



SNS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

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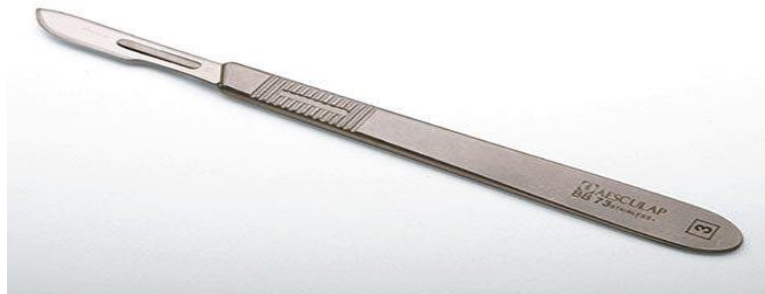
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

A surgical instrument is a tool or device for performing specific actions or carrying out desired effects during a surgery or operation, such as modifying biological tissue, or to provide access for viewing it. Over time, many different kinds of surgical instruments and tools have been invented. Some surgical instruments are designed for general use in surgery, while others are designed for a specific procedure.

Surgical instruments are tools or devices that perform such functions as cutting, dissecting, grasping, holding, retracting, or suturing. Most surgical instruments are made from stainless steel. Other metals and alloys, including titanium and vitallium, are also used.

There are several classes of surgical instruments:

SCALPEL Used for initial incision and cutting tissue. Consists of a blade and a handle. Surgeons often refer to the instrument by its blade number.



SCISSORS Used for cutting tissue, suture, or for dissection. Scissors can be straight or curved, and may be used for cutting heavy or finer structures.



FORCEPS Also known as nonlocking forceps, grasping forceps, thumb forceps, or pick-ups. Used for grasping tissue or objects. Can be toothed (serrated) or nontoothed at the tip.



CLAMPS Also called locking forceps, these are ratcheted instruments used to hold tissue or objects, or provide hemostasis. Can be traumatic or atraumatic.



NEEDLES & SUTURE Needles come in many shapes and cutting edges for various applications. Suture can be absorbable, non absorbable, and is available in different sizes.



RETRACTORS In varying forms, retractors are used to hold an incision open, hold back tissues or other objects to maintain a clear surgical field, or reach other structures. They can either be hand-held or self-retaining via a ratcheting mechanism.



SUCTION Suction tips, combined with a suction source, help to remove debris and fluid from the surgical field. It can also be used to clear surgical smoke.



Needle holder, also called needle driver, is a surgical instrument, similar to a hemostat, used by doctors and surgeons to hold a suturing needle for closing wounds during suturing and surgical procedures. The parts of a simple needle holder are the jaws, the joint and the handles.



Bone cutter is a surgical instrument used to cut or remove bones.



Nasal speculum is commonly used in the outpatient examination of the nose.



Ear or aural specula resemble a funnel, used to examine the ear.



Sponge holding forceps or sponge forceps as they may be called are instruments which are used by doctors to hold on to sponges and/or swabs while conducting their medical procedure. Sponge holding forceps are usually made in the shape of a scissor.

