

Glossectomy

Tongue

The tongue is the most versatile organ in the oral cavity. It is responsible for food prehension, water lapping, sucking, mastication, tasting, swallowing, grooming, thermoregulation, and vocalization. Most of these functions require precise motor control, which is why the tongue consists almost entirely of skeletal muscle. The tongue consists of a **root**, which anchors it to the oropharynx; a body, which extends rostral to the root and is attached to the floor of the oral cavity via the **frenulum**; and the **apex**, which is rostral and unattached to the frenulum. Adjacent to each side of the frenulum is a raised area of mucosa running longitudinally called the **sublingual fold**. This fold courses rostrally, ending at the sublingual caruncle. The mandibular and sublingual ducts course under the mucosal folds and open at the **caruncle**.

The root of the tongue:- consists of a set of three paired

extrinsic muscles:

- 1- **Styloglossus muscles** \ They draw the tongue caudally.
- 2- **hyoglossus muscle** \ It acts to retract and depress the tongue.
- 3- **genioglossus muscle** \ It acts to depress and protrude the tongue.

All three pairs of extrinsic muscles are under control of the hypoglossal nerves.

The intrinsic muscles of the tongue are complex, the muscles are categorized into units of fibers:

- 1- Superficial Longitudinal M.
- 2- Deep Longitudinal M.
- 3- Transverse M.

4- Perpendicular M.

The intrinsic muscles are responsible for protruding the tongue and a variety of other intricate movements.

As with the extrinsic muscles, their actions are controlled by **the hypoglossal nerves**.

Blood supply

- 1- **lingual artery** (branch of the internal carotid artery).
- 2- **lingual vein** (empties into the facial vein).

Indications

- 1- Neoplasm.
- 2- Suckling himself (Ruminants).
- 3- Sever tongue laceration.
- 4- Irreparable injuries.

Surgical procedure

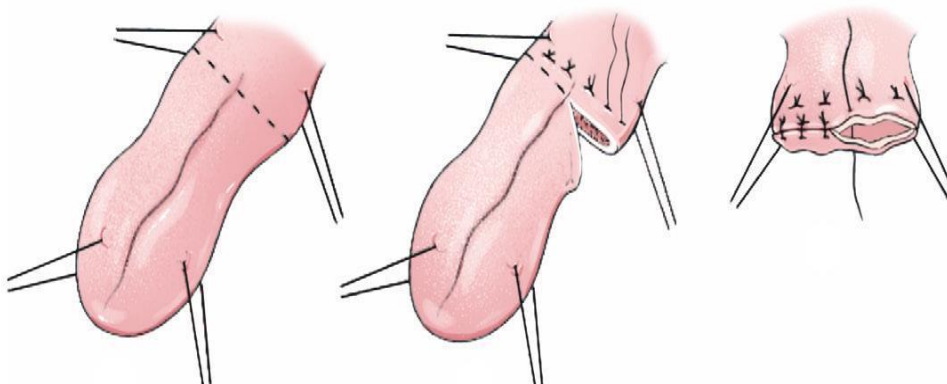
In ruminants

- 1- In preparation for surgery the animal is anesthetized and placed in lateral recumbency.
- 2- A tourniquet (made of rolled gauze) is applied proximal to the intended transection site.
- 3- The tongue is transected so that the dorsal and ventral aspects protrude beyond the center
- 4- The ventral and dorsal aspects are sutured together with an interrupted horizontal mattress pattern with a No.-I or No.-2 absorbable sutures.

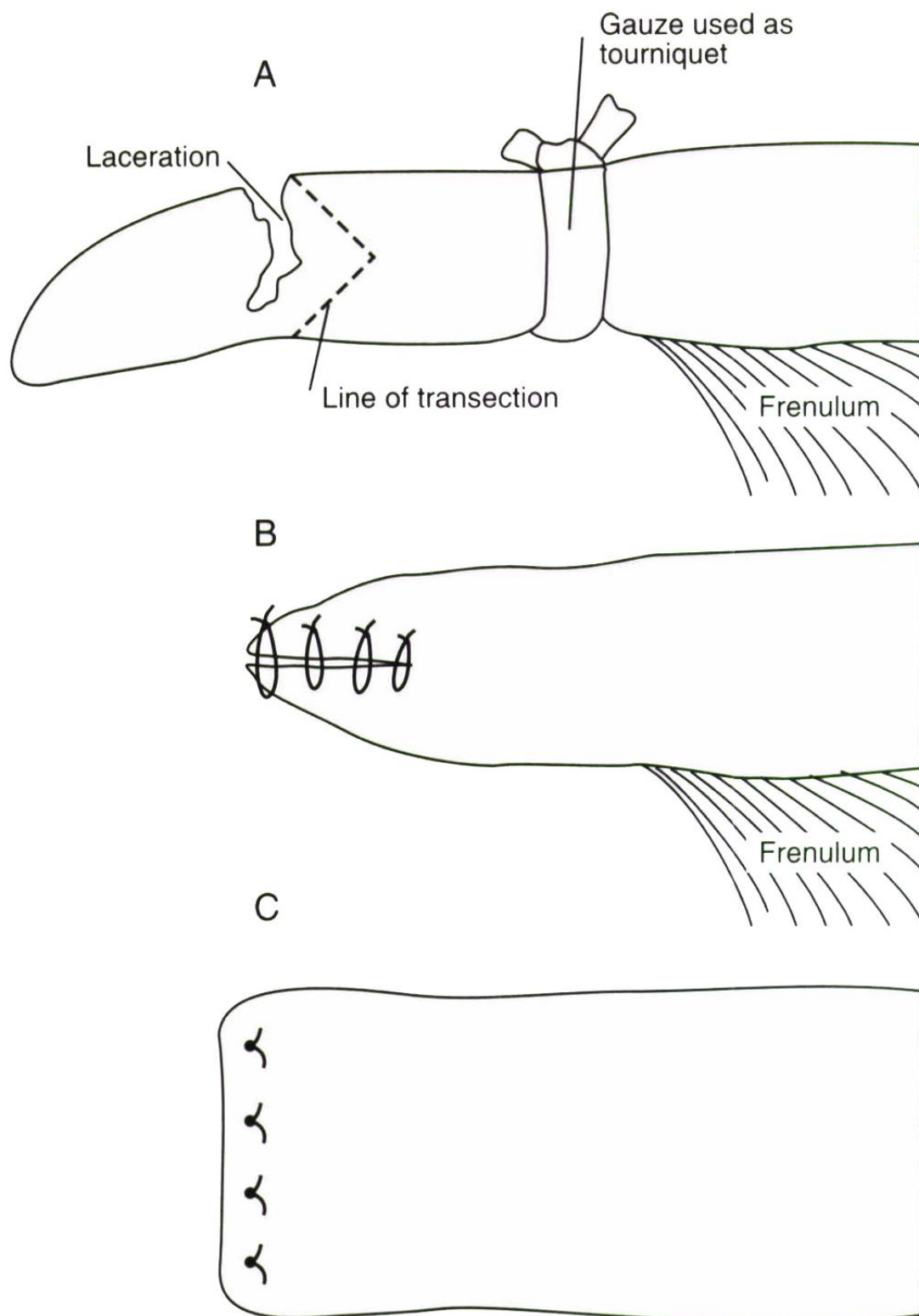
In small animal

- 1- In preparation for surgery the animal is anesthetized and placed in ventral recumbency.
- 2- A Stay sutures are placed in the tongue to facilitate retraction and exposure.
- 3- Interrupted mattress sutures are preplaced across the tongue for hemostasis before transection.
- 4- Mucosal edges are apposed with an interrupted or continuous pattern.

Small Animal



Ruminants



Postoperative care

- 1- The animal should receive systemic antibiotics postoperatively
- 2- Fluid therapy if the animal need
- 3- And should be fed a soft diet (not pasture) for best results.