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Standard Terminology for Surgical Tissue/Dressing/Pick-Up Forceps (Thumb-Type)[1]

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology defines basic terms and considerations for components of thumb-type surgical forceps. Instruments with this terminology are limited to those fabricated from stainless steel and used for surgical procedures.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

F 899 Specification for Stainless Steel Billet, Bar, and Wire for Surgical Instruments[2]

F 921 Definitions of Terms Relating to Hemostatic Forceps[2]

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions

atraumatic—teeth that would interdigitate except for being spaced apart a predesigned distance so they will not stress, crush, or otherwise traumatize the tissue being grasped.

guide pin—a pin affixed to the inside of one of the forceps halves that aligns with a hole on the other tweezer half without protruding through when closed.

guide pin hole—the hole in one forceps half into which the guide pin fits without passing through when closed.

mesh—an alignment of opposing teeth. The teeth may be in-line or angled.

mouse teeth—distal tip teeth that interdigitate.

scissoring—lateral misalignment.

set—the at rest position of the instrument halves that will provide the intended closing relationship of fit and force.

stop pin—a pin of preset length affixed to the inside of one of the tweezer halves designed to limit teeth contact upon closure and prevent their damage.

teeth—serrations formed on the inside faces of the distal end of the tweezer halves.

tissue forceps—a device formed in two generally symmetrical halves with their proximal ends secured together and set so their distal ends will stay separated unless pressed together.

[1] This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F04.33 on Medical/Surgical Instruments.

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[2] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.01.