

Improving Safety and Simplicity with Less Invasive Jaw Fixation

For the thousands of people who suffer a broken jaw each year – and the surgeons who repair them – speed and simplicity of treatment are better with the adoption of Minne Ties® Agile MMF (maxillomandibular fixation) device. Clint Humphrey, MD, FACS, is a board certified facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon who sees dozens of these cases each year and increasingly uses Minne Ties for intraoperative MMF. Minne Ties have cut his MMF application time by 40 minutes and decreased the risk of wire sticks.

As a fellowship-trained surgeon and co-director of the facial plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at the University of Kansas Medical Center, part of Dr. Clint Humphrey's job is to constantly evaluate how new technology might improve both patient care and efficiency.

New innovations must meet high standards of reliability, efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness.

Two years ago, he found one such innovation in Minne Ties Agile MMF, a non-invasive, self-locking suture system for jaw fixation and stabilization needed for fracture management.

"I understood it and was excited about it as soon as I saw it," Humphrey said. "And I could see right away how it could make repairing mandible fractures easier."

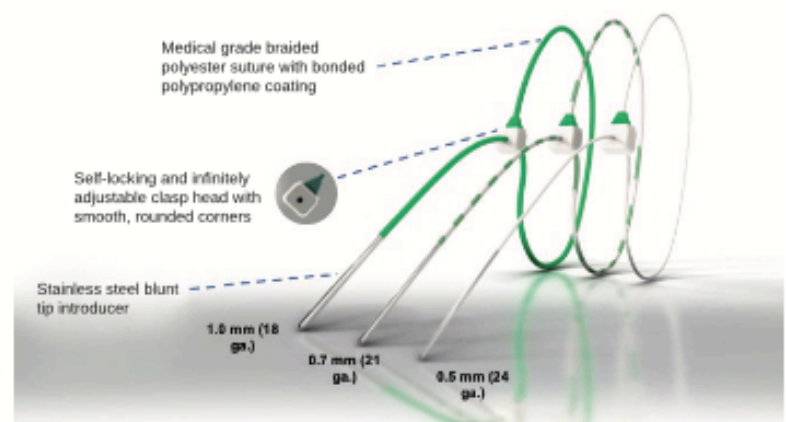
Placing the jaw into MMF during mandible fracture repair is essential to establish and maintain a patient's occlusion. Arch bars and wires have been the gold standard for decades, but passing wire that frequently kinks can be challenging and puts the surgeon at high risk for glove punctures, wire stick injuries, and blood-borne infections^{1,2}.

The Minne Ties design, however, makes MMF faster and safer for the surgeon, regardless of experience, from first year residents to department chairs. Minne Ties are like a household zip tie, but are engineered with rounded edges and blunt ends that decrease risk, but that still pass easily through the mucosa and interdental spaces.

Humphrey says the simplicity and reliability of Minne Ties are what won him over. They work and he trusts them in the operating room.

"If a patient has good dentition, Minne Ties are the first option I consider to place a patient into MMF to ensure occlusion," Humphrey said. "Minne Ties take only about 10 minutes to apply, instead of 50 minutes or more for arch bars and wires³. They maintain stable MMF during fracture fixation.

MINNE TIES AGILE MMF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY



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– Clint Humphrey, MD, FACS
Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery,
University of Kansas Medical Center