

RF energy gaining ground in surgeries

Surgeries using Radio Frequency energy are painless with no wastage of blood or damage to skin

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HYDERABAD: A traditional tonsillectomy, which is removal of infected tonsils, involves the surgeon's scalpel, a bit of pain and a few days to recover. What if the same surgery can be done by radio frequency (RF) energy, a form of electrical energy in the frequency range of 300 kilohertz to 4 megahertz? No need to baulk at such a suggestion because the truth is that such 'gentle' surgeries are available right here too.

According to physicians RF energy has the ability to penetrate the body and get absorbed without any heat sensation. While lasers can cause the skin to feel the heat,

Advantages

- Many physicians claim that compared to laser, RF is better and safer
- Applications of RF are found in wide array of medical treatments
- Less bleeding and minimal tissue trauma
- Ability to cut as well as to coagulate
- Patients recover quickly and good aesthetic results
- Little pain when compared to laser and lesser skin damage

surgeries using RF energy are virtually painless with no wastage of blood, damage to skin and helps patients recover quickly.

"Everybody talks about laser for surgeries. But they forget the potential that RF energy has. Things are chang-

ing and RF is fast replacing lasers in every kind of surgery from cancer to conducting specific procedures in cardiology and a host of other ENT surgeries," says HOD, ENT, Yashoda Hospitals, Dr. D. S. Deenadayal, who has been practicing RF since

1996. Thanks to its versatility, the RF energy is finding its application in a wide array of medical treatments including vision correction, snoring, tonsils, sleep apnea, removal of tumors, surgery of the salivary glands and thyroid, removal of warts, pigments and benign skin tumours, nerve disorders like facial nerve pain (Trigeminal Neuralgia), back pain and cosmetic surgery among others.

"We have treated hundreds of patients who had facial nerve pain by using the RF method for over a decade. It is just that now physicians worldwide are discovering the new applications of this procedure in other medical

treatments. RF technique is well recognised for several conditions of the brain, nerves and spinal disorders," says Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon, Apollo Hospitals, Dr. Rahul Lath.

In addition to its abilities to cut the skin with precision, RF also has the property to coagulate, which is often used to prevent blood loss. "Lasers are heat based and they cause damage to the skin in the adjoining areas.

Doctors using RF get a clear view of the affected region because of the less blood loss. RF is a cost effective procedure and should be encouraged in India," says the senior ENT surgeon, Dr. Deenadayal.