

REMOVAL OF SUTURES



Supplies Needed

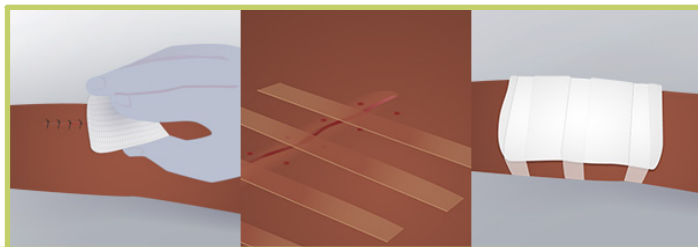


Pre-Procedure

1. Introduce yourself to patient and explain ordered procedure.
2. Position patient to access suture site while providing privacy and comfort.
3. Perform hand hygiene and apply non-sterile gloves.
4. Remove wound dressing, if present.
5. Assess suture site for healing, signs of infection, pain.
6. Remove soiled gloves and perform hand hygiene again.
7. Ensure all needed supplies are present and organized on sterile field.

Post-Procedure

1. Gently cleanse incision site.
2. Apply adhesive strips if gaps are present in the incision (notify the provider).
3. Apply a dressing if needed or as ordered.
4. Properly dispose of removed sutures and supplies.
5. Answer patient questions and provide follow up instructions as ordered.

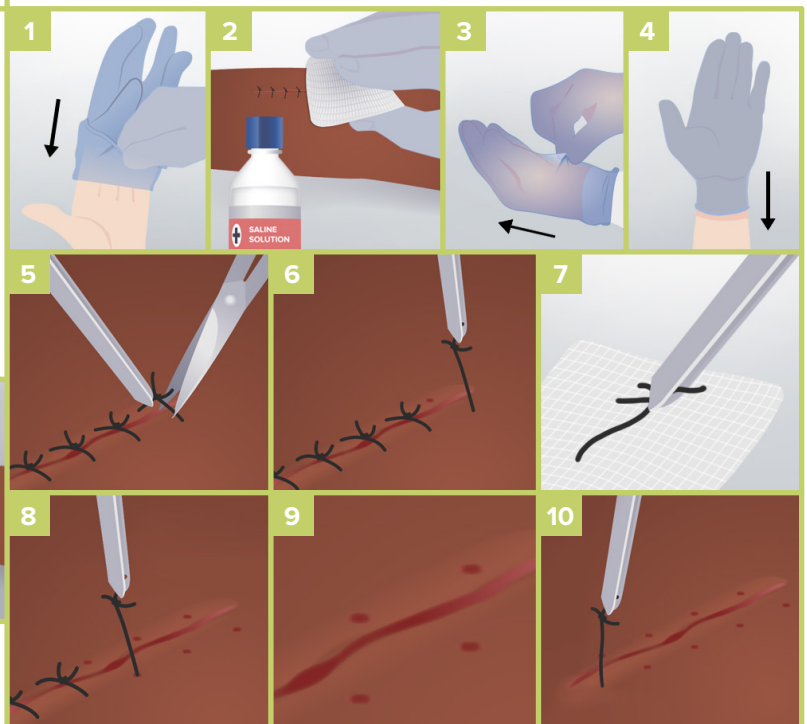


CLINICAL TIP:

Be sure to review and comply with facility-specific policies and procedures.

Steps of Suture Removal

1. Apply non-sterile gloves.
2. Cleanse site per facility protocol.
3. Remove non-sterile gloves, perform hand hygiene.
4. Apply sterile gloves.
5. Using forceps, grasp stitch at knot and lift gently away from skin. Cut stitch distal to knot and close to skin surface, keeping knot intact.
6. Grasp knot and use one continuous motion to pull remaining suture out of the tissue.
**To avoid infection risk, do not allow knot or contaminated areas of suture to pass through the tissue.*
7. Place removed stitch on a piece of sterile gauze.
8. Repeat procedure removing every second stitch along the incision line.
9. Assess healing after each stitch is removed.
**If wound edges open, discontinue procedure, apply adhesive strips and notify provider.*
10. If healing is appropriate, continue above steps until all stitches are removed.



NOTES

