

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.