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A SIMPLE MEASURING DEVICE FOR HIP ARTHRODESIS

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For making accurate measurements of the degree of abduction and adduction in the position of the hip joint during arthrodesis, there is a need for a simple, easy to handle instrument which can be used throughout the operation. The author has found no such instrument available and has therefore constructed an angle measuring device. It consists of two parts: (1) a 60 cm long bar with a protractor mounted at one end, and (2) a bar, the length of which can be varied as necessary, which fits over two nails inserted one into each anterior iliac spine (see photograph).

To make a measurement the central hole in the protractor is placed

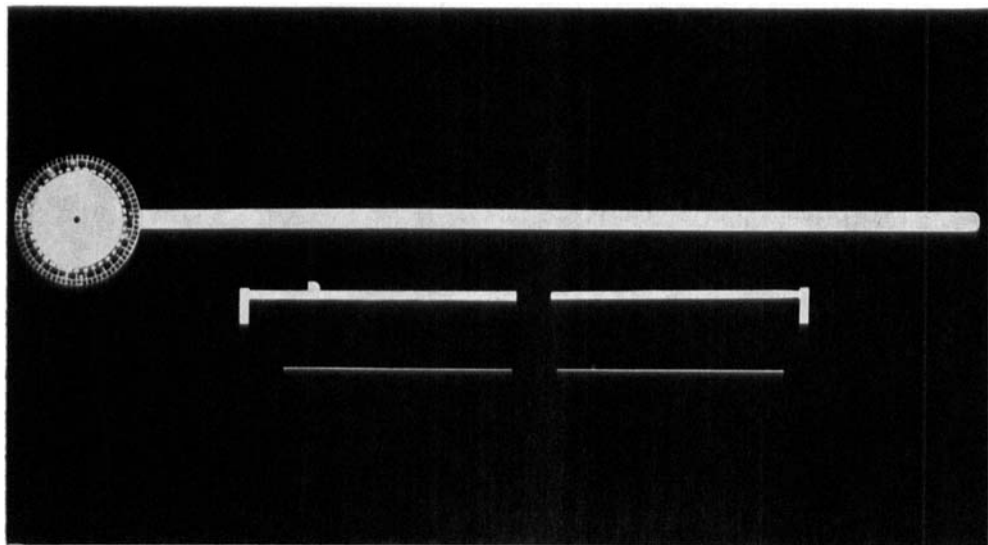


Figure 1. The parts of the instrument.

The instrument will be marketed by KIFA.

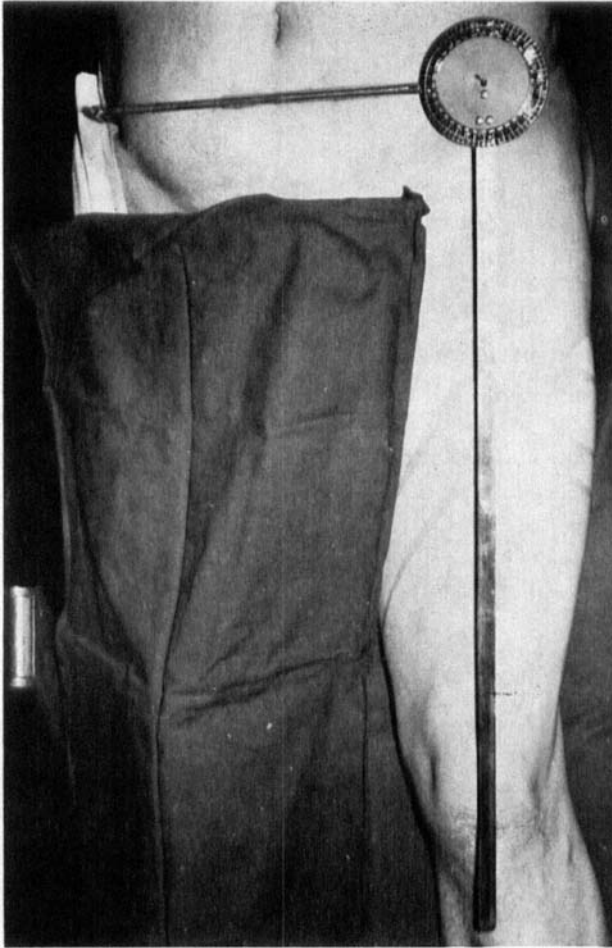


Figure 2. The instrument in position on a patient.

on the nail in the anterior iliac spine of the side of operation. The interspinal bar forms a fixed reference line throughout the operation. The position of the leg can then be measured by use of the protractor bar. Distally this is placed against a constant point of reference, e.g. the medial or lateral patellar border. The angle between this bar and the interspinal line is then indicated on the protractor scale.

The measuring device can be used even with obese patients and allows for great variation in the distance between the iliac spines. It does not encroach upon the operative field and causes no difficulty in the application of dressings or the use of radiological investigations. The instrument has proved simple and easy to use and allows a good estimation of the position of the leg in relation to the interspinal line.