

Plate 15

Geometric Patterns to Facilitate Wound Closure

DESCRIPTION

Cutaneous wounds of an irregular shape can be converted to a simpler geometric pattern to facilitate wound closure. Similarly, a cutaneous lesion can be excised by selecting a geometric pattern that best conforms to its shape.

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

- (A) Triangular closure resulting in a Y-shaped scar.
- (B) Rectangular closure resulting in an X-shaped scar.
- (C) Elliptical closure resulting in a linear scar.
- (D) Crescent closure resulting in a U-shaped scar.
- (E) Circular excision resulting in a linear scar; dog-ears may be noted. Large dog-ears can be excised (see Chapter 21).

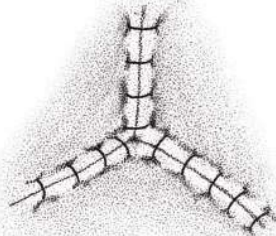
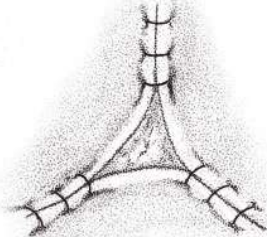
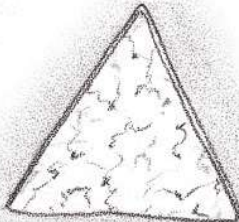
COMMENTS

The surgeon should not rely solely on the use of simple geometric designs as the preferred method of wound closure. There are many circumstances where skin flaps may be more reliable for closure of the skin defect. Regional skin laxity or elasticity dictates, to a considerable degree, the method(s) of closure. (See Plate 28, Skin "Directing" for Maximum Coverage.)

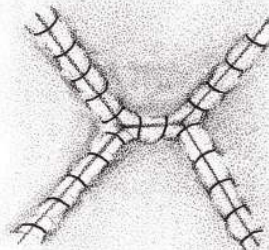
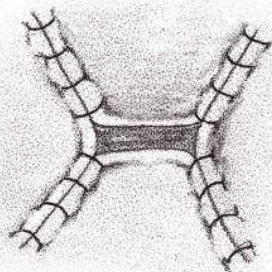
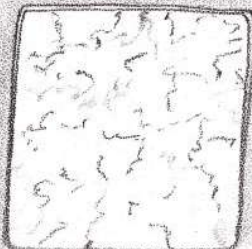
It generally is preferable to close wounds in a linear or curvilinear fashion, since wound dehiscence is most likely to occur when two incisions intersect (X or Y closures). The point of intersection is a common location for incisional separation due to the difficulty in accurately suturing this area and the increased susceptibility to additional distracting forces.

Plate 15

A



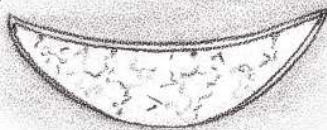
B



C



D



E

