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A HANDY MIRROR FOR SELF-CATHETERIZATION IN FEMALE PATIENTS

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We have developed a handy mirror for self-catheterization in female patients. This mirror, as large as a credit card, is made of finely polished stainless steel, and a 12 Fr catheter can be easily attached to or detached from the mirror.

Key words: Self-catheterization, Mirror, Neurogenic bladder

The self-catheterization in neurogenic bladder patients is one of the most important modalities of urinary control. The development of the catheter specially designed for this purpose has contributed towards its popularization. It is, however, not always easy for female patients to use. We have made a handy mirror about the size of a credit card, which is very useful in training the female patients.

INSTRUMENT AND TECHNIQUE

This mirror, which is made of stainless steel and polished finely, is stout and as clear as a glass mirror (Fig. 1). As a catheter of 12 French size can be held in the slit of the mirror, the patient can handle them in one hand (Fig. 2). The mirror can be easily detached from the catheter after it is introduced into the bladder.

DISCUSSION

The self-catheterization has given definite solutions in controlling bladder evacuation in many patients. However, this technique is sometimes difficult or requires troublesome training in female patients. Several attempts have been made to improve the instruments. Bruijinen et al. reported a metal catheter with a mirror. However, it may be more practical if the mirror can be detached from the catheter. Although Iwatsubo et al. developed a ring mirror, it is too small for good visualization and handling. Our mirror, as large as a credit card, gives a sufficient visual field and is immune to breakdown. We believe that this mirror will help some patients extend
their social activities.

REFERENCES


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