TECHNICAL NOTE

An Easy and Economical Alternative to the Relton-Hall Frame for Posterior Spinal Surgeries

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ABSTRACT
A simple technique for prone positioning of patients undergoing spinal surgery has been devised by making use of simple wooden blocks. These blocks have been specially designed and are cheap and easy to use and maintain.

Key Word: Spinal surgery

中文摘要
於後路脊椎手術用之Relton-Hall支架的簡單經濟替代品

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後路脊椎手術時，病人要放於伏臥位置。本文介紹以簡單經濟的木塊替代一般用之Relton-Hall支架。臨床應用效果良好。

INTRODUCTION
Prerequisites for positioning patients for posterior spinal surgery include a ‘free’ abdomen for effective venous return to minimise blood loss in the prone position. The position should not have a harmful effect on the physiological stature of patients during the operation. Patients should be stable while in the prone position. Keeping in mind the principle of stability, ease of exposure, and physiologic restraints on the patient, the optimum safe positioning technique for successful spinal surgery is selected. It is imperative to use an image intensifier television or intra-operative X-rays for posterior implantations that require a radiolucent frame. Currently, rolled towels, the knee-chest position, or the Relton-Hall frame are preferred for posterior positioning for thoracolumbar surgery, with each position having its own advantages and disadvantages. Considering these points, a simple, easy, and cost effective alternative to the Relton-Hall frame was sought for underdeveloped countries.

APPARATUS AND TECHNIQUE
Two wooden blocks with a base of 50 x 23 cm and a curved ‘C’ shape with a perimeter of 38 cm with sponge and soft leather covering at the top have been designed (Figure 1). This is equal to half of 2 standard

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