For a minimally invasive harvesting of the sural nerve.

- Helps reduce trauma, complications and significantly shortens removal of graft.
- A blunt-tip instrument with recessed cutting jaws at the distal end.
- Allows for harvest of sural nerve grafts up to 73cm in length.
- Allows for controlled recessed nerve division and tensionless extraction.

ASSI AG78826
Surex™ Sural Nerve Extractor, 43cm
for harvest of Sural Nerve Grafts

Designed by Berish Strauch, M.D., Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York
**Figure 1.** The nerve extractor is shown on the left. A 2cm incision is made vertically midway between the lateral malleolus and the Achilles tendon. The dissection proceeds medially on the tendon until the lateral saphenous vein is identified. Just deep to the vein, the white, glistening sural nerve is identified.

**Figure 2.** The nerve is dissected distally and then divided. The proximal end is threaded through the open ring of the nerve extractor.

**Figure 3.** The nerve extractor is passed into the leg over the sural nerve for a distance of 16cm, where a second incision may need to be made to release the lateral sural nerve attachment. The extractor is passed deep to the fascia and proximally along the course of the medial sural nerve, gently separating the nerve from the surrounding loose areolar tissue. Insets A and B show the nerve passing though the blunt end of the extractor.

**Figure 4.** The extractor is passed along the medial sural nerve to a point about 5cm proximal to the popliteal crease. The tip can be palpated through the skin between the gastrocnemius division. The proximal end of the extractor has a large screw head which is rotated clockwise (inset D). This gradually elevates the two cutting blades, which finally divide the nerve at the center of the extractor. Inset A shows the blades impinging on the nerve as they approach each other. Inset B shows the blades together and the nerve cut. Inset C shows the same view as B, but from an end-on position. The nerve is sharply cut and should be totally free from the cut end to the distal cut end.

**Figure 5.** Shows the nerve graft being gently withdrawn from the leg. In all, the procedure lasts anywhere from 5 to 15 min.