Technical note

Capture of percutaneous locking screws

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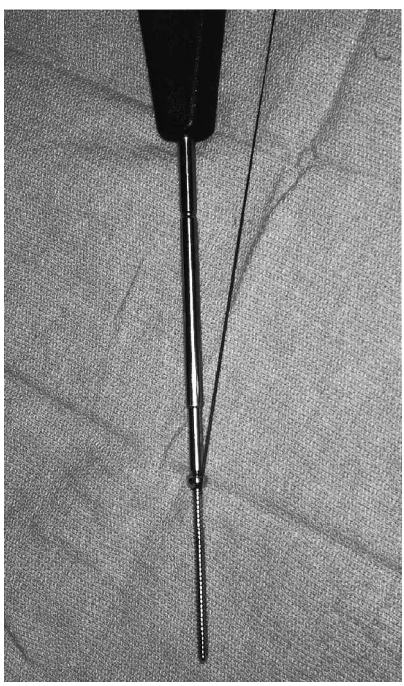
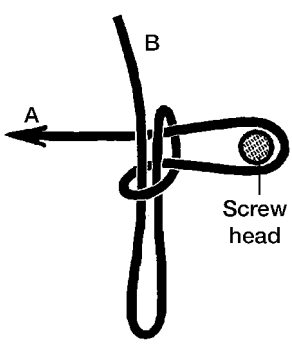
We tie an absorbable suture around the screw head. By maintaining tension on this tie while the screw is coupled to the screwdriver, contact between the screw and screwdriver is maintained at all times during primary insertion or secondary repositioning of the screw. However, if the screw becomes disengaged, it can be removed by pulling on the suture. After inserting a cross-locking screw with a suture tied around the screw head, we used to cut the suture subcutaneously, which left a foreign body in the soft tissue. We therefore started to use this simple slip knot and remove the suture when the screw is in place. If the screw becomes disengaged from the screwdriver, we can remove it.

We use a "0" nonabsorbable suture and, with the slip knot, the tie can be tightened by pulling on one strand (A), but when tension is applied to the other strand (B) the suture is released. We find this technique simple and straightforward.



Screw coupled to the screwdriver by a suture.



The knot.