Removal of cranial springs after spring-mediated cranioplasty

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Cranial spring hardware is generally removed 3 months after placement for spring-mediated cranioplasty. Spring removal is performed as an outpatient procedure under general anesthesia in approximately 15 minutes through the incision locations of the index procedure. Herein, the authors provide a multimedia demonstration of cranial spring hardware removal after spring-mediated cranioplasty for sagittal craniosynostosis.

The video can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/511179695>

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KEYWORDS sagittal; craniosynostosis; springs; removal; technique; video

Transcript

0:25 Timeline. Cranial springs are generally removed approximately 3 months after placement for sagittal craniosynostosis, which reflects several weeks of active expansion followed by about 2 months of consolidation.¹⁻⁸

0:42 Local Anesthesia. After general endotracheal anesthesia is induced, local anesthesia containing epinephrine is infused in the patient's scalp incision. The patient is generally left in supine position.

0:52 Incision. After prep and drape, the previous scalp incisions are opened to the subgaleal plane, with care taken to protect the underlying cranial bone regenerate.

1:00 Subgaleal Undermining. Subgaleal undermining is performed over the midportion of the springs.

1:07 Dissection of Spring Arms. Dissection of each of the spring arms is performed to its footplate using tenotomy scissors and Obwegeser elevator.

1:13 Springs Elevated and Cut. Each spring is elevated off of the regenerate and then cut with heavy wire cutters in the midline.

1:19 Springs Removed. Each hemispring is carefully isolated from its surrounding soft tissue. Heavy needle

driver is used to grasp each spring near its footplate; then the spring is axially rotated so that the footplate is retracted from its subcranial position and the hemispring is removed. Rarely, a Kerrison or narrow rongeur can be used to remove cranial bone immediately adjacent to the footplate if it does not easily retract.

1:47 Irrigation. Once all springs are removed, the subgaleal space is irrigated and hemostasis assured.

1:55 Closure. Layered closure of galea with 3-0 Vicryl and skin with 4-0 plain gut is performed. The spring removal procedure can be performed efficiently in approximately 15 minutes.

2:06 Dressing. Bacitracin is applied and a head wrap is optional.

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Disclosures

The authors report no conflict of interest concerning the materials or methods used in this study or the findings specified in this publication.

Author Contributions

Primary surgeon: Lang, Swanson, Storm, Taylor. Assistant surgeon: Lang. Editing and drafting the video and abstract: Lang, Kalmar, Swanson, Shakir, Storm, Heuer. Critically revising the work: all authors. Reviewed submitted version of the work: Lang, Kalmar, Shakir, Kennedy, Heuer, Bartlett. Approved the final version of the work on behalf of all authors: Lang. Supervision: Lang, Bartlett. Filming of video: Kalmar.

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