

Sutures and Needles

Absorbable Sutures

Suture Name	Description
Dexon-S	Synthetic Braided Maintains tensile strength for 2 weeks
Vicryl	Synthetic Braided Absorbed by hydrolysis in 8-10 weeks Provides 2-4 weeks of tissue support *option for antimicrobial coating
Monocryl	Monofilament Absorbed between 90-120 days Loses tensile strength in 1-2 weeks Absorbed by hydrolysis
PDS	Monofilament Maintains tensile strength for 6 weeks *longer than other absorbable suture Absorbed in 120-180 days
Maxon	Monofilament Maintains tensile strength for 6-7 weeks Absorbs in 120-180 days

Non-Absorbable Sutures

Suture Name	Description
Nylon (Ethilon)	Monofilament Inert Minimal tissue reaction (not as good as Prolene)
Prolene (Polypropylene)	Monofilament Extremely inert Not subject to degradation Least tissue reaction of the non-absorbable sutures
Silk	Multifilament

1. Taper Needle

a. Used for suturing soft and friable tissues

i. paratenon

ii. tendon sheath

iii. superficial fascia

1. Not recommended for suturing skin

2. Blunt Needle

a. Used in surgery with more friable tissue

3. Cutting Needle

a. Used for tough tissue (e.g. skin)

4. Reverse cutting needle

a. Utilized for tough tissue (e.g. skin)

