

Introduction

Endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS) is a technique which carries great potential benefits for the treatment of many nasal conditions. However, it also carries substantial risks. The key to safe surgery lies on adequate training (*McFerran et al., 1998*).

Training in functional endoscopic sinus surgery and in the use and handling of endoscopes poses a number of problems (*Gardiner et al., 1996*).

While dissection of cadaveric human heads is essential in learning nasal and sinus anatomy, and in practicing techniques, it is often difficult to obtain a supply of human heads that are accessible to trainees, *Stamberger and Posawetz, (1990)* advised that trainees should have experience of thirty cadaver head dissections before attempting any live operating. Other trainers consider that an initial ten cadaver head dissections are an adequate prerequisite for live operating (*Bingham et al., 1994*).

Cowin et al., (2002) have shown that standard endoscopic sinus surgery techniques and instruments can be used in sheep. *Gardiner et al., (1996)* developed a model that could be used for training endoscopic nasal and sinus surgery which would allow development of the basic techniques of instrument handling and the rudiments of sinus surgery. With the advice of the surgical skills unit in the United Kingdom they looked at the heads of several animals that are commonly slaughtered and easily obtained.