

Types of Sutures – Activity Sheet (Answer Key)

Using the *Types of Sutures – Vocabulary Sheet*, add the missing information on each type of Suture.

ABSORBABLE:

1. Absorbable sutures are designed to do what?
Break down over a specific timeframe and/or be absorbed by the body
2. What absorbs the suture?
The Body
3. Absorbable sutures are used when temporary support is required and healing tissue will eventually **support itself.**

NON-ABSORBABLE:

1. Non-Absorbable sutures are designed to be left in permanently in the body or removed after **a certain healing period.**
2. When used to close skin, what is the average number of days before nonabsorbable sutures can be removed?
10-14 Days
3. Permanently placed sutures are used where new tissue may never have **the strength to support itself.**

NATURAL SUTURE MATERIALS:

1. What are natural sutures made from?
Animal or plant material
2. What can their protein composition elicit or bring forth more what than any other suture?
Tissue Reaction (inflammation)
3. How long can plain catgut suture strength last?
A few days
4. How long can silk suture strength last?
Several Months

SYNTHETIC SUTURE MATERIAL:

1. Synthetic materials are better than natural fibers in what way?
Cause less tissue reaction
2. What is the difference in strength and absorption rate for synthetic sutures compared to natural sutures? **They are more uniform and predictable**

BRAIDED (MULTIFILAMENT)

1. Why is this suture called Braided?
Several filaments or strands are braided or twisted together

2. What are some of the results of this material?
Flexible and easy to handle
3. What is the issue called when these sutures pass less easily through the tissue?
Tissue drag
4. Why is this issue bad, what can it cause?
Can cause tissue trauma
5. Which tissue surface can cause more trauma, rough or smooth?
Rough
6. In principle, which tissue surface is most likely to have knots slip, rough or smooth?
Smooth

MONOFILAMENT

1. How many strands or filament are in a monofilament suture?
single
2. The surface can be smooth and easy to pass through tissue, but what is one difficulty of this type of suture?
Difficult to handle and tie
Less flexible
3. What is memory in Monofilament?
Holds the shape it had in the package, making it more difficult to work with

SUTURE SIZE:

1. What is considered the Heaviest suture size?
7
2. What is considered the finest suture size?
12-0
3. What does tensile strength mean for sutures?
Holding power of the tissue to be sutured
4. Finer strands have some good qualities, name two of them.
Very flexible, easy to handle, do not require gentle tying
5. What is less likely to happen due to the passage of the suture as the gauge becomes finer?
Tissue trauma