

Title: Alexis O-Ring Wound Retractor Utility in Groin Node Dissection

Despite the implementation of more conservative techniques, post-operative morbidity following inguinal lymphadenectomy for vulvar carcinoma continues to remain high. One systematic review found incidence rates for lymphedema, lymphocyst formation, wound infection and wound breakdown following inguinal lymph node dissections to be 14-48%, 7-40%, 21-39%, and 17-39% respectively. Over the last three years, one of our gynecologic oncologists began using the ALEXIS® O (ALEXIS® O-Ring Wound Retractor/Protector, Applied Medical), a single use surgical tool comprised of a polymer sheath connecting two plastic rings, during groin node dissections. Other than the steps needed for insertion and removal of the ALEXIS® O, much of the surgical technique remains unchanged from the traditional groin node dissection. Use of the ALEXIS® O in groin node dissection is advantageous because it improves visualization while allowing for a smaller incision while also potentially decreasing post op infection rates as there have been few incidences of infection.