*The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*
November 2000, Vol. **114,** pp. 903

# Letter to the Editor

## A concha bullosa crusher for use in endoscopic sinus surgery

Dear Sir,

We have read with interest the article by Woolford and Jones[1] (*Journal of Laryngology and Otology* **114**: 205-206). As seen in the figure, the jaws length of the forementioned instrument is 3 cm and has a straight structure. The width of the jaws has not been noted and could not be comprehended. We consider that this instrument has no superiority to a straight hemostatic clamp with small jaws regarding mucosal injury. While squeezing the concha by this instrument, the extent of mucosal injury is directly associated with the experience of the surgeon. The middle concha are bony projections from the medial surface of the ethmoidal labyrinth.[2] Anatomic position of the middle turbinate is downward and slightly laterally curved. It is not possible to squeeze the middle turbinate in its normal anatomic position with this instrument.

We perform conchaplasty intervention for CB by Dogru Forceps which was designed by us and produced by Ömür Medical Antalya-Turkiye in our clinic. This instrument was designed in order to diminish mucosal injury and was convenient to anatomical structure of the middle concha. It was 2 mm gap between two jaws, width of the jaws are 5 mm. In order to decrease the contact of the instrument with mucosa, jaws of the instrument has a hole at the center. The jaws of this instrument is of slightly concave shaped. Two different types of the same instrument regarding the length of the jaws as 20 and 25 mm was manufactured. In our opinion, mucosal injury can be minimized in conchaplasty by such an instrument independent to the experience of the surgeon.

Kemal Uygur,
Halikent Mah. 5212 Sokak,
Gülbag Sitesi A1 Blok,
Daire 8, Isparta, Turkey.

Fax: 246 2180163
E-mail: mutuz@hotmail.com

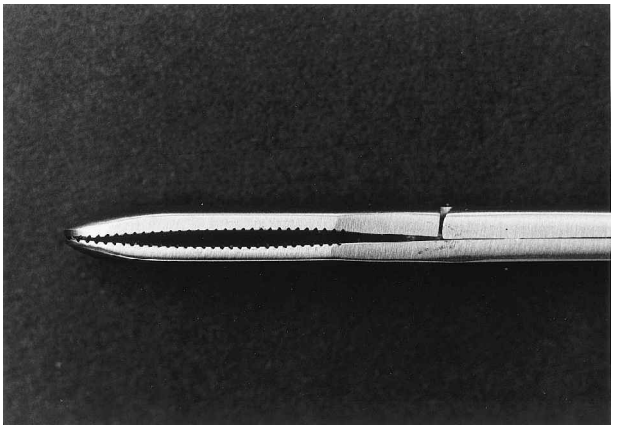


FIG. 1
Jaws of the concha bullosa crusher

**References**

1 Woolford TJ, Jones NS. A concha bullosa crusher for use in endoscopic sinus surgery. *J Laryngol Otol* 2000;**114**:205–6
2 Mafee MF, Carter BL. Nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses. In: Valvassori GE, Mafee MF, Carter BL, eds. *Imaging of the Head and Neck*. New York: Thime Medical Publishers Inc. 1997;248-328

### *Author's reply*

I am pleased to reply to the above letter from our Turkish colleagues who have had very similar ideas to ourselves about the design of an instrument to compress a concha bullosa. To deal with the points that they raise in order; the width of the jaws is 0.7 cm and the instrument is very different from a straight haemostatic clamp as the inner surface is not "toothed" but undulates very slightly and like the instrument that they described does not meet in the middle in order to avoid excessive trauma to the mucosa. The close-up photograph (Figure 1) illustrate these points. It appears that our two departments have designed a similar instrument quite separately for the same purpose.

N.S. Jones,
Professor in Otorhinolaryngology,
University Hospital,
Nottingham NG7 2UH, UK.

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