

THE FINGER IS THE BEST DISSECTING TOOL IN OPERATIVE THYROID SURGERY

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Background/Purpose: In the face of multiple technological advances and innovations in thyroid surgery, the finger continues to be the key "instrument" for dissection in operative thyroid surgery.

Methods: Two key techniques in which the finger is the key dissector are presented in the video. The first technique shows how digital dissection is used to safely isolate and ligate the superior thyroid vessels using the palpable landmark of the inferior cornu of the thyroid cartilage for safe digital dissection and safeguarding the RLN.

The second technique is digital delivery using finger dissection of the substernal goitre, with the ability to deliver even large substernal extensions with gentle finger dissection and progressive delivery of the substernal goitre.

Results: Using the finger as the primary dissection tool has several irreplaceable advantages in operative thyroid surgery and its ability to impart the sensation of touch and pressure to varying, subtle degrees is unique.

Discussion & Conclusion: The humble finger has stood its own in an age of unprecedented technological advance and will continue to play a unique, irreplaceable role as the primary dissecting tool in several significant aspects of safe and effective operative thyroid surgery.