



Clinical Practice Procedures: Trauma/Skin closure – Steri-Strip™

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Date	January, 2020
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to the skin closure – Steri-Strip™.
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
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Author	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
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Skin closure – Steri-Strip™

January, 2020

3M™ Steri-Strip™ reinforced skin closures are sterile, hypoallergenic adhesive strips used to approximate wound edges in uncomplicated acute lacerations.

Studies have shown that Steri-Strip™ Skin Closures are associated with a lower infection rate than those closed with invasive sutures or staples.^[1]



Indications

- Uncontaminated simple lacerations with the following criteria:
 - ≤ 2 cm in length; AND
 - Easily apposed wound edges.

Contraindications

- Deeper wounds unable to be easily approximated.
- Wounds on mucosal surfaces or mucocutaneous junctions
- Wounds under tension
- Wounds on mobile parts of the body (e.g. joints)

Complications

- Wound dehiscence
- Infection
- Cosmetic (e.g. scarring)

Procedure – Skin closure – Steri-Strip™

1. Apply required infection control measures (refer to *QAS Infection Control Framework*).
2. Inspect the wound and confirm suitability for Steri-Strip™ application.
3. Thoroughly clean the wound using sodium chloride 0.9%.
4. Remove excess moisture with a sterile gauze/combine.
5. Open the Steri-Strip™ peel-pouch and remove the upper package tab to access the Steri-Strip™ skin closures.



6. Grasp the end of a Steri-Strip™ with a gloved hand or forceps and lift straight upwards (90° angle). Steri-Strip™ skin closures lifted at a lesser angle, or directly back on themselves may "curl", complicating the handling.

7. Commencing at the centre of the wound, apply the Steri-Strip™ skin closures to approximate the wound edges.
8. Approximate the remaining length of the wound by applying Steri-Strip™ skin closures approximately 3 mm apart.



9. Apply appropriate dressing.
10. Provide the patient with a copy of the *QAS Wound Care Information* sheet. Explain all information and answer any questions asked by the patient.

+ Additional information

- The use of medical gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene. Hand hygiene should be performed before donning and doffing medical gloves and immediately before and after any procedure.
- Eye protection must be worn by all clinicians. The potential of blood and body fluids exposure (especially in the face and eyes) during this procedure is **HIGH**.
- If required, Steri-Strip™ skin closures may be cut and reduced in length.
- If edges aren't adequately apposed, remove Steri-Strip™ skin closure (by peeling each side over the wound) and repeat the application procedure.