

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. An apparatus for providing suction and irrigation to a body site, the apparatus including
5 a shaft having a distal end for juxtaposition with the body site, and
an actuating mechanism operatively configured to facilitate selective actuation of the apparatus to provide either suction or irrigation via the shaft,
wherein the shaft has a flow area restriction portion located proximate its distal end.
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2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the flow area restriction portion is slightly offset from the distal end.
3. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow
15 area restriction portion provides a section of constant reduced cross-sectional flow area proximate the distal end of the shaft.
4. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow
20 area restriction portion includes an insert located inside the shaft, the insert having a cross-sectional flow area smaller than that of the shaft.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein a space is defined between a side wall of the shaft and a side wall of the insert.
- 25 6. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the flow area restriction portion may include an integral neck portion of the shaft, the neck portion providing a narrowed cross-sectional flow area.
7. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the shaft
30 has a cylindrical side wall defining one or more apertures proximate its distal end.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the side wall of the shaft defines two rows of apertures proximate the distal end.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 or 8, wherein eight evenly spaced apart apertures are provided proximate the distal end of the shaft.
10. An apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 9, the apertures are generally
5 located between the flow area restriction portion and the distal end of the shaft.
11. The apparatus of claim 4 or 5, wherein the shaft has a cylindrical side wall defining one or more apertures proximate its distal end, and the insert covers some or all of the apertures.
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12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a space is provided between an outer wall of the insert and the apertures.
13. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the body
15 includes a terminal for mounting the shaft, and the apparatus further includes an adaptor for mounting two or more conduits to the terminal, at least one conduit being an irrigation conduit for delivering irrigation fluid to the terminal, and at least one conduit being a suction conduit for providing a negative pressure at the terminal.
- 20 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the adaptor provides fluid communication between the shaft and the irrigation conduit, as well as the shaft and the suction conduit, when the shaft is mounted to the terminal.
15. The apparatus of claim 13 or 14, wherein the body has two terminals for
25 selectively receiving a proximal end of the shaft, the apparatus further including an internal conduit for connecting, and providing fluid communication between the two terminals, one end of the internal conduit being mounted to the adaptor for fluid communication with the suction conduit and the irrigation conduit.
- 30 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the two terminals are disposed generally perpendicularly to one another.

17. An apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the actuation mechanism is used to selectively open or close the suction conduit or irrigation conduit so as to provide either suction or irrigation functions via the shaft.
- 5 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the actuation mechanism includes a suction button for actuating suction functions of the apparatus, and an irrigation button for actuating irrigation functions of the apparatus, and wherein
depression of the suction button causes the suction conduit to be opened and
irrigation conduit to be closed, and depression of the irrigation button causes the
10 irrigation conduit to be opened and suction conduit to be closed.
19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the actuation mechanism allows the degree and pressure of suction and irrigation to be controlled by controlling the degree of depression of each of the suction and depression buttons.
- 15 20. The apparatus of claim 18 or 19, wherein each button is spring loaded and biased in a fully extended position.
21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein in the fully extended position, a protrusion
20 associated with each button in combination with internal projections of the body compresses a corresponding conduit into a closed condition, such that when both the suction and irrigation buttons are released and biased in the fully extended positions, both the suction and irrigation conduits are clamped closed.
- 25 22. A shaft for a suction and irrigation apparatus, the shaft having
a distal end for juxtaposition with a body site, and
a flow restricting portion located proximate its distal end.