



18th
Century
Surgery



Not Shown

Tourniquet

This is a constricting or compressing device used to control blood flow to an extremity. The tourniquet is usually applied when the patient is in a life-threatening state as a result of continuous bleeding and for regulating blood flow during amputations.



Capital Knife

Used in the process of amputation to divide the cutaneous and subcutaneous tissues from the bone. Capital knives came in several different lengths, generally 8 to 11 inches in length and tapered to a point.



Catlin

This is a small dagger-pointed, double-edged surgical knife used to make incisions and to separate the ligaments between two bones and around joints.



Metacarpal Saw

Used for amputation where the larger bone saws would be inappropriate (fingers & toes).



Not Shown

Capital Saw

Used for amputation of the larger bones of the arm and leg. This saw was adapted from the cabinet makers saw of the time.



Not Shown

Tenaculum

This small hook is designed to assist the surgeon during amputation by seizing the vein or artery – after the tourniquet has been loosened to identify the major areas of bleeding – pull it out and hold it while it is being sutured.



Not Shown

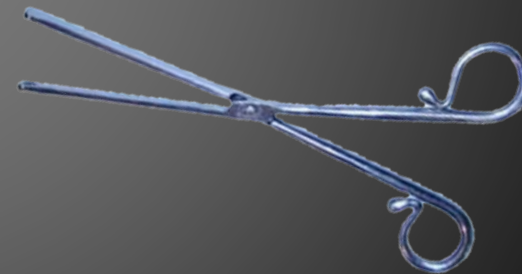
Cautery

This blistering iron was used to raise a therapeutic blister as well as cauterizing uncontrollable hemorrhaging. The practice of cauterizing after amputation had been replaced by 1750 with the practice of tying ligatures on the veins and arteries. After major battles the iron was still employed as a necessity.



Bullet Probe

The bullet probe was used to locate objects under the skin. The wound was probed to locate the bullet and then extracted using the ball forceps. The “needle eye” in the end was used to introduce coarse linen tape into the wound for cleaning purposes.



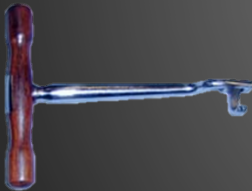
Ball Forceps

Ball forceps were used to remove musket balls from soft tissue that were beyond the depth of the finger.



Trephine

Used for removing a disk of bone from the cranium. The opening is then used to introduce either a small cranial saw or an elevator to remove or lift back into position pieces of bone that have been depressed during a fracture.



Tooth Key

Modeled after a door key, the dental key was used by first inserting the instrument horizontally into the mouth, then its "claw" would be tightened over a tooth. The instrument was rotated to loosen and extract the tooth.



Fleam

Not Shown



Bloodletting Bowl

Fleam

Originally a veterinary instrument, the fleam was used with the bloodletting bowl on humans to make a series of 1 to 2 inch parallel cuts to drain surface blood often from the temples, behind the ears, base of the spine, back, buttocks, and legs. Bloodletting is thought to have originated in ancient Egypt. It was believed that all illnesses stemmed from an overabundance of blood.

