Tailoring Precision of the Size-15 Surgical Knife at Laparoscopic Porting

Sir,

Securing snugly fitting ports is an essential primary step at any laparoscopic surgery. Crafting precise port-incision is known to reduce complications in laparoscopy.1,2 Owing to its easy cutting property, size-11 surgical blade seems to be popular amongst laparoscopic surgeons for making skin incision before port insertion. Its sharp tip and added length makes it obligatory for surgeon to use it at the right angle to the skin to be incised. This, in turn, tends to minimize the finger-support (and hence the controlled movement) obtained by the surgeon resting his/her hand on the patient's abdomen before commencing the desired incision. This may “cheese-cut” the skin, over-size the port-incision (leading to gas-leak) and potentially traumatize the underlying intra-peritoneal viscera. Postgraduate trainees may find it rather difficult to master its sophisticated use. Moreover, it may be tricky even for a trained surgeon to encompass the requisite precision. Overall, this likely increases the operative time, morbidity and surgical frustration.

Contrary to all these, we found size-15 surgical blade to have surgeon-friendly ergonomics for accurately tailoring the port-incision. Its curvilinear belly is dipped into the skin once or twice in-line to achieve the goal (Figure 1). Using it in a reverse manner at either angle of the incision, can fine-tune the incision to the desired length. Lack of sharp tip adds to the control and safety. We have used this technique in 3600 laparoscopic surgeries without any complications; and hence recommend it for routine use.

REFERENCES
