

*Innovations*

## Difficulty in doing TCA CROSS for enlarged pores with toothpick – A video demonstration with simple solution

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Received : 13 January 2023  
Accepted : 15 February 2023  
Published : 27 March 2023

DOI  
10.25259/CSDM\_18\_2023

Videos available online at  
[https://doi.org/10.25259/CSDM\\_18\\_2023](https://doi.org/10.25259/CSDM_18_2023)

Quick Response Code:



### PROBLEM

Chemical reconstruction of skin scars with trichloroacetic acid (TCA) also named as TCA CROSS used for ice pick scars, enlarged pores, varicella scars, etc. Although this method gained popularity, lately yet standardized protocols are lacking.<sup>[1]</sup> Sometimes, we found difficulty in treating large pores or ice pick scars with tooth pick (a commonly used tool for this purpose) as its diameter is more than the scars. Hence, TCA cannot reach the bottom or walls of the scar and get deposited in the normal skin causing more scarring or post-inflammatory pigmentation [Figure 1].



**Figure 1:** A toothpick cannot reach the depth of icepick scar or enlarged pores.



**Figure 2:** Before and after image showing reduction of ice pick scars on left cheek after trichloroacetic acid CROSS.



**Video 1:** Video demonstrating how Ellman probe is used to enter the depth of enlarged pores while doing TCA CROSS.

## SOLUTION

We have developed a simple solution for this problem. Ellman radiofrequency probe that is angulated and with medium thickness is used for this and the probe can reach the depth solving the problem [Figure 2]. The video demonstrates how it's done with Ellman radiofrequency probe and the whole tip enters within the enlarged pore indicating the depth of the scar [Video 1].

## Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

## Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

## REFERENCE

1. Lee JB, Chung WG, Kwahck H, Lee KH. Focal treatment of acne scars with trichloroacetic acid: Chemical reconstruction of skin scars method. *Dermatol Surg* 2002;28:1017-21.

**How to cite this article:** Gorai S, Das K. Difficulty in doing TCA CROSS for enlarged pores with toothpick – A video demonstration with simple solution. *CosmoDerma* 2023;3:56.