restrictive OTC marketing authorisation. Clinicians should be aware of the increased potential for adverse effects as a result of patients self-medicating with hydrocortisone for an extended period.

Summary

We present a case in which the prolonged application of topical corticosteroid resulted in an earlobe perforation. This is the first time, to our knowledge this complication has been reported in the literature. The patient applied the topical steroid for a period of 24 months to treat an area of contact dermatitis, without continued medical supervision. This highlights the importance of clinicians being aware of the increased potential for adverse side effects as a result of patients self-medicating with steroid creams.

References

A 58-year-old woman underwent a breast reconstruction with a muscle sparing free TRAM-flap. The deep inferior epigastric vein was connected to the mammary vein using standard microsurgical techniques. After performing the venous anastomosis the robot was installed and the primary surgeon took place at the console. An assisting surgeon stayed, together with the nurse next to the patient. Subsequently the arterial adventectomy and anastomosis was performed using 9/0 nylon sutures (Fig. 2). The time to perform this anastomosis was about 40 min and significantly longer than the standard technique (around 15 min). To put a sterile draping around the robot took 20 min, but was performed during dissection of the flap.

The theoretical advantages of performing robotic surgery, minimalization of tremor and scaling of movement, were not yet translated into a clear advantage e.g. decreased operating time. However, learning microvascular robotic surgery appears to go very fast and we have the impression that standard times can be achieved with more experience. Applications could be found in microsurgery in areas difficult to assess, or with limited space. In addition, developments in optics, mechanics and software may have important impact on the future development of supermicrosurgery.

Reference