

G-180 Surgical Staple Removal

Purpose

Remove staples from an incision or wound.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

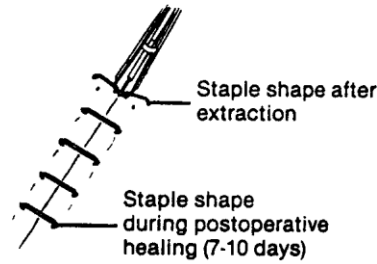
Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Antiseptic swabs.
- Butterfly adhesive strips.
- Disposable gloves.
- Sterile gloves.
- Disposable, waterproof bag.
- Dressing supplies, as needed.
- Staple extractor.

Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Position the client for easy access to incision.
3. Place disposable, waterproof bag next to the client and within reach.
4. Prepare sterile field and open supplies, maintaining sterility.
5. Don clean gloves.
6. Remove old dressing.
7. Hold soiled dressing in hand and remove glove to wrap inside out around dressing. Repeat with second glove. *If amount of dressing is too great, place dressing directly into waterproof bag, then remove gloves and dispose of in bag.*
8. Assess wound characteristics, size, and appearance. *Use same measurement method throughout, i.e., inches or centimeters.*
9. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
10. Don sterile gloves.
11. Cleanse staples and incision with antiseptic swabs.
12. Place lower tips of staple extractor under first staple.
13. Close handle. The upper tip of the staple extractor depresses the center of the staple. This causes both ends of the staple to bend upward and exit the insertion sites at the same time.



14. Securely hold staple extractor and move the staple away from the incision site.
15. Holding the staple extractor over the disposable bag, release handles. The staple should drop into the bag.
16. Repeat until all staples are removed.
17. Assess incision site.
18. If any separation is present, place butterfly adhesive strips across the incision line. *This maintains contact between wound edges for healing.*
19. Apply dry dressing, if needed. Expose to air if incision will not come in contact with clothing.
20. Remove gloves and dispose of waste as outlined in the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
21. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

1. Incision characteristics and any bleeding, drainage, or wound separation.
2. Number of staples removed.
3. The client's tolerance of the procedure.

Related Procedures

Application of Dry Dressing

Policy History

Approval Date	11/1/2009
Approved By	Anne Tyson, Herman Pippin, Sandra Hill
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