Fig. 2).

In conclusion, surgeons can overcome bothersome air leakage between the cannula and the syringe with the easy and inexpensive method we describe.

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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