How to remove subannular pannus formation beneath the prosthetic valve

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The subvalvular pannus was removed with a hook, a forceps and a scalpel in a 61-year-old female patient. The 'hook' was used for separating the pannus from the inferior border of the ring of the mechanical valve prosthesis (Fig. 1). After rotating the leaflets, the remaining pannus was completely excised (Fig. 2).

Figure 1: It was almost impossible to remove the pannus completely by forceps and an open tipped suction, so we used a hook to reach the area beneath the leaflets. The pannus was separated from the inferior border of the ring of the mechanical valve prosthesis. The hook is a surgical instrument with a curved tip used to catch, drag, suspend or fasten something, most frequently the suture material (arrow).

Figure 2: After the pannus was separated from the prosthesis, it was grasped by the help of forceps and cut by a scalpel and removed.