



Turbinate Technique Guide

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Introduction

Tissue Welding (TW) technology, offered by Starion Instruments, is an innovative technology for turbinate reduction procedures. Unlike monopolar and bipolar radiofrequency technologies, TW does not depend upon the conduction of electrical current through soft tissue for operation. Rather, Starion TW instruments have a heating element at the tip that precisely heats tissue. The instruments that utilize TW are designed to minimize collateral tissue damage for improved patient outcomes.

Setup

Refer to the Instructions for Use for equipment preparation. When the ExhalENT™ device is plugged into the Universal Power Supply (UPS) the supply detects the device and automatically sets the correct power level. The knob setting on the UPS does not affect the energy output of the ExhalENT device. Additionally, the ExhalENT device is finger switch operated and does not require the use of the Starion footswitch.

Technique

Perform standard patient preparation and anesthesia induction as appropriate. With the ExhalENT device in hand, insert the needle tip to the desired depth. The distal marking on the shaft of the device is approximately 14mm from the device tip and each laser marking is spaced approximately 10mm apart. The most proximal mark is approximately 38mm from the device tip. Every turbinate is different and the physician must judge how far to insert the tip. It is not recommended that the physician insert the device past the most proximal laser marking.

With the device positioned in the turbinate, activate by depressing the finger switch once and releasing. The green LED on the device will illuminate, an audible tone will be heard from the UPS and the internal timer will start the heating process. When the activation is complete (60 seconds per cycle), the internal timer will automatically turn off the device and the audible tone will cease. You do not have to keep your finger on the switch during activation; however, you may press the switch a second time during activation in order to prematurely turn off the device. After each complete cycle is run, you must press the finger switch again to prepare the device for the next activation. Remove the inactive device from the turbinate and clean it with a moist gauze pad before making the next lesion. It is recommended that you create between one and three lesions per turbinate, depending upon the size of the turbinate.

Tips and Pointers

- The device is designed to create a lesion size of approximately 4mm wide by 10mm in length for each complete 60 second cycle, but this may vary slightly from patient to patient.
- If you desire to make a smaller lesion, simply turn off the device prematurely by pressing the finger switch a second time during the timed lesion cycle.
- It may be helpful to lubricate the device tip before inserting into soft tissue for a smoother transition to the desired depth.



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