ADVANTAGES of Open Castration:

* castration is 100% ensured and permanent because the testicles are removed
* surgical wounds heal quickly
* Good drainage is ensured especially if a ventral incision is made as the wound is left open

DISADVANTAGES of Open Castration:

* not bloodless, there is a risk of hemorrhage
* High risk of infection and fly strike due to open wound
* Takes more time to perform and requires more skill than other methods
* not recommended for castrating bull calves at a feedlot with wet, muddy conditions
* greater reduction in weight gain after castration compared to Burdizzo
* risk of injury to the surgeon

COMPLICATIONS OF THE OPEN METHOD

1. Hemorrhage- Proper hemostasis should be ensured before ending the procedure. A small dripping of blood from surgical site is alright but a steady stream of blood is bad! Proper monitoring is necessary to avoid this.
2. Infection - the wound associated with surgical castration is at risk of infection. Clostridial organisms, ubiquitous in soil, may enter the wound and result in local or systemic infection; clostridial vaccination prior to castration is recommended
3. Tetanus- Prophylaxis with tetanus toxoid is recommended in cattle undergoing castration. If the vaccination status of calves is not known they should be give Tetanus antitoxin in order to offer extra protection against infection. Tetanus prophylaxis is extremely important especially in small ruminants and horses.
4. Peritonitis
5. Evisceration- more common in horses than cattle; intestine or omentum may prolapse through inguinal canal
6. Oedema/ hyrocoele