USE OF STANDARD CEREBELLAR FRAME FOR NEUROSURGICAL OPERATIONS IN SITTING POSITION

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(Received for publication August 21, 1947)

Operations on the occipital region, cerebellum, cervical spine, or upper thoracic spine are most advantageously carried out with the patient sitting upright. In this posture, blood and spinal fluid run away from the site of operation. Fig. 1 illustrates how standard equipment can be utilized to obtain the sitting position for such operations. What is normally the foot support of the table is bent at an angle of 90°, and supports the patient’s back. It is retained in place on each side by a diagonal piece of wire or metal, which is attached to the bolts that retain the bars along the sides of the operating table. The cerebellar headrest is placed on the operating table, as illustrated in the sketch. The patient’s shoulders may be supported by straps. The operating table may be tilted so that the surgical field can be brought into the most convenient height for the surgeon. If the patient has any tendency to postural hypotension as determined pre-operatively, the legs are wrapped in ordinary roller bandage from the ankle to the groin. Otherwise, all four of the patient’s limbs are available for the administration of intravenous fluids.

This method of providing the upright posture for neurosurgical procedures was devised as a wartime necessity and has been continued in civilian practice with very satisfactory results. It lacks the tendency to cause shock by pooling of blood in the lower legs, which occurs when the legs are dependent. However, if the blood pressure of the patient should drop

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A MINOR MODIFICATION OF THE CRUTCHFIELD TONGS

AIDAN A. RANEY, M.D.,* AND RUPERT B. RANEY, M.D.*

Los Angeles, California

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Skeletal skull traction is often very helpful, if not absolutely necessary, in the management of fractures, dislocations, etc., of the cervical spine. The skull tongs as designed by Crutchfield are particularly advantageous in maintaining skeletal skull traction. Even with heavy weights, traction is comfortably tolerated for a prolonged period of time.

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