

concern regarding the possibility of nosocomial infection that could arise using this technique.

We would like to bring to your notice that we use disposable electrodes and we are cutting the centre of the electrode with metal piece and the outer sticking part is used. The gel used with Doppler is wiped off after every use.

We consider that the chances of infection is highly theoretical because one of the conventional techniques of monitoring free flaps worldwide is scratching the flap which itself is not known to cause infection. We consider that the risk of infection in this technique is extremely less. While no technique is fool proof and without disadvantage, our experience of using this on 120 cases over a 3-year period has given us courage to continue its practice. We are using it only on intact normal skin. If at any time due to humidity or moisture the lead gets wet or contaminated, you can always change it on daily basis, till the monitoring goes on.

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Nil.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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## **Author's reply to comments on 'A simple technique of marking the perforator of a free flap for post-operative monitoring'**

Sir,

We read with interest the comments on our article (A simple technique of marking the perforator of a free flap for post-operative monitoring). We appreciate the

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