

## SHORT ARTICLE

# A FILED KOCHER CLAMP FOR CIRCUMCISION IN CHILDREN

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### METHOD

A 17cm Kocher clamp with its 5 cm blades reduced to one-third of its original thickness on one of its surfaces can be conveniently used for circumcision in children.

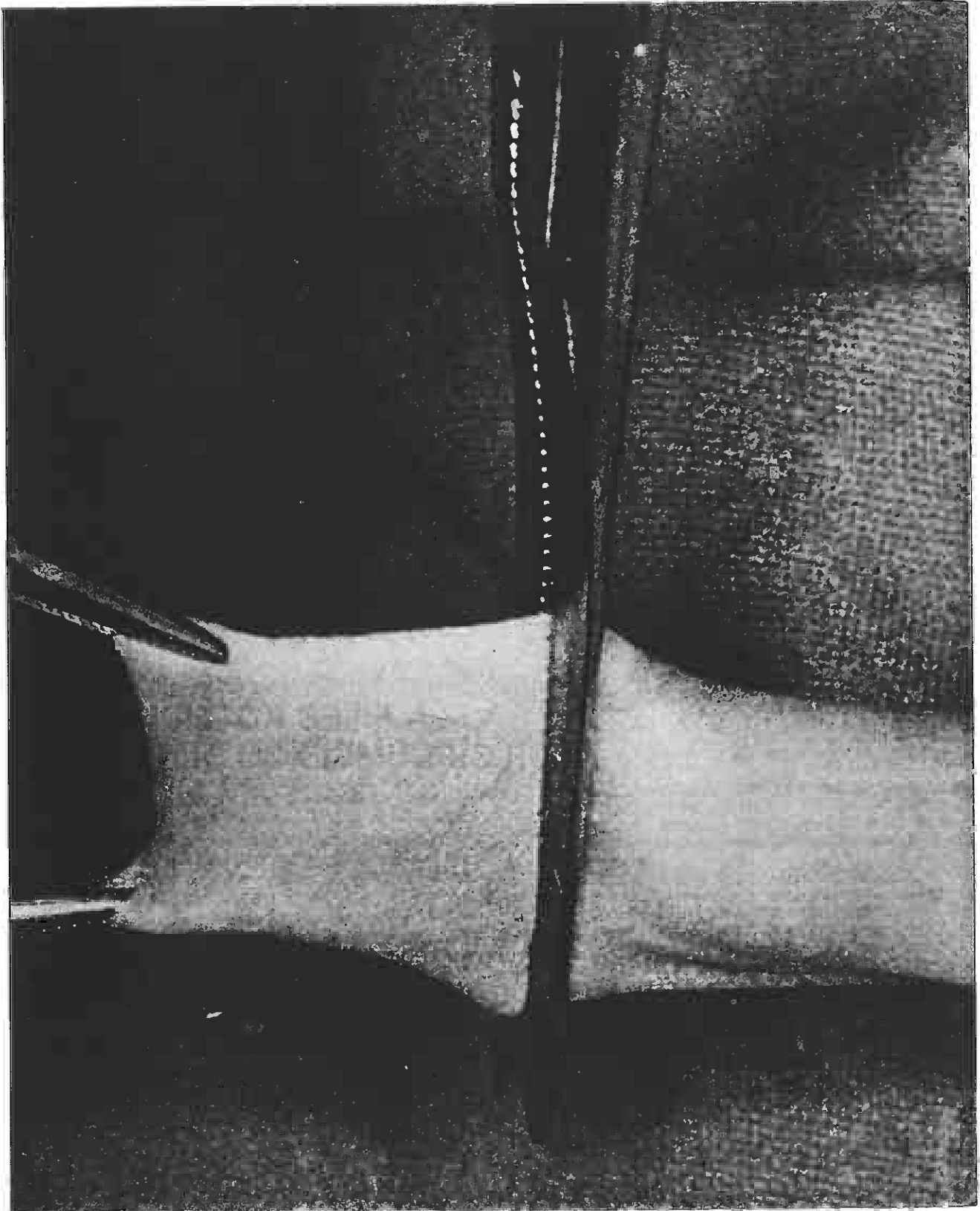
The operative area is first cleansed with aqueous chlorhexidine. The prepuce is loosened from the surface of the glans by a small round ball-pointed probe or the tip of a pair of closed mosquito forceps lubricated with jelly. The glando-preputial adhesions are broken up until the prepuce can be completely retracted to behind the corona. Smegma is wiped off. The prepuce is then returned to its original position covering the glans. Two pairs of small artery forceps are applied to the prepuce at its upper and lower free margins in the midline; gentle traction is needed to render it tense and steady.

The modified Kocher clamp is applied just distal to the tip of the glans penis in an oblique line parallel to the coronal sulcus, with its flat filed surface facing upwards (Fig.) A greater length of prepuce is included in between the jaws of the clamp dorsally than ventrally. The clamp is locked to prevent slipping of the enclosed tissue. The prepuce above the level of the clamp is removed with the blade of a scalpel.

When the clamp is removed, a narrow rim of crushed, adherent skin and mucous membrane is left covering the surface of the glans. By gentle separation and steady retraction of these muco-cutaneous layers the glans is exposed and the cut margin recedes backwards behind the corona. Haemostasis is carried out as needed and the procedure is completed by suturing the cut edges of the skin and mucosa together with interrupted plain 4/0 catgut.

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#### DISCUSSION

There are numerous ways of performing circumcision in children. The traditional method is by excision and tailoring of the excessive foreskin and suturing the cut edges together. Many instruments of varying degree of complexity have been designed to improve the operative result.

A good surgical instrument is one which must be safe to use. It should also be cheap, simple to manufacture, easy to handle, and which can improve the operative result

over the conventional methods. Operative time is preferably shortened although this is not absolutely important.

This modified Kocher clamp is light and handy when compared with many other circumcision clamps. The glans penis slides backwards and is not included when the blades of the instrument are locked and closed. It ensures a sharp and precise cut edge rather than the usual frayed wound. The tissue crushed is narrow in width so that there is no need of further trimming when the clamp is opened.