

Plate 11

Tension Lines**DESCRIPTION**

Dominant lines of skin tension in the dog. (Redrawn from Irwin DHG. 1966. Tension lines in the skin of the dog. *J Sm Anim Pract* 7:595–598.)

SURGICAL CONSIDERATION

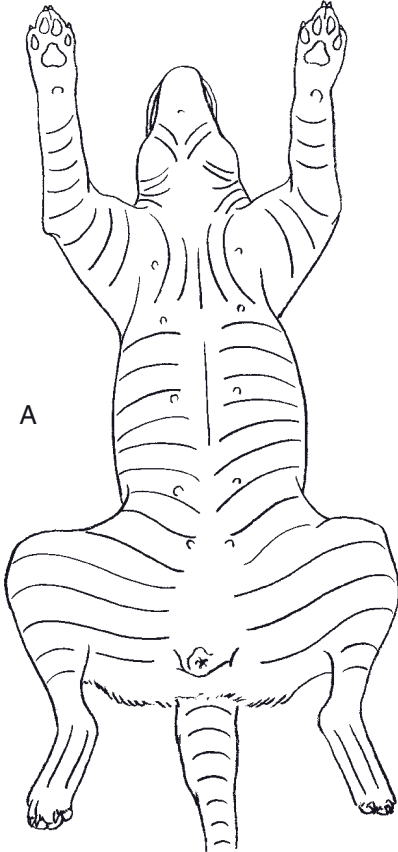
- (A) Ventral view, lines of greatest tension.
- (B) Dorsal view, lines of greatest tension.
- (C) Lateral view, lines of greatest tension.

COMMENTS

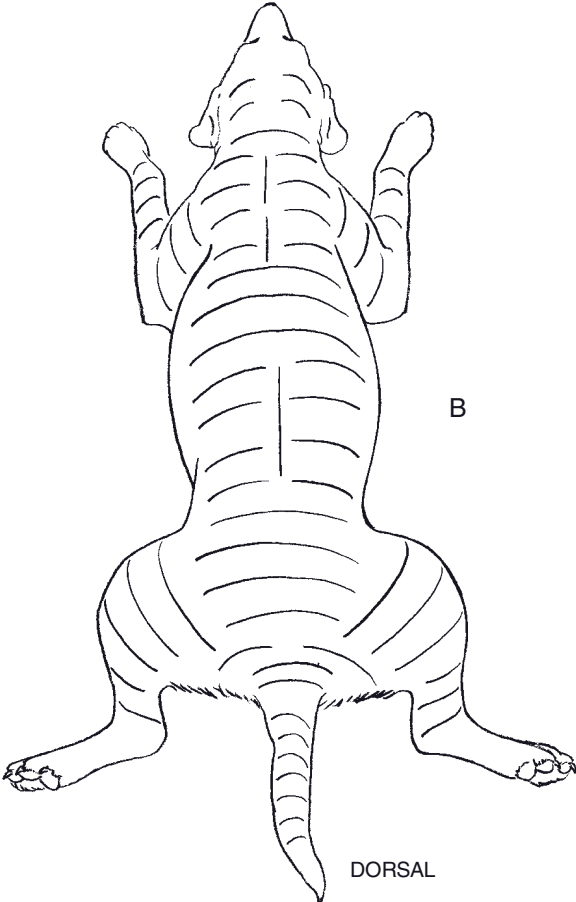
The lines of tension illustrated were determined by the use of stab incisions in canine cadaver skin. Separation of wound edges indicated the direction of tension “bands.” Although similar studies in human cadavers have been considered somewhat inaccurate, these anatomic maps do serve as general guidelines for the small animal surgeon. It must be noted that many small- to moderate-sized skin defects can be closed perpendicular to these tension lines since ample loose skin is available for wound closure. For example, tension lines of the limbs would suggest wound apposition should be performed parallel to these bands to facilitate closure. However, there is greater loose skin around the circumference of the limbs compared to the proximal-distal direction. (See Chapter 1.)

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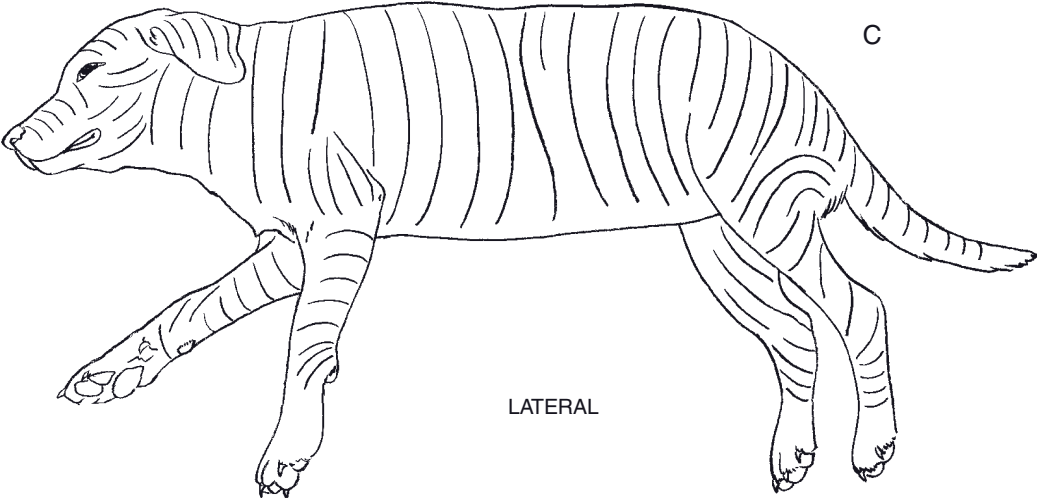
TENSION LINES



VENTRAL



DORSAL



LATERAL