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New Instruments for Treating Canalicular Stenosis, A Common Affliction of Chinese Americans



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Abstract

The author has devised two instruments for treating lacrimal canalicular stenosis, commonly found in Chinese patients in the New York area. The symptoms of this chronic and debilitating tearing and repeated conjunctivitis, blepharoconjunctivitis, and the more serious corneal ulceration, with the threat of ultimate corneal perforation, endophthalmitis, and loss of the eye, are, even early on, very debilitating.

The first of these two instruments is the Sisler lacrimal canalicular trephine, which is a tiny (only 0.85 mm across) cutter for removing a micro-cylindrical plug of scar tissue prior to stenting the formerly stenotic or totally occluded passageway. It is manufactured and sold by the Visitec Co., 7575 Commerce Court, Sarasota, Florida 34243-3218.

The second unit - currently under development by the Rhein Medical Co., 5110 Eisenhower Blvd, Tampa, Florida 33634 - is a less traumatic up nctal and canalicular dilator. Easier passage of this instrument than others of its kind is accomplished through the use of concave bevels in the areas of increasing diameter. Conical bevels force the tissues more and convex bevels tend to abut against small orifices. But the concave bevel, as illustrated here, is "kinder" to stiff, cicatrized, stenotic host tissues. Therefore, patients experience less pain and discomfort.

The author has no proprietary interest in either of these instruments.