Manual

Lubra plates

193010, 193020, 193030
1 Indications
Curved Lubra plates, sold in pairs, are for use in the dog, cat, or subhuman primate in any situation, such as vertebral fracture or luxation, requiring stabilization of the spinal column (ref.1-5, 10-12, 14, 16, 19, 21). They are also effective in fractures of the scapula (7,8) pelvis (6,9) and for reconstructive surgery of the chest (13) and orbit (15). They are not effective in young animals in which the spinous processes are not well calcified.

Straight single Lubra plates are available for ventral cervical fixation (20). Separate instructions describe their use.

2 Uses of curved Lubra plates in spinal plating
These plates are unique in design and method of application. Because they are flexible, they adapt themselves to the contours of the spinous processes. The checkered surface, which is applied facing the processes, forms a friction grip. For this reason, no bolts are placed through the spinous processes and they are not weakened.

Plate sizes and approximate number of bolts required:
Small – for dogs 20 pounds / 10 kg and under – 6 bolts
Medium – for dogs 20–40 pounds / 10–18 kg – 8 bolts
Large – for dogs 40–70 pounds / 18–32 kg – 8 bolts

Because of variations in body conformation, these figures are approximations, and it is well to have an assortment of plates sterilised to ensure the right size is available. The plates may be cut to fit the patient with bone cutters at the operating table. They may also be shaped or drilled with other equipment.

2.1 Bolts
The plates are fixed in position with stainless steel bolts. A total of 4 to 10 bolts may be necessary for one plating procedure, depending upon the size of the plates used. Since the bolts are not placed through the spinous processes, it is extremely important that they be locked in position.

2.2 Sterilisation
Lubra plates preferably are sterilised by autoclaving or by use of ethylene oxide. If the latter is used, an adequate degassing procedure must be followed, since the plastic absorbs the gas.

2.3 Directions for insertion
Strict aseptic conditions must be observed during insertion of this device.

To apply Lubra plates to the spine, a dorsal approach is used. At least two, and preferably three, spinous processes are exposed cranial and caudal to the site of the existing lesion. Following surgical corrections of the lesion, the plates are applied. Starting either cranially or caudally, the plates are positioned to extend far enough beyond the spinous processes to be spanned to that a bolt can be passed through the first of the last holes. If the plates are too long, they can be shortened with bone cutters.

During insertion of the bolts, the plates are placed as far ventrally as possible and are held in position with Lane bone-holding forceps, or manually by an assistant. One bolt is inserted between each spinous process to be encompassed, plus one beyond the last process on each end. All bolts should be tightened so that the plates bend around the spinous processes, forming a secure friction grip. This should bring
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the plates in apposition where they are penetrated by a bolt. Once all bolts are tightened, the wound is closed routinely. Most dogs, when the spinal lesion has been successfully corrected, will be ambulatory within 24 hours. Casting is not necessary, but the patient should be closely confined for 30 days to avoid undue stress on the back. If the spinal cord has been injured preoperatively, or is exposed during surgery, supportive measures are indicated to prevent cord edema during the first few postoperative days.

2.4 Other uses for Lubra plates

Lubra plates have been used singly to stabilise pelvic fractures (6,9). The plates have also been used in treatment of scapular fractures, being applied on the scapular spine or in the supraspinous and infraspinous fossas (7,8). In these applications, orthopedic screws and/or bolts may provide the best attachment. When used as ribs in reconstruction of the chest wall, plates are wired to the remaining rib ends (13). Small plates may be used in reconstruction of the orbit (15).

WARNING
Because EICKEMEYER has no control over the use, sterilisation, or method of insertion of Lubra plates, no warranty is expressed or implied concerning their efficacy in any situation. Furthermore, while the material from which these plates are made has been implanted repeatedly in dogs without deleterious effects, no warranty is expressed or implied concerning its tissue compatibility. The use of Lubra plates should be restricted to the canine, feline, and subhuman primate species.

3 References

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