Novel use of Prolene suture for duct delineation during microductectomy

Shiva Dindyal, Jayant Sharad Vaidya
Department of General and Breast Surgery, The Whittington, Royal Free and University College Hospitals, London, UK

Classically, microductectomy is performed using a probe inserted via the offending duct to delineate and identify the responsible duct. We propose the use of a 1-0 Prolene (Polypropene blue monofilament non-absorbable) suture to cannulate the relevant duct. We believe that the use of 1-0 Prolene suture is favourable for duct identification because the blue suture is more apparent when dissecting via an infra-areolar incision and also we believe the malleability of a 1-0 Prolene suture is advantageous in delineating the duct with no distortion of duct anatomy. The use of a rigid probe alters the anatomy and also does not cannulate it to depths that can be achieved with a 1-0 Prolene suture.

Figure 1 shows a breast, which has two secreting ducts both cannulated with 1-0 Prolene suture. Figure 2 shows a Prolene suture delineating a duct and it can clearly be seen that the Prolene suture easily identifies the causative duct.

We propose the use of 1-0 Prolene suture to cannulate a duct during microductectomy because it is easier to use, cheaper and does not distort anatomy.

Figure 1. A breast with two secreting ducts both cannulated with 1-0 Prolene suture.

Figure 2. A Prolene suture delineating a duct.