

Removing Suture Material from a Cassette or Pack



Disclaimer

A series of booklets has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from the School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol, UK. Please note:

- Each booklet illustrates one way to perform a skill and it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets students should check with their university or college whether the approach illustrated is acceptable in their context or whether an alternative method should be used.
- The booklets are made available in good faith and may be subject to changes.
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Year Group: BVSc3 +



Equipment list: Removing Suture Material from a Cassette or Pack

Equipment for this station:

- Suture material cassette
- Suture pack
- Scissors
- Needle holders
- An assistant
- Sterile drape (surface)

Considerations for this station:

- Be careful not to touch, or allow the suture material to touch, any non-sterile areas

Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the 'CSL_I01 Induction' and agree to abide by the 'CSL_I00 House Rules' & 'CSL_I02 Lab Area Rules'

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.



Clinical Skills: Removing Suture Material from a Cassette



1 Ask an assistant (*whose hands will not be sterile*) to remove the lid (cap) from the top of the cassette and pull a length of suture material upwards (while stabilising the cassette with their other hand).



2 Grasp the suture material with your non-dominant hand, far enough below where it is held by the assistant so as not to risk contamination. Cut the suture material a few centimetres above your non-dominant hand using scissors or gillies.

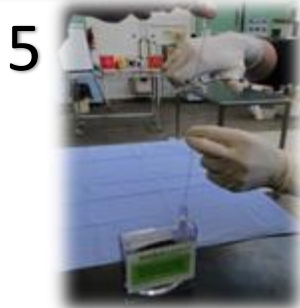


3 Pull up the required length of suture material and cut it. Be careful not to contaminate yourself or the instrument in the process e.g. by touching the cassette.

N.B. The suture material should be cut a short distance above the cassette i.e. leaving a sufficient length that it will be easy to grasp next time.



4 Be careful not to then drag the suture material over, or allow it to touch, any non-sterile area i.e. keep it over a sterile drape.



5 Repeated the process each time more suture material is required from the cassette.



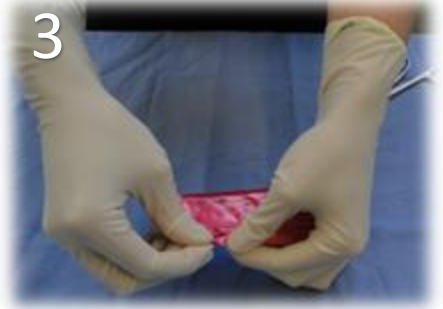
Clinical Skills: Removing Suture Material from a Pack



1
Ask an assistant (*whose hands will not be sterile*) to peel back the outer layer of the suture pack without touching the suture material inside.



2
Ask the assistant to drop the inside suture material pack onto a sterile surface e.g. a drape.



3
Hold the sterile suture pack with both hands and open it i.e. tear the second layer of the packaging.



4
Use needle holders to grasp the needle and remove the suture material from the packaging.



5
It is important to ensure the suture material remains sterile i.e. over the drape.



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Resetting the station:

Removing Suture Material from a
Cassette or Pack

1. Replace the cap on the cassette
2. Dispose of any needles that cannot be re-used in a sharps bin
3. Tidy up the area, disposing of any waste e.g. packaging or suturing material in an appropriate bin

Station ready for the next person:



Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.