Description

The present invention relates to an apparatus for the removal of tumours from hollow body organs accessible to an endoscope, and in particular the removal of tumours from the bladder.

The removal of tumours from hollow organs of the body by surgery frequently results in the release of viable free tumour cells which may gain attachment to the mucosa thereby resulting in the reoccurrence of tumours.

Removal of tumours from the bladder is generally achieved either by an open operation (suprapubic diathermy excision) or by transurethral resection (TURO). It has been suggested by Smith [J.R.S.M. 74 547 to 550 (1981)], among others, that the implantation of free tumour cells may be enhanced by instrumental damage to the mucosa during the evacuation of tumour fragments by TUR. To overcome this problem intravesical installations of cytotoxic drugs have been examined [Zinck et al Journal of Urology 134 1110-1114 (1985)]. In open surgery it is usual for friable superficial portions of the tumour to be removed via a suction tube inserted through the first opening made in the bladder wall before the normal tissues are exposed to contamination. The application of this technique to TUR is expected to reduce the rate of recurrence of tumours resulting from TUR resection.

A retractable cutting electrode that is in line with its carrier contained in a flexible endoscope is described in DE-A-2429462. The electrode carrier (diathermy tube) is specifically designed to avoid body fluids or other material from entering the carrier.

A suction surgical instrument including a coagulating electrode positioned outside the suction tube is described in DE-B-2324415 and is designed to prevent blood from coagulating in and blocking the suction tube.

We therefore provide an apparatus for use in the removal of tumours from hollow body organs accessible to an endoscope as defined in the precharacterising portion of claim 1 wherein means are provided for the introduction of an irrigation fluid into the endoscope adjacent the closed end thereof; the diathermy tube includes an opening adjacent the exposed electrode for the removal of severed tissue through the said tube and the end of the diathermy tube remote from the operative end is attached to a vacuum source whereby in use severed tissue and irrigation fluid are immediately withdrawn through the said diathermy tube thereby reducing the likelihood of tumour cells gaining attachment to the organ mucosa.

The said opening in the tubing may be formed at the end of the tube, i.e. the tube may be open-ended, or in a sidewall adjacent to the end thereof. Additional small openings in the tube sidewall may also be provided if required.

In one form the diathermy tube is formed from flexible translucent plastics material and the said diathermy electrode tip is formed of electrically conductive resistance wire connected to the source of electrical power by at least one electrically conductive wire located in the wall of the said tube.

The diathermy electrode wires are preferably embedded in the wall of the tubing but may, also, for example be secured along an outside wall.

It is preferred that the electrode is connected to two wires passing along diametrically opposed portions of the tubing wall.

The exposed tip of the electrode may be formed in any convenient shape, for example it may be a wire having a circular or semi-circular shape preferably of the same diameter as the internal diameter of the opening in the tubing. The wire may be in contact with the wall of the opening or spaced therefrom and may be parallel or at an angle to the face of the opening.

In one form the diathermy tube is formed from an electrically conductive metallic tube coated with an insulating material, the operative tip portion of tube being left bare to provide a diathermy electrode, the said tip portion extending beyond the open end of the cystoscope, the tube being connected to a source of electrical power by electrically conductive wires making contact with the opposite end thereof.

In another form the suction tube is formed from spirally wound wires coated with polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), the electrode tip being formed at an uncoated end of the tube, e.g. at the junction of the wires. A single double wound wire may, of course, be used in place of two wires.

A specimen collection vessel may be connected between the end of the tubing and the suction means. The specimen vessel may be in the form of an elongated cylindrical body separable into two portions, the upper portion including an inlet pipe for connection with the said tubing and means for adjusting the suction applied to the tubing and the lower portion including an outlet pipe for connection with the suction means and containing a replaceable filter in which the specimen is collected. The suction adjustment means may be a finger hole formed in the side of the said upper portion or at the end of a pipe communicating therewith.

In one embodiment of the invention a double channel endoscope is employed in which the two channels extending along only a short length of the endoscope before merging into a single channel, the flexible translucent suction tube passes through one channel and the electrode wires, which are not embedded in the tube, through the second channel, where the two channels merge into a single

channel the electrode wires then run parallel and adjacent the tubing and arm secured to the tubing near the open end in order to maintain the spatial relationship between the electrode tip and tube opening. In another embodiment of the present invention the diathermy tube is a rigid instrument that may be employed in co-operation with advancing mechanism of a urethrotome or the retracting mechanism of a resectoscope. In this apparatus, a rigid insulated metal combined suction and diathermy tube is used, the operative exposed electrode of the mechanism being the distal circumference of the tube or, alternatively, a lateral window formed in the tube wall.

The invention will now be more fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

- Figure 1 - is a side view of a diathermy tube for use in the invention.
- Figure 1a - is a cross section through A-A of Figure 1.
- Figure 1b - is a perspective view of a fragment of the apparatus Figure 1 in the direction X.
- Figure 2a - is a perspective view of a fragment of an alternative form of diathermy tube for use with the present invention.
- Figure 2b - is an end view of the embodiment Figure 2a in the direction Y.
- Figure 3 - is a side view of a third form of diathermy tube for use with the present invention,
- Figure 4 - is a side view of a fourth form of diathermy tube for use with the present invention,
- Figure 5 - is a diagramatic section through a specimen vessel for use with the present invention,
- Figure 6 - is a diagramatic illustration of one embodiment of the present invention,
- Figure 7 - is an illustration of the operative end of the device of Figure 6,
- Figure 8 - is an illustration of the other end of the device of Figure 6, and
- Figure 9 - is a diagramatic illustration of another embodiment of the present invention.

The diathermy tube of Figure 1 comprises a translucent flexible plastics tube 2 having an end 3 adapted for connection to a suitable suction apparatus, and an open end 4.

Twin electrode wires 5, have ends 6 connected to a diathermy apparatus and extend lengthwise of, and are embedded in, the walls of the tube at opposite ends of a diameter thereof. An exposed tip of the electrode 7 extends beyond the open end of the tube and is in the form of a circular wire ring spaced from end 4 of tube 2. In the diathermy tube of Figures 2a and 2b the exposed end 8 of the electrode wires 5 is in the form of a semi-circular wire ring adjacent to end 4 of tube 2.

Suction through the diathermy tube is controlled by an aperture, which may be partially or fully closed by an operative's finger, formed at the end of the tube adjacent the connection to the suction source or at a point in the means connecting the tube to the said source, e.g. in a specimen collection vessel.

In the diathermy tube of Figure 3 the opening 9 in tube 2 is formed in the side wall thereof adjacent to a closed end and the exposed tip of electrode 10 is in a form of a circular wire located within the circumference of the opening.

In Figure 4 a diathermy tube, generally indicated at 60 consists of a hollow plastics suction tube 61 having a removable diathermy electric tip 62 connected to a source of electrical power by leads 63 and connector 64. The non-operative end of the tube is connected to a suction device via tube 65 and includes a finger hole 66 to control the degree of suction applied to tube 61. The connector 64and lead 63 are passed retrogradely through the endoscope from the operative end so that the connector 64 can be connected to a source of electrical power at the other end. The suction tube 61 is then passed down through the endoscope and the electrode tip inserted over it's end, the tip being a press fit over the end of the tube 61.

A suitable specimen collecting vessel is illustrated in Figure 5. The vessel, generally indicated at 20, comprises two portions 21 and 22 in screw-threaded engagement. Portion 22 contains a pipe 23 for attachment to a suitable suction means such as a vacuum pump and further includes a replaceable specimen filter 24 on which tumour portions may be collected. Portion 21 includes a pipe 25 for attachment to the end 3 of tube 2 and further includes a finger hole at 26 enabling the vacuum applied through end 23 to be manually adjusted.

A complete apparatus of invention is illustrated in Figures 6, 7 and 8.

A hollow diathermy suction tube 31 having end portions 32 and 33 extends through an endoscope sheath 40 having an open operative end 41 and a closed end 42. Tube 31 consists of an inner chemically inert electrically conducting tube 34, such as stainless steel, covered with an insulating sheath 35 formed of insulating plastics material, such as PTFE, except for end portion 32 which is left bare and which provides the cutting or coagulating electrode tip 34a. End 33 of tube 31 is slidably supported in a bush member 36, which acts to close end 42 of endoscope sheath 40, in a fluid tight

manner. End 33 is releasably secured to the hollow arm 38 of a hand piece 37 to make electrical contact with lead 39 of a diathermy unit (not shown). Hand piece 37 is, in turn, slidably supported on a tubular member 43 secured through bush 36 and extending rearwardly therefrom. Hollow arm 38 of hand piece 37 is attached to a tube 50 communicating with a suction device via an optional specimen collection vessel (not shown) and contains am aperture 38a open to the atmosphere and positioned to permit it to be fully or partially closed by a finger of a user. A thumb plate 45 is provided at the end 44 of tubular support 43. A telescope 46 extends from the open end 42 of the endoscope tube 40 through bush 36 and tubular member 43 and is provided with a light source 47 and an eye piece 48. A washer is located at the end of the telescope 46 adjacent the end of tubular member 43 to make fluid tight contact therewith to prevent fluid seeping through and out of member 43. An irrigation fluid inlet 51 and tap 52 communicates with end 42 of endoscope 40 forward of bush 36. A spring member 53 is positioned between thumb plate 45 and hand piece 37 to normally urge the hand piece and therefore the diathermy tube 31 fully forward.

When in use the diathermy tube 31 is initially retracted within the endoscope tube 40 by the user applying pressure between the thumb plate 45 and the hand piece 37 and compressing spring 53. The endoscope 40 is then directed into the body organ from which a tumour, for example, is to be removed. The degree of suction applied at the operative end of the diathermy tube is controlled by finger pressure on aperture 38a. The position of the tumour is observed through the telescope 46 and the diathermy tube allowed to move forward under the influence of spring 53. Power from the diathermy unit is switched on and a portion of the tumour cut away by the heated end 32 of the diathermy tube and the severed tissue immediately removed by suction through the open end of the diathermy tube and pipe 50 to a waste collection means. Irrigation fluid is caused to pass into the organ via the tube 51 and endoscope 40 and is sucked away together with blood and severed tissue through the open end of the diathermy tube and through pipe 50 to a waste collection means.

In a simplified form of the apparatus described with reference to Figures 6, 7 and 8 and illustrated in Figure 9, in which like parts have like references, handle 37 is omitted and replaced by end 33 of tube 31 which is bent through 90° to provide an arm 54. A finger aperture 55 is provided in arm 54 to control the degree of suction through the tube. Connection to a diathermy device (or other source of electrical power) is achieved via leads 56 secured via a suitable plug means to arm 54. Movement of the diathermy tube 31 up and down the cystoscope is controlled by the user holding the arm 54.

Claims

1. An apparatus for use in the removal of tumours from hollow body organs accessible to an endoscope comprising, in combination, an endoscope (40) having a closed end (42) through which a telescope (46) passes and an open operative end (41), and a diathermy tube (2,31,61) extending through the closed end (42) of the said endoscope to the open end (41) and including an operative end (4,32) having an exposed electrode portion (7,8,10,34a,62) adjacent to the said operative end of the tube, the said electrode (7,8,10,34a,62) being connected (5,39,56,63) to a source of electrical power; said diathermy tube (2,31,61) being retractable along the endoscope to permit the operative end (4,9,32) to be withdrawn within the endoscope (40) during insertion into the body organ and thereafter advanced into the organ, characterised in that means (51,52) are provided for the introduction of an irrigation fluid into the endoscope (40) adjacent the closed end (42) thereof; the diathermy tube (2,31,61) includes an opening (4,9) adjacent the exposed electrode (7,8,10,34a,62) for the removal of severed tissue through the said tube and the end, (3,33) of the diathermy tube remote from the operative end is attached to a vacuum source (50,65) , whereby in use severed tissue and irrigation fluid are immediately withdrawn through the said diathermy tube thereby reducing the likelihood of tumour cells gaining attachment to the organ mucosa.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein means (38a, 55, 66) are provided adjacent the other end of the diathermy (31, 61) tube to control the degree of suction applied to the said tube.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the diathermy suction tube (2, 61) is formed from flexible translucent plastics material and the said diathermy electrode tip (7, 8) is formed of electrically conductive resistance wire connected to the source of electrical power by at least one electrically conductive wire (5) located in the wall of the said tube.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the electrode tip (7, 8) is formed at the end of two

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manner. End 33 is releasably secured to the hollow arm 38 of a hand piece 37 to make electrical contact with lead 39 of a diathermy unit (not shown). Hand piece 37 is, in turn, slidably supported on a tubular member 43 secured through bush 36 and extending rearwardly therefrom. Hollow arm 38 of hand piece 37 is attached to a tube 50 communicating with a suction device via an optional specimen collection vessel (not shown) and contains am aperture 38a open to the atmosphere and positioned to permit it to be fully or partially closed by a finger of a user. A thumb plate 45 is provided at the end 44 of tubular support 43. A telescope 46 extends from the open end 42 of the endoscope tube 40 through bush 36 and tubular member 43 and is provided with a light source 47 and an eye piece 48. A washer is located at the end of the telescope 46 adjacent the end of tubular member 43 to make fluid tight contact therewith to prevent fluid seeping through and out of member 43. An irrigation fluid inlet 51 and tap 52 communicates with end 42 of endoscope 40 forward of bush 36. A spring member 53 is positioned between thumb plate 45 and hand piece 37 to normally urge the hand piece and therefore the diathermy tube 31 fully forward.

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Claims

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2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein means (38a, 55, 66) are provided adjacent the other end of the diathermy (31, 61) tube to control the degree of suction applied to the said tube.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the diathermy suction tube (2, 61) is formed from flexible translucent plastics material and the said diathermy electrode tip (7, 8) is formed of electrically conductive resistance wire connected to the source of electrical power by at least one electrically conductive wire (5) located in the wall of the said tube.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the electrode tip (7, 8) is formed at the end of two

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wires (5) that are located adjacent to the wall of the tube.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the wires (5) are embedded in the wall of the tube.

6. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the electrode tip (62) is releasably attached to the operative end of the suction tube (61).

7. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the tube comprises spirally wound electrically conductive wires joined at one end to form an electrode tip and coated with an insulating plastics material from a point adjacent, but not including, the said tip.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the diathermy suction tube (31) is formed from an electrically conductive metallic tube (34) coated with an insulating material (35), the operative tip portion (32) of tube being left bare to provide a diathermy electrode (34a), the said tip portion (32) extending beyond the open end of the endoscope, the tube (34) being connected to a source of electrical power by electrically conductive wires (39, 56) making contact with the opposite end thereof.

9. An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the diathermy tube (31) extends slidably through the closed end (42) of the endoscope and the non-operative end (33) includes a handle (37) supported on means (43) extending coaxially of the endoscope, said support means (43) including at the opposite end (44) thereof a thumb plate (45), resilient means (53) being positioned between the said handle (37) and the said thumb plate (45) to normally urge the diathermy tube (31) into its forward operative position.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the resilient means is a spring (53).

11. An apparatus according to claim 9 or 10 wherein a portion (38) of the said handle (37) is hollow, one end communicating with the diathermy tube (31) and the other end with the said suction means (50).

12. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the means to control the degree of suction comprises an aperture (38a) formed in the said handle (37) normally open to the atmosphere and communicating with the hollow portion (38) thereof.

13. An apparatus according to any one claims 9 - 12 wherein the said means (43) extending from the endoscope is tubular and the telescope (46) extends through the said means and into the endoscope.

14. An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the diathermy tube (31) extends slidably through the closed end of the endoscope and the non-operative end (33) thereof extending outwardly of the endoscope is bent through an angle to provide an arm (54) whereby the diathermy tube (31) may be moved up or down the endoscope.

15. An apparatus according to any one of the preceeding claims wherein a specimen collecting vessel (20) is positioned between the diathermy tube and the suction means.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the specimen collecting vessel (20) includes a replacable filter (24) for the collection of tissue samples.

Patentansprüche

1. Vorrichtung zur Verwendung beim Entfernen von Tumoren aus hohlen, für ein Endoskop zugänglichen Körperorganen, die in Kombination ein Endoskop (40) mit einem geschlossenen Ende (42), durch das ein Teleskop (46) hindurchgeht, und einem offenen operativen Ende (41), und eine diathermische Röhre (2, 31, 61) umfaßt, die sich durch das geschlossene Ende (42) des Endoskops zu dem offenen Ende (41) erstreckt und die in der Nähe des operativen Endes der Röhre ein operatives Ende (4, 32) mit einem freiliegenden Elektrodenbereich (7, 8, 10, 34a, 62) aufweist, wobei die Elektrode (7, 8, 10, 34a, 62) mit einer Quelle elektrischer Energie verbunden ist (5, 39, 56, 63); wobei die diathermische Röhre (2, 31, 61) längs des Endoskops zurückziehbar ist, damit das operative Ende (4, 9, 32) beim Einführen in das Körperorgan in das Endoskop (40) eingezogen werden kann und danach in das Organ vorgeschoben werden kann,
dadurch gekennzeichnet,
daß in der Nähe des geschlossenen Endes (42) des Endoskops (40) eine Einrichtung (51, 52) zum Einleiten eines Spülfluids in das Endoskop (40) vorgesehen ist; wobei die diathermische Röhre (2, 31, 61) in der Nähe der freiliegenden Elektrode (7, 8, 10, 34a, 62) eine Öffnung (4, 9) zum Entfernen von abgetrenntem Gewebe durch die Röhre umfaßt und das von dem operativen Ende ferne Ende (3, 33)

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der diathermischen Röhre an einen Unterdruckerzeuger (50, 65) angeschlossen ist, wodurch bei der Benutzung abgetrenntes Gewebe und Spülfluid sofort durch die diathermische Röhre abgezogen wird, wodurch die Wahrscheinlichkeit reduziert wird, daß Tumorzellen mit der Organschleimhaut in Kontakt kommen.

2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der in der Nähe des anderen Endes der diathermischen Röhre (31, 61) eine Einrichtung (38a, 55, 66) vorgesehen ist, um den auf die Röhre angewendeten Ansauggrad zu steuern.

3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei der die diathermische Saugröhre (2, 61) aus flexiblem lichtdurchlässigem Kunststoff gebildet ist und das diathermische Elektrodenabschlußstück (7, 8) aus elektrisch leitfähigem Widerstandsdraht gebildet ist, der durch mindestens einen elektrisch leitfähigen, in der Wand der Röhre angeordneten Draht (5) mit der Quelle elektrischer Energie verbunden ist.

4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei der das Elektrodenabschlußstück (7, 8) an das Ende von zwei Drähten (5) angeformt ist, die an der Wand der Röhre angeordnet sind.

5. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 4, bei der die Drähte (5) in der Wand der Röhre integriert sind.

6. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei der das Elektrodenabschlußstück (62) lösbar an das operative Ende der Saugröhre (61) angeschlossen ist.

7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei der die Röhre spiralförmig gewundene elektrisch leitende Drähte umfaßt, die an einem Ende verbunden sind, um ein Elektrodenabschlußstück zu bilden, und die daneben mit einem isolierenden Kunststoff ummantelt sind, ohne das Abschlußstück einzuschließen.

8. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei der die diathermische Saugröhre (31) aus einer elektrisch leitenden Metallröhre (34) gebildet ist, die mit einem Isolationsmaterial (35) ummantelt ist, wobei der Bereich des operativen Abschlußstücks (32) der Röhre freibleibt, um eine diathermische Elektrode (34a) zu schaffen, wobei der Bereich (32) des Abschlußstücks über das offene Ende des Endoskops hinausragt, wobei die Röhre (34) über elektrisch leitende Drähte (39, 56), die den Kontakt mit dem entgegengesetzten Ende dieser herstellen, mit einer Quelle elektrischer Energie verbunden sind.

9. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, bei der sich die diathermische Röhre (31) verschiebbar durch das geschlossene Ende (42) des Endoskops erstreckt und das nicht-operative Ende (33) einen Griff (37) aufweist, der von einer Einrichtung (43) getragen wird, die sich koaxial zu dem Endoskop erstreckt, wobei die Trägereinrichtung (43) an ihrem gegenüberliegenden Ende (44) eine Daumenplatte (45) aufweist, wobei zwischen dem Griff (37) und der Daumenplatte (45) eine elastische Einrichtung (53) angeordnet ist, um im Normalfall die diathermische Röhre (31) in ihre vordere operative Position zu zwingen.

10. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, bei der die elastische Einrichtung eine Feder (53) ist.

11. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, bei der ein Teil (38) des Griffs (37) hohl ist, wobei ein Ende mit der diathermischen Röhre (31) und das andere Ende mit der Saugeinrichtung (50) in Verbindung steht.

12. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 11, bei der die Einrichtung zur Steuerung des Sauggrads eine Öffnung (38a) umfaßt, die in dem Griff (37) im Normalfall zur Umgebung hin offen gebildet ist und mit dem hohlen Bereich (38) davon in Verbindung steht.

13. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 9 - 12, bei der die aus dem Endoskop ragende Einrichtung (43) röhrenförmig ist und sich das Teleskop (46) durch die genannte Einrichtung und in das Endoskop erstreckt.

14. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, bei der sich die diathermische Röhre (31) verschiebbar durch das geschlossene Ende des Endoskops erstreckt und das nicht-operative Ende (33) davon, das aus dem Endoskop hinausragt, in einem Winkel gekrümmt ist, um einen Arm (54) zu schaffen, wodurch die diathermische Röhre (31) relativ zum Endoskop hinauf oder hinab bewegt werden kann.

15. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei der zwischen der diathermischen Röhre und der Saugeinrichtung ein Probensammelgefäß (20) angeordnet ist.

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16. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, bei der das Probensammelgefäß (20) ein austauschbares Filter (24) zum Sammeln von Gewebeproben umfaßt.

Revendications

1. Un appareil destiné à être utilisé pour l'enlèvement de tumeurs d'organes creux du corps accessibles à un endoscope comprenant, en combinaison, un endoscope (40) possédant une extrémité fermée (42) à travers laquelle passe un télescope (46) et une extrémité opérationnelle ouverte (41), ainsi qu'un tube de diathermie (2,31,61) se prolongeant de l'extrémité fermée (42) du dit endoscope à l'extrémité ouverte (41) et comprenant une extrémité opérationnelle (4,32) possédant une partie électrode exposée (7,8,10,34a,62) adjacente à la dite extrémité opérationnelle du tube, la dite électrode (7,8,10,34a,62) étant raccordée (5,39,56,63) à une source d'alimentation électrique; le dit tube de diathermie (2,31,61) étant rétractable le long de l'endoscope de manière à permettre à l'extrémité opérationnelle (4,9,32) d'être retirée à l'intérieur de l'endoscope (40) pendant l'introduction dans l'organe du corps et ensuite avancée dans l'organe, caractérisé en ce que des moyens (51,52) sont prévus pour l'introduction d'un fluide d'irrigation dans l'endoscope (40) adjacente à l'extrémité fermée (42) de celui-ci; le tube de diathermie (2,31,61) comprenant un orifice (4,9) adjacent à l'électrode exposée (7,8,10,34a,62) pour l'enlèvement des tissus atteints par le dit tube et l'extrémité (3,33) du tube de diathermie écartée de l'extrémité opérationnelle étant fixée à une source de vide (50,65), permettant, pendant l'utilisation, aux tissus atteints et au fluide d'irrigation d'être immédiatement extraits par le dit tube de diathermie réduisant la probabilité que des cellules tumorales parviennent à se fixer sur la muqueuse de l'organe.

2. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 1 où sont prévus des moyens (38a, 55,68) adjacents à l'autre extrémité du tube de diathermie (31,61) pour contrôler le degré d'aspiration appliqué au dit tube.

3. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 1ou 2 où le tube d'aspiration de diathermie (2,61) est constitué d'un matériau plastique translucide souple et où la dite pointe de l'électrode de diathermie (7,8) est constituée d'un fil résistif électriquement conducteur raccordé à la source d'alimentation électrique par au moins un fil électrique conducteur (5) situé dans la paroi du dit tube.

4. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 3 où la pointe de l'électrode (7,8) est constituée à l'extrémité des deux fils (5) qui sont situés de façon adjacente à la paroi du tube.

5. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 4 où les fils (5) sont noyés dans la paroi du tube.

6. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 3 où la pointe de l'électrode (62) est fixée de façon fiable à l'extrémité opérationnelle du tube d'aspiration (61).

7. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 3 où le tube comprend des fils électriquement conducteurs roulés en spirale se rejoignant à une extrémité pour constituer une pointe d'électrode et recouverts d'un matériau plastique isolant à partir d'un point adjacent mais ne comprenant pas la dite pointe.

8. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 1 ou 2 où le tube d'aspiration de diathermie (31) est constitué à partir d'un tube métallique électriquement conducteur (34) revêtu d'un matériau isolant (35), la partie pointe opérationnelle (32) du tube étant laissée nue pour constituer une électrode de diathermie (34a), la dite partie de la pointe (32) faisant saillie au-delà de l'extrémité ouverte de l'endoscope, le tube (34) étant raccordé à une source d'alimentation électrique par les fils (39,56) électriquement conducteurs établissant le contact avec l'extrémité opposé correspondante.

9. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 8 où le tube de diathermie (31) s'étend de façon coulissable à travers l'extrémité fermée (42) de l'endoscope et où l'extrémité non opérationnelle (33) comprend une poignée (37) supportée sur des moyens (43) faisant saillie coaxialement à l'endoscope, les dits moyens de support (43) comprenant sur l'extrémité opposée (44) de celui-ci un poussoir (45), un moyen élastique (53) étant disposés entre la dite poignée (37) et le dit poussoir (45) pour amener le tube de diathermie (31) dans sa position opérationnelle avant.

10. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 9 où le moyen élastique est un ressort (53).

11. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 9 ou 10 où une partie (38) de la dite poignée (37) est creuse, une extrémité communiquant avec le tube de diathermie (31) et l'autre extrémité

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avec le dit moyen d'aspiration (50).

12. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 11 où le moyen de contrôler le degré d'aspiration comprend une ouverture (38a) constituée dans la dite poignée (37) normalement ouverte à l'atmosphère et communiquant avec la partie creuse (38) de celle-ci.

13. Un appareil conforme à l'une des revendications 9 - 12 où le dit moyen (43) sortant de l'endoscope est tubulaire et où le télescope (46) se prolonge à travers le dit moyen et dans l'endoscope.

14. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 8 où le tube de diathermie (31) sort de façon coulissable à travers l'extrémité fermée de l'endoscope et où l'extrémité non opérationnelle (33) de celui-ci sortant à l'extérieur de l'endoscope est coudée selon un angle pour procurer un bras (54) permettant au tube de diathermie (31) d'être déplacé vers le haut ou le bas de l'endoscope.

15. Un appareil conforme à l'une des revendications précédentes où un récipient de collecte de spécimens (20) est placé entre le tube de diathermie et le moyen d'aspiration.

16. Un appareil conforme à la revendication 15 où le récipient de collecte de spécimens (20) comprend un filtre remplaçable (24) pour récolter les échantillons de tissu.