ADVANCEMENT IN CLOSURE OF THORACIC INCISIONS: EXPERIENCE WITH ABSORBABLE SKIN STAPLES

We have evaluated the use of an absorbable subcuticular skin stapler (INSORB® Subcuticular Skin Stapler, Incisive Surgical, Inc., Plymouth, MN) in our thoracic surgery practice. Our experience of more than 3 years involves the closure of over 300 posterolateral thoracotomy incisions without a single wound infection. (Similar experience is reported in the literature in various surgical incision sites.) Wound closures were observed immediately post-surgery and generally at a one-week follow-up visit. Our closures with the absorbable subcuticular stapler result in a secure, interrupted, everted skin closure. Postoperatively, the incisions show a notable lack of inflammation, while patients express less discomfort and anxiety than was associated with metal skin staples. We have seen very good cosmetic results - observed as thin flat scars without pigmentation or staple tracks. The speed of the subcuticular stapler is similar to that of metal skin staples, and faster than subcuticular suturing, thus reducing operating room times and adding the efficiency of a single operator technique. Wound closure with the absorbable staples result in reduced wound complications and low maintenance wounds. In addition, the use of the absorbable subcuticular skin stapler eliminates the cost, inconvenience, and patient anxiety and discomfort associated with the presence of metal staples and their eventual removal. Our experience suggests that wound closure with the absorbable subcuticular skin stapler provides comfortable, low maintenance wounds, a high degree of patient satisfaction and is a preferred alternative to metal skin staples and subcuticular suturing in thoracic surgery procedures.


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