A Simplified Delivery Frozen Elephant Trunk (SD-FET) Technique to Reduce Circulatory Arrest Time in Hybrid Aortic Arch Surgery

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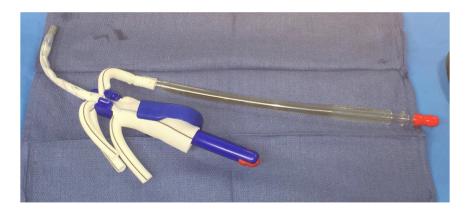
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Abstract

A simplified delivery technique for the frozen elephant trunk procedure allows the distal suture to be performed on a perfused and loaded aorta in moderate hypothermia—or even normothermia—reducing circulatory arrest time to just a few minutes. Two surgical sealing tourniquets are placed around the aortic arch, usually between the brachiocephalic trunk (BCT) and the left common carotid artery and the aorta is cross-clamped and cardioplegia started. Once in mild hypothermia, the BCT is disconnected and circulatory arrest is initiated while cerebral perfusion is maintained. This modified technique can be used in all pathologies, including dissections.

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