

Suturing – The Basics

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Objectives

1. Describe the important components in evaluation of lacerations.
2. Discuss the pharmacological agents and methods for anesthesia
3. Describe, demonstrate and practice simple interrupted suturing methods

Outline

- Wound evaluation & preparation
 - Determine length and depth of lacerations
 - Clean versus contaminated
 - Delayed closure
 - Foreign body identification methods
 - Appropriate use of x-rays
 - Wound cleansing and irrigation
- Practical Suture Hints
 - Instruments
 - Positioning
 - Lighting
 - Where to begin
 - Comfort for you and patient
- Local anesthesia
 - Types of local anesthetics
 - Esters vs. amides
 - Topical anesthesia
 - Reducing pain with infiltration

- Epinephrine considerations
- Alternative strategies; allergies, etc.
- Vapocoolants
- Digital Blocks
 - Traditional
 - Transthecal methods
- Suture material choices and selection
 - Absorbable
 - Non-absorbable
 - Size & type
 - Tensile strength
 - Needle size and selection
- Suturing techniques
 - Wound eversion
 - Best cosmetic results
 - Skin tension lines
 - Knot security
 - Surgeon's knot
 - Simple interrupted suturing
- Other methods of closure
 - Staples
 - Dermabond
 - Tissue adhesives
 - Steri-strips
- Special considerations

- Dog bite lacerations
- Nail bed lacerations
- Through and through lacerations of mouth
- After care
 - Suture or staple removal
 - Wound care