CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for providing suction and irrigation to a body site, the apparatus including
    a. a shaft having:
        i. a distal end for juxtaposition with the body site;
        ii. a flow area restriction portion located proximate the distal end the flow area restriction portion being slightly offset from the distal end; and,
        iii. one or more apertures located in a cylindrical side wall of the shaft, the one or more apertures being located between the flow area restriction portion and the distal end; and
    b. an actuating mechanism operatively configured to facilitate selective actuation of the apparatus to provide either suction function or irrigation function via the shaft,
    wherein the flow area restriction portion provides a reduction in flow area proximate the distal end of the shaft. .

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flow area restriction portion provides a section of constant reduced cross-sectional flow area proximate the distal end of the shaft.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the flow area restriction portion includes an insert located inside the shaft, the insert having a cross-sectional flow area smaller than that of the shaft.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein a space is defined between a side wall of the shaft and a side wall of the insert.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the flow area restriction portion includes an integral neck portion of the shaft, the neck portion providing a narrowed cross-sectional flow area.

6. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the side wall of the shaft defines two rows of apertures proximate the distal end.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 or 6, wherein eight evenly spaced-apart apertures are provided proximate the distal end of the shaft.

8. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the apparatus includes a body, the body including 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.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, 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.

10. The apparatus of claim 8 or 9, wherein the body has two terminals for 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.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the two terminals are disposed generally perpendicularly to one another.

12. An apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the actuating 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.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the actuating 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

a. depression of the suction button causes the suction conduit to be opened and irrigation conduit to be closed, and

b. depression of the irrigation button causes the irrigation conduit to be opened and suction conduit to be closed.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the actuating 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 respectively.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 or 14, wherein each button is spring loaded and biased towards a fully extended position.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein, in the fully extended position, a protrusion 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.

17. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein when the apparatus is in the irrigation function, irrigation fluid increases in velocity, allowing irrigation fluid to exit the shaft in a focused and controlled manner.

18. The apparatus any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein, when the apparatus is in the suction function, suction rate is preserved.

19. A shaft for a suction and irrigation apparatus, the shaft having:

a. a distal end for juxtaposition with a body site;

b. a flow area restricting portion located proximate the distal end and slightly offset from the distal end; and,

c. one or more apertures located between the flow area restriction portion and the distal end of the shaft, the apertures being located in a cylindrical side wall of the shaft;

wherein the flow area restricting portion provides a reduction in flow area proximate the distal end of the shaft.