

## Double Lumen Single Barrel Needle Customization and Fluid Dynamics for Single Puncture Temporomandibular Joint Arthrocentesis

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### Abstract

Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disc derangement is the malpositioning of the articular disc relative to the condyle and eminence, where joint lavage may be utilized for treating such patients when symptomatic. Arthrocentesis of the TMJ is a minimally invasive chair side and has been documented to relieve symptoms. This technical note highlights the use of double lumen single barrel for single puncture arthrocentesis and illustrate the technique for needle customization. Flow dynamics for such needle design is discussed.

**Keywords:** Arthrocentesis; Temporomandibular Joint; TMJ; Lavage

### Introduction

Arthrocentesis of the temporomandibular joint was introduced in 1991 by Nitzan, *et al.* [1] and ever since this has gained a widespread popularity among practitioners who are involved in treating temporomandibular joint disorders [4]. The conventional technique to perform temporomandibular joint arthrocentesis requires two needles, for saline or Ringer's lactate inflow and outflow. This technique has its own limitation and disadvantages. Guarda-Nardini L, *et al.* adopted a single-needle technique for both fluid inflow and outflow. It has the advantages over conventional technique in terms of execution time, patient's tolerance, and retention of medication [2]. Ska'rmeta NP, *et al.* introduced the use of an intravenous catheter to provide simultaneous inflow/outflow for low or high-volume irrigation in the TMJ and concluded that this technique allows good control of the inner needle position and uses a relatively narrow-gauge needle for its execution and provides a less traumatic experience for the patient [3]. This is a furtherance in arthrocentesis technique which is simpler to perform, reduces patient discomfort and the procedural duration.

### Technical Note

A needle was customized to obtain a double lumen single barrel, using two 20-gauge needle from an intravenous cannula. The bend was given at 30-degree angle to each needle and soldered from the barrel convergence up to 3 mm short of biangular bevel. Keeping the solder 3 mm short of the bevel prevents thermal damage to the needle tip and the bevel (Figure 1, 2). The effectiveness of irrigation under high pressure (40 KPa) was investigated by comparing ar-

throscopic findings before and after the irrigation [5-7] along with the measurement of intracapsular pressure during irrigation [6]. To ensure the ballooning effect with the irrigant before obtaining the outflow, the bevel of the needles were oriented in such a way that the needle tips remain approximating and bevel facing the opposite direction. (Figure 3). For measuring the depth of insertion, a silicon stopper was incorporated on the needle barrel. The two plastic adapters were used for solution inflow and outflow (Figure 1). The needle is inserted via the standard posterior insertion point located along the canthotragal line 10 mm from the middle of the tragus and 2 mm below the line and follows the insertion path similar to conventional posterior needle insertion track in a postero-anterior direction [8].

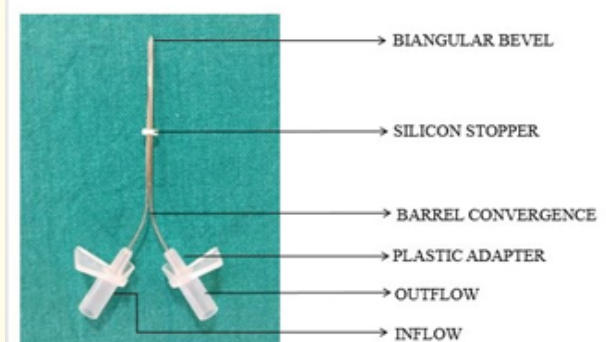
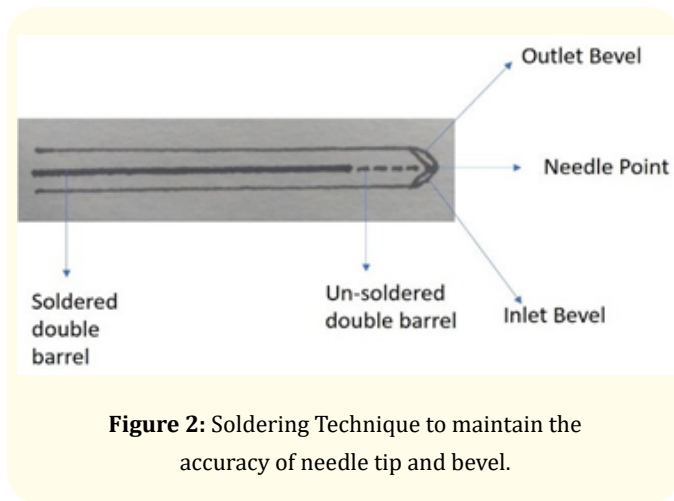
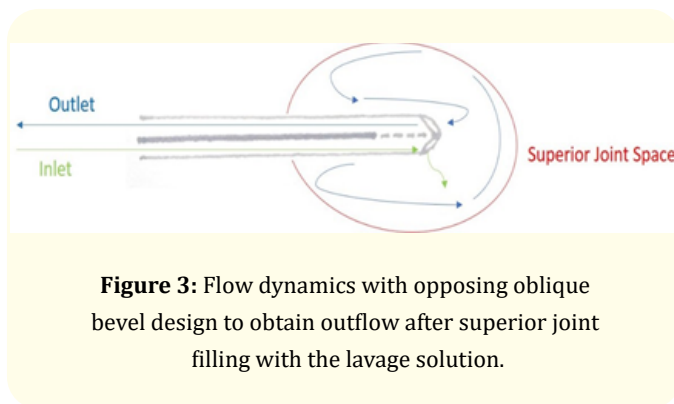


Figure 1: Modified Double Lumen Single Barrel Needle.



**Figure 2:** Soldering Technique to maintain the accuracy of needle tip and bevel.



**Figure 3:** Flow dynamics with opposing oblique bevel design to obtain outflow after superior joint filling with the lavage solution.

**Conclusions**

Single puncture arthrocentesis performed by using double lumen single barrel needle reduces the number of the entry ports. It makes the procedure simple by ensuring a relatively simpler access to the joint space for inflow and obtaining the out flow. It also reduces the operative time as compared with the standardized conventional technique. The depth of insertion can be assessed using silicon stopper in the device to avoid injury to the underlying structures. It also reduces the possibility of discomfort of multiple punctures and needle manipulations. Most importantly this modification in the needle makes the procedure simple and easy to perform in clinical practice with minimal training and practice with precision.

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**Conflict of Interest**

None.

**Ethical Approval**

Not Applicable.

**Informed Consent**

Not Applicable.

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