



Figure 1 The author (AF-G) demonstrating the YORKIE.

visualised and the other end put to one's eye (Fig. 1). By using this method the cement mantle is easily seen.

We have found this a simple yet highly effective method which saves repeat X-rays and reduces radiation exposure. The technique can be applied to other radiographs where enhancement is necessary, such as looking for covert fractures and at chest X-rays.

Reference

1. Blackshaw GRJC, Gostling JA, Appleton BN, Pearce N, Thomas GV, Lewis WG. Illumination of X-rays: the usual lights exposed. *Postgrad Med J* 2003 **79**: 99–100.

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Protection of soft tissues during Kirschner wiring

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When inserting percutaneous Kirschner wires (K wires) into the wrist or fingers, the soft tissues can be protected by placing the K wire through a 14-G cannula. The cannula is then inserted through the skin and onto bone. Due to its sharp end, the cannula will be secure on bone, and its placement can be confirmed on the image intensifier. The K wire can then be passed safely in the knowledge that the soft tissues are protected.

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Shaving with the aid of static electricity

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Pre-operative shaving is controversial. Shaving immediately pre-operatively often leaves a mess of hair. We have used a novel method for removing the shaved hairs from legs. The leg is gently placed in the new plastic 'bin' bag that is to be used to collect rubbish from the same case in theatre (Fig. 1). The operative site is then shaved. The tiny static electrical charge that is present on

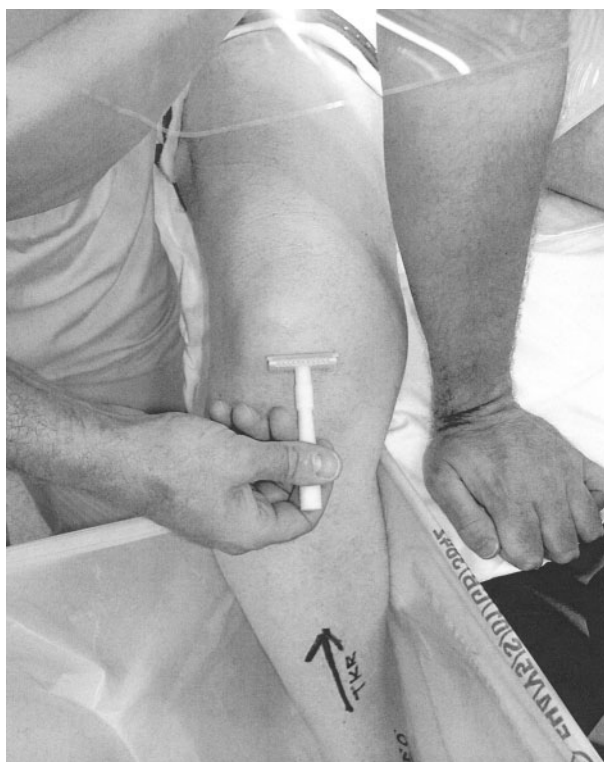


Figure 1 Shaving into a plastic 'bin' bag.

the bag when it was opened attracts the hairs which stick to the inside lining of the 'bin'. This method is simple and requires no additional cost.

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