

Balfour Retractor

✔ Description

The **Balfour Retractor** is a self-retaining retractor designed to **hold open abdominal walls** during surgery. It provides excellent exposure of the surgical site, especially during **laparotomy** and other major abdominal procedures. It's widely used in both **human and veterinary surgery**.

✔ Specifications

Parameter	Typical Details
Material	Surgical-grade stainless steel (SS 304 or 316)
Length	180 mm to 300+ mm (depends on model)
Blade Size	30 mm to 75 mm (varies)
Blade Type	Solid, fenestrated, or adjustable
Side Blade Width	25 mm to 50 mm
Opening Range	Up to 200 mm (adjustable)
Handle Mechanism	Ratcheting/self-retaining with screw lock
Sterilization	Fully autoclavable

✔ Types

- ✔ **Standard Balfour Retractor** – For adult human/larger animal surgeries
- ✔ **Paediatric Balfour Retractor** – Smaller frame and blades
- ✔ **Veterinary Balfour Retractor** – Designed specifically for dogs, cats, and other animals
- ✔ **With Centre Blade** – Optional third blade for deep retraction
- ✔ **Adjustable Blade Variants** – Blades slide or tilt for precise access

✔ Material

- Surgical-grade stainless steel: corrosion-resistant, strong, autoclavable
- Some versions have removable or interchangeable blades
- Optional silicone-coated blades (rare) for delicate tissue handling

✔ Product Form

- Self-retaining retractor with 2 lateral arms and optional centre blade
- Manual screw or ratchet adjustment/ Reusable and available sterile or for sterilization






Human Medical

- General abdominal surgeries (laparotomy, bowel resection, C-section)
- Urology and gynaecology procedures
- Transplant or exploratory surgeries





Veterinary Use

- Spaying, gastrointestinal surgeries in dogs, cats
- Abdominal explorations in large and small animals
- Used in orthopaedic setups for pelvic or hip access






Advantages

-  Self-retaining – surgeon's hands are free
-  Provides wide and stable exposure of deep cavities
-  Adjustable blades for versatile use
-  Durable and autoclavable
-  Can be used in both open and some minimally invasive procedures (with modifications)

Disadvantages

-  Bulky for use in narrow or small incisions
-  May cause tissue pressure damage if not positioned carefully
-  Requires skilled handling for proper placement
-  Some models are heavy, causing hand fatigue if not fixed correctly

Precautions

-  Ensure blades are properly locked before starting procedure
-  Avoid over-retracting—can cause muscle/tissue trauma
-  Sterilize thoroughly between uses
-  Inspect all screws and mechanisms for wear
-  Ensure blades are smooth and undamaged to avoid tearing tissues

✔ Sterilization Details

- Autoclave at **121°C for 15–30 minutes**
- Manual cleaning with enzymatic solutions after surgery
- Dry thoroughly after sterilization to prevent corrosion
- Lubricate moving parts occasionally with surgical-grade lubricant

✔ Handling & Maintenance

- Rinse immediately post-surgery to prevent blood/tissue crusting
- Inspect for rust, loose parts, or damage
- Store in sterilized packs or trays with padding to protect blades
- Replace centre or side blades if worn or bent

✔ HS / HSN Code

Code Type	Code	Description
HS Code	9018.90	Surgical instruments, including retractors
HSN Code (India)	90189099	Surgical retractors including Balfour type

? Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What is a Balfour Retractor used for?

✔ To hold open abdominal walls and provide deep access during open surgeries.

Q2: Is it self-retaining?

✔ Yes, it locks in place so the surgeon doesn't need to hold it.

Q3: Can it be used in veterinary surgery?

✔ Absolutely—it's commonly used in abdominal surgeries on dogs, cats, and larger animals.

Q4: Is it autoclavable?

✔ Yes, it's made of surgical stainless steel and fully sterilizable.

Q5: What sizes are available?

✔ Various sizes with interchangeable blades are available for pediatric, adult, and veterinary applications.