

# Electrocautery and Diathermy

Electrocautery and diathermy are electrosurgical techniques used in the operation theatre to cut tissues, control bleeding, and coagulate blood vessels during surgical procedures.

## Electrocautery

Electrocautery is a surgical technique in which heat produced by an electrically heated metal tip is used to burn or coagulate tissue. Electric current does not pass through the patient.

### *Uses of Electrocautery*

Control of minor bleeding, skin procedures, ENT procedures, and destruction of small lesions.

## Diathermy

Diathermy is a surgical technique in which high-frequency electric current passes through the patient's body to produce heat within tissues for cutting and coagulation.

### *Types of Diathermy*

Monopolar diathermy and bipolar diathermy are commonly used in major surgeries.

## Functions and Uses

Cutting tissues, coagulating blood vessels, reducing blood loss, and improving surgical efficiency.

## Difference Between Electrocautery and Diathermy

| Feature                 | Electrocautery | Diathermy      |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Current through patient | No             | Yes            |
| Heat source             | Hot metal tip  | Heat in tissue |
| Depth of action         | Superficial    | Deep           |
| Use in major surgery    | No             | Yes            |

## Safety Precautions

Ensure proper grounding, avoid wet skin, keep oxygen away from cautery site, check equipment before use, and switch off after surgery.