

Suture

Introduction

Open wound of skin may result from different mechanisms of injury, most commonly by blunt trauma or cut injury. Suture is one of the commonest method of wound closure. The intended benefits of suture are to accelerate the healing process and control wound bleeding. The choice of closure method usually depends on the location and condition of the wound.

Procedure:

1. Use antiseptic solution to clean the wound.
2. Inject local anaesthetics around the wound to minimize pain during the procedure.
3. Use special needle and thread to put in stitches, appose the wound edges together and tie knots to hold the stitches in place.
4. Cover the sutured wound with dressing.

Potential Risks and Complications:

1. Wound pain and numbness
2. Wound infection
3. Wound dehiscence
4. Allergy to local anaesthetics

Uncommon but serious complications:

1. Injuries to nerves, vessels and other adjacent structures
2. Severe allergy to local anaesthetics which may cause fatality.

Aftercare:

- Keep the dressing clean and dry. Do not soak the wound. If it gets wet, please attend the General Out-patient Clinic for wound dressing.
- If the wound is on your arm or leg, keep the injured limb elevated for 24 to 48 hours to relieve pain and swelling.
- If you have a scalp wound, you may wash your hair gently after 48 hours and dab the area dry afterwards.
- Do not apply anything locally to the wound unless advised by your doctors.

- If you require wound check and dressings, or removal of stitches, please attend the General Out-patient clinic as instructed.
- If there is an increased bleeding from the wound, numbness or swelling below the wound, or signs or infection such as pain, redness, discharge from wound and fever, please consult your doctor or go to an Accident & Emergency Department immediately.
- Complete the immunization against tetanus as directed.

Remarks:

Complications depend on the injury severity and may occur even with precise operation. It is impossible to mention all the possible complications that may happen and the above are only a few important complications which may occur.