

Suture Lab

Basic Information and Techniques

Suture Scissors

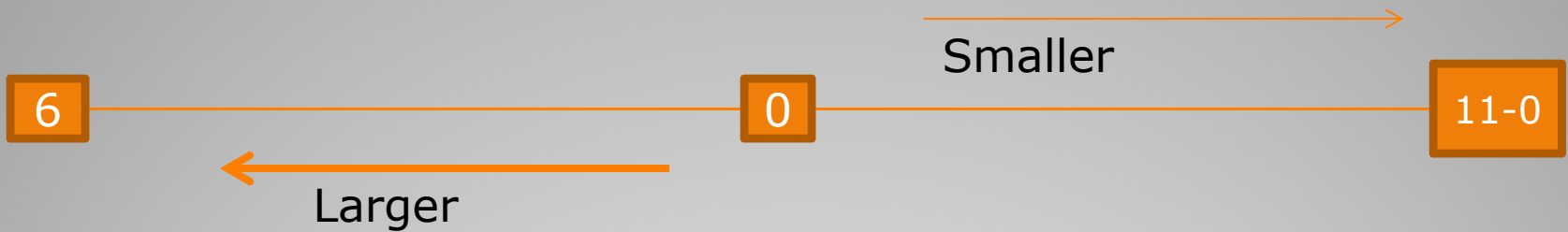


Forceps with teeth

Needle holder



Instruments



Modern sutures range from

#6 (heavy braided suture for orthopedics) to
#11-0 (fine suture for ophthalmics).

Located clearly on suture package

Sutures

Needles

- Curved
 - Cutting
 - Skin
 - Cutting edge
 - Tapered/"roundbodied"
 - Subcutaneous tissues
 - Blood vessels
 - Less traumatic
- Straight
 - Impractical

Sutures

- Non-absorbable
 - Less scarring
 - Used on skin
- Absorbable
 - Dissolved by the body
 - More scarring
 - Used under skin
 - *What patients would these be good for?*
- Braided
 - Holds better
 - Infection risk
- Non-braided
 - Skin closures

Sutures

- Evert not invert the skin
- Never handle the needle with your fingers
 - *Why?*
- Handle the instruments correctly
 - Forceps and scalp held like a writing tool
 - Cut with tips of scissors
 - *Why?*
 - Hold the needle in the midpoint not the tip
 - *Why?*
- Facial sutures are 2-3 mm from wound edge and 3-5 mm apart
- All other areas are 3-4 mm from wound edge and 5-10mm apart
- Suture towards yourself

Suture Methods



Suture Techniques

Questions before we get started?

- Simple
- Primarily for skin
- Best for wounds prone to infection

- *Why?*

- Time consuming
- Video Demo:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoORW7pQs2M>



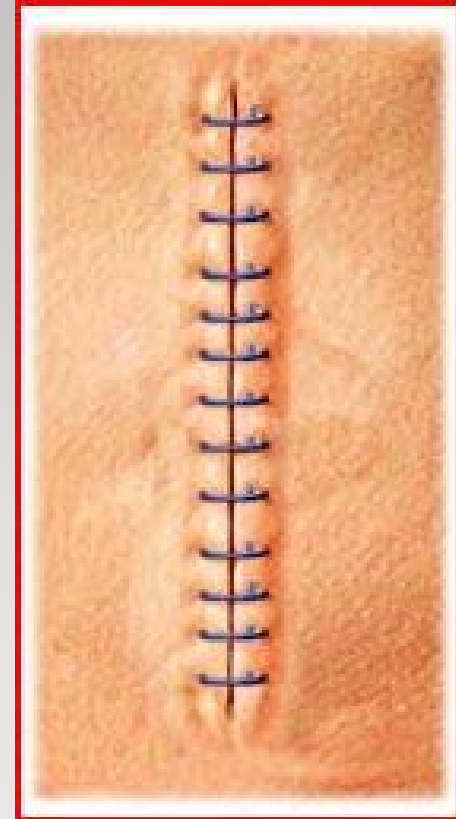
Simple Interrupted

- Best for clean wounds
- Best for wounds with edges that will easily come together
- Best for stopping bleeding near skin edges
 - *When would this occur?*
- Can lose the entire integrity of the stitch
- Quick
- Video Demo:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fhBRXR3o50>



Continuous Interlocking

- Has the same advantages and disadvantages as continuous interlocking
- Video Demo:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODZtJL_gb4E



Simple Continuous

Questions?