Skin Closure Application
3M™ Steri-Strip™ Adhesive Skin Closures

- Clean and dry skin at least 5cm (2 inches) around wound.
- If distention or movement is anticipated, consider using 3M™ Steri-Strip™ Elastic Skin Closures.
- Peel back package tabs to access the sterile Steri-Strip closures (fig. 1).

- Remove card, using sterile precautions as necessary.
- Bend card at end perforation and gently remove tab.
- Grasp end of skin closure with forceps or gloved hand; lift straight upward (90 degree angle). Steri-Strip closures lifted at a lesser angle or directly back on themselves may “curl,” complicating handling (fig. 2).

- Wound closure generally starts at the middle of the wound.
- Steri-Strip closures must be applied without tension. Do not stretch or “strap” Steri-Strip closures.
- Apply one-half of first Steri-Strip closure to wound margin and press firmly in place.
- Using fingers or forceps, appose skin edges as closely as possible.
- Press free half of Steri-Strip closure firmly on other side of wound.
- The rest of the wound should be closed with additional Steri-Strip closures spaced approximately 3mm (1/8 inch) apart by (a) sequentially bisecting remaining length of wound with Steri-Strip closures or (b) applying Steri-Strip closures 3mm (1/8 inch) apart until edges are completely approximated. If edges are not accurately apposed, remove Steri-Strip closures over affected area (peeling each side towards wound) and reapproximate wound (fig. 3).

- Additional Steri-Strip closures may be applied parallel to wound, approximately 1cm (1/2 inch) in from ends (cross stays, railroad tracks). This may reduce stress beneath the ends of Steri-Strip closures decreasing risk of skin tension blisters and premature lifting of Steri-Strip closures (fig. 4).

If tension is noted under Steri-Strip skin closures, they may be replaced under the direction of a healthcare professional. Lifted edges of Steri-Strip closures may be trimmed. However, when less than 1cm (1/2 inch) of Steri-Strip closures remaining on either side of wound, one might consider gently removing the Steri-Strip closure and replacing it with a new one.

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Skin Closure Removal

3M™ Steri-Strip™ Adhesive Skin Closure

- Remove cross stays.
- Gently grasp and loosen ends of Steri-Strip closures.
- Stabilise the skin with one finger.
- Remove Steri-Strip closure “low and slow” towards wound, keeping it close to skin surface and pulled back over itself. Removing Steri-Strip closure at an angle will pull at the epidermis increasing risk of mechanical trauma.
- As the Steri-Strip closure is removed, continue moving finger as necessary, supporting newly exposed skin.
- When both sides of the Steri-Strip closures are completely loosened, lift strip up from centre of wound.