

## **Birkett's Tonsillar First Artery Forceps**



This instrument is part of the tonsillectomy set and is used while applying ligatures to control bleeding.

### **Identification**

The tonsillar first artery forceps are long, straight artery forceps with a ratchet for locking.

### **How the first artery forceps are used**

Following tonsillectomy, the fossa is inspected for bleeding points. The tip of the first artery forceps is used to 'catch' the bleeder. The second artery forceps are then used before applying ligatures to the bleeding point to stop hemorrhage.

The first artery is also used to pack the tonsillar fossa with gauze immediately after tonsillectomy and to gently swab the fossa while inspecting it for bleeding points.

It can also be used to remove clots present in the fossa.

### **More information**

- The other method to stop bleeding from the tonsillar fossa is to use electrocautery.
- While applying ligatures, the first artery is used along with the anterior pillar retractor and the second artery forceps.
- Clots present in the tonsillar fossa can prevent hemostasis by coming in the way of muscular contraction and should be removed.