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## Procedure Information

### Suturing

#### Introduction

Suturing is primarily used to close superficial or deep wounds. It helps to hold the wound together and promote healing.

#### Outcomes

Suturing allows the wound to heal properly and minimizes the risk of infection.

#### Procedures

1. The procedure can be performed under local, general or spinal anaesthesia.
2. The wound is cleansed with saline or antiseptics accordingly.
3. A sterile cloth may be placed around the area of the cut during suturing to protect it from bacteria and other contamination (if necessary).
4. Any obvious dirt or dead tissues will be removed.
5. The wound is stitched together with sutures.
6. The wound is cleansed and covered with a sterile dressing.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. Wound infection
2. Wound breakdown
3. Permanent scar
4. Keloid formation

\*\* The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all procedures are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising.

#### Pre-procedure Preparations

1. The procedures and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the procedure.
2. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia.

## **Post-procedure Instructions**

1. The dressing should be kept clean and dry.
2. You may take a shower after the procedure but must ensure that the dressing is waterproof and remains clean and dry.
3. Contact sports, swimming or strenuous exercises should be avoided until the wound has completely healed and the stitches have been removed.
4. The time for stitches removal depends on the location of the wound and the type of stitches. Please follow doctor's advices on the removal time for your sutures.

## **Advice on Discharge**

1. Immediately consult your doctor or return to the hospital for professional attention in the event of severe wound pain associated with redness and swelling, tenderness, secretion of pus, blood seepage, shivering, high fever over 38°C or 100.4°F, or any other unusual symptoms etc.
2. Any follow-up consultations should be attended as scheduled.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details  
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification