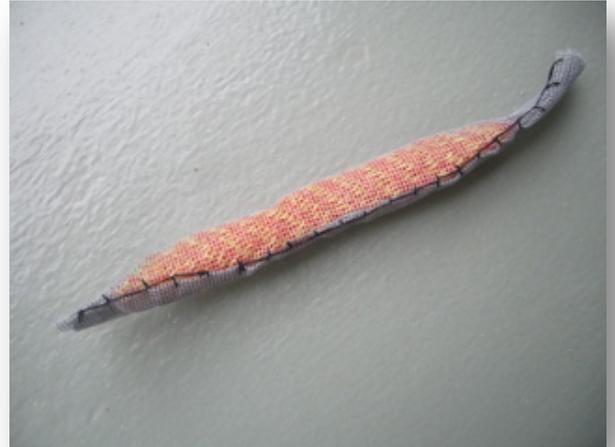


Bascom Cigar Vent

Developed by Dr. John U. Bascom

Purpose

The aim of this device: To let air reach non-healing wounds trapped in a cleft. As every pilonidal surgeon observes, unhealed wounds only persist in a deep, wet cleft: they never persist on a dry, ventilated convex surface. The "Cigar Vent" is a homemade device intended to bring air to the wound so that it can heal.



How It Is Used

The vent is placed against the wound in the natal cleft. Insert the "cigar" in the cleft with the side of the scrub sponge against the wound. Wash the wound and cigar vent 1-2X/day. Might make sense to make a few of the cigar vents and swap them out at each dressing change so they can be thoroughly sterilized.

Concerns

The first patient originally expressed concern about irritation of the wound or discomfort. The surgeon was also concerned about vent falling out and/or sharp ends of broken fiberglass.

Patient Experience

The patient did not experience any irritation or discomfort. The surgeon did a self-test and wore the device for a night and for several hours in a day. He found it comfortable and it did not fall out with walking. It did fall out with large steps or stairs, tighter briefs or a light application of medical tape may solve that. Experiment until you find what works.

The patient wound had not healed after many months due to the wound location being in an airless area. The Cigar Vent device healed the patient after wearing it for a few weeks.

Materials Needed

- (1) Sewing Needle
- (1) Scissors
- Monofilament Thread, approx 2'
- Fiberglass Window Screen, one 12"x12" square should be enough
- (1) Plastic Mesh Scrub Sponge



These might work for the scrub sponge:

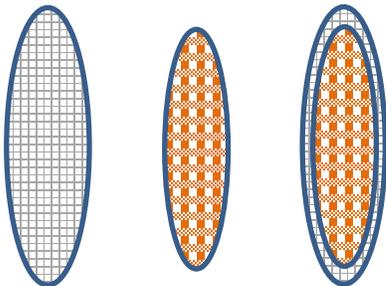
<http://smile.amazon.com/Innovative-Dish-Washing-Cloths-Scourer/dp/B00Q3K56C8>

<http://smile.amazon.com/Set-Round-Scrubber-Sponge-Colors/dp/B00EKTBMZE>

Details of Construction

Orange is plastic kitchen scrub sponge turned inside out by patiently pulling out the center. *The steel scrub sponge is included for only for comparison and should not be used.* The fiberglass screen is so fine and soft that I found no ends even after hours of wearing.

Cut the screen into a long oval shape, about the length as your longest finger but wide enough in the center to accommodate the width of the wound (adjust the size as needed for the wound size).



Place the scrub sponge in the center, leaving enough room at the sides to curl the screen inward and sew down the edge. Take the threaded needle and begin curling the edge of the screen so that no rough cut screen edge will be on top, sewing down as you go along the edge. Tie off the thread when the edge has been completely sewn down.