

2 Instruments and Supplies

The no-scalpel technique requires two instruments specially designed by Dr. Li Shunqiang.

1. The **extracutaneous ringed forceps** is a type of clamp used to fix the vas deferens (*Fig. 1*). For the sake of clarity, the term **ringed clamp** will be used throughout this manual. Throughout the operation, the surgeon uses the ringed tip of this instrument to encircle and to grasp the vas, without injuring the skin. The clamp grasps the vas both extracutaneously and directly. This instrument comes in three ring sizes: 3.0 mm, 3.5 mm, and 4.0 mm. These different diameters accommodate different thicknesses of vasa and scrotal skin.

FIGURE 1. Ringed clamp

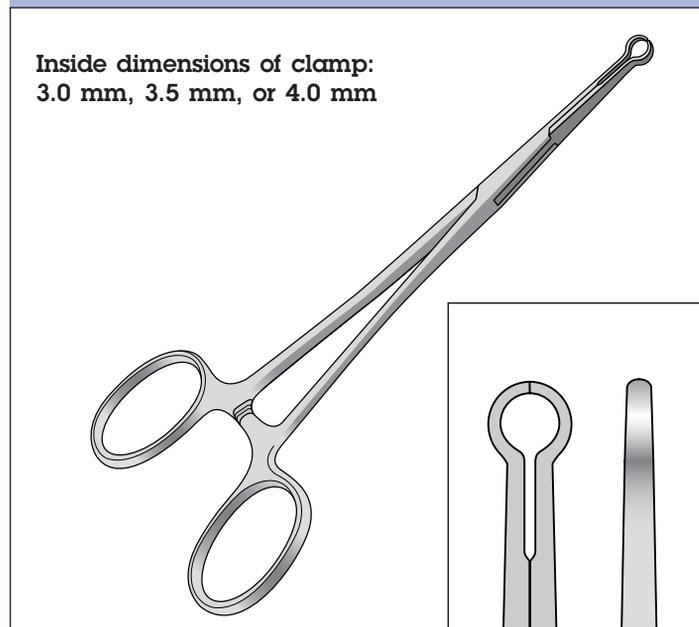
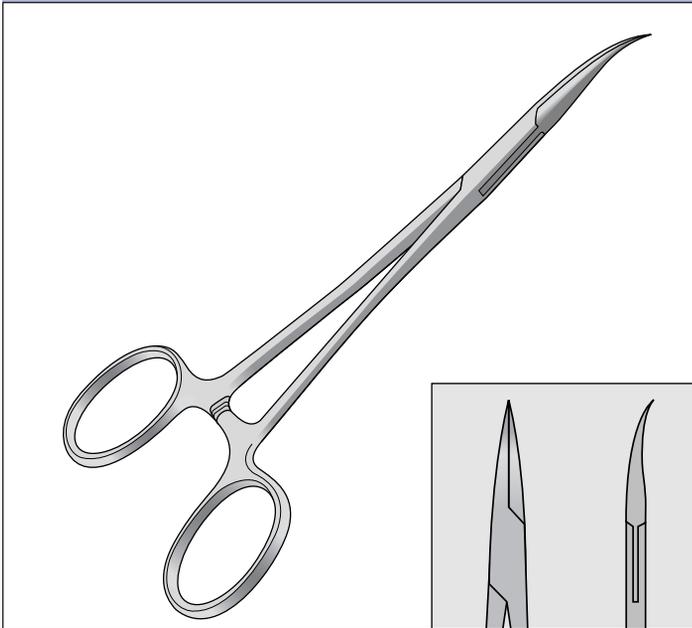


FIGURE 2. Dissecting forceps



2. The dissecting forceps (*Fig. 2*) is similar to a curved mosquito hemostat, except that the tips are sharply pointed. It is used to puncture the scrotal skin, to spread the tissues, to dissect the sheath, and to deliver the vas deferens. The dissecting forceps can also be used to grasp the vas while a ligature or cautery is applied for occlusion. Because the instrument is a modified hemostat, it can be used to control bleeding. Throughout this manual, the term **dissecting forceps** will be used to refer to this instrument.

Additional instruments and supplies needed for no-scalpel vasectomy are:

- A 10-cc syringe with a 1½-inch, 25- or 27-gauge needle (U.S. system). The syringe and needle are used to infiltrate the local anesthetic, both for the skin wheal and the vasal block anesthesia (see Chapter 4).
- Straight scissors, to cut the vasa deferentia and ligatures.
- Supplies for vasal occlusion (for example, ligature material or a cautery unit).

Table 2 presents a complete list of instruments and supplies needed for no-scalpel vasectomy.

TABLE 2. Instruments and supplies needed for no-scalpel vasectomy

Instruments

- Ringed clamp
- Dissecting forceps
- Straight scissors

Supplies

- Adhesive tape and gauze for positioning the penis away from the surgical field (optional)
- Scissors for clipping any scrotal hair that would interfere with the procedure
- Soap and water or antiseptic agents for the surgical scrub (*see page 13*)
- Alcohol rinse (recommended if plain soap is used for the surgical scrub)
- Sterile gloves
- Nonirritating antiseptic solution for cleaning the operative area (*see page 12*)
- Sterile drapes
- 10-cc syringe with a 1½-inch, 25- or 27-gauge needle (U.S. system)
- 1% or 2% lidocaine without epinephrine^a
- Supplies for vasal occlusion according to the surgeon's preference (examples: a cautery unit; chromic catgut or nonabsorbable silk or cotton for ligation)
- Sterile gauze
- Adhesive tape or Band-Aid for dressing the wound
- Scrotal support for the man to wear after the procedure (optional)

^a Synonyms and proprietary names for generic terms used in this book are given below. Proprietary names are in brackets:

lidocaine = lignocaine = [Xylocaine]
epinephrine = adrenaline

