

A View for Patients

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Sir,

Occasionally, our patients having surgery under regional anaesthesia really want to know what is going on. A direct line of vision is not feasible because of surgical drapes and the patients' supine position. A viewing device can be assembled using a CD ROM, an endotracheal tube stilette and some tape (Figure 1). This is easily handled by the curious patient to watch his

(almost always "his") operation, while the surgeon explains the procedure (Figure 2). Pathology can be demonstrated, decisions, made, and informed verbal consent obtained during the operation. CDs are lighter than conventional mirrors, and they do not shatter when dropped on the floor. This may be one use for unwanted CD COMs, which incidentally, also work well as travel mirrors.

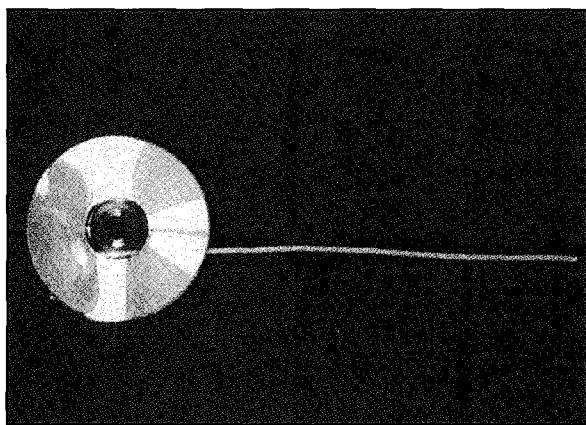


Fig. 1

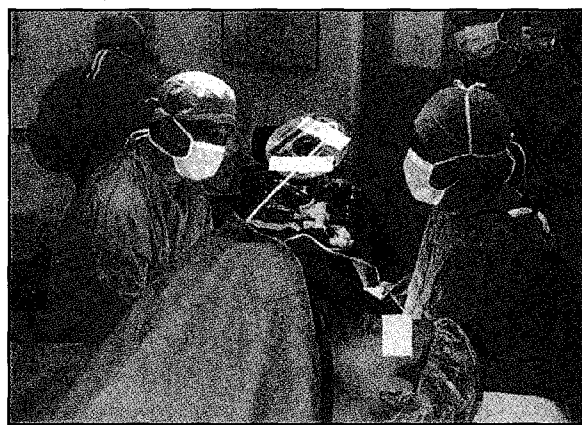


Fig. 2