

3M™ Steri-Strip™ Wound Closure System

Commonly Asked Questions

- **Components**

Question:

Does the Steri-Strip wound closure system contain latex?

Answer:

The Reinforced Steri-Strip skin closures and 3M™ Tegaderm™ dressing do not contain natural rubber latex.

However, the current package of this product contains natural rubber latex which may cause allergic reactions.

Question:

Do Steri-Strip skin closures contain fiberglass?

Answer:

No. Steri-Strips skin closures have never contained fiberglass. The reinforcing filaments in the Reinforced Steri-Strip skin closures in the wound closure system are made of polyester.

Question:

Is the Steri-Strip wound closure system hypoallergenic?

Answer:

Yes, the Reinforced Steri-Strip skin closures and Tegaderm dressing are hypoallergenic BUT

The Current Package Of This Product Contains Natural Rubber Latex Which May Cause Allergic Reactions.

Question:

What is the shelf life of Steri-Strip wound closure system?

Answer:

5 years. The expiration date may be found at the bottom of each wound closure system package. You will note:

LOT, hourglass, year, 1 -2 numbers, several letters

The hourglass symbol represents the expiration date. 2004-10 would indicate that the product will expire in October of 2004.

Question:

Is the Steri-Strip Wound Closure System sterile?

Answer:

Yes.

- **Selection and application**

Question:

What is the best way to get great adhesion of Steri-Strip skin closures?

Answer:

Steri-Strip skin closures adhere best to clean, dry skin. This can be accomplished by ensuring that bleeding is under control and cleaning the skin with saline or alcohol to remove oils or exudates followed by gentle drying of the skin surface.

Steri-Strip closures have a “pressure sensitive” acrylate adhesive. Adhesion of skin closures will be enhanced if you gently but firmly press or stroke the skin closure strip during application so that the adhesive gets into the “nooks and crannies” of the skin surface. See application instructions. Steri-Strip Elastic skin closures and Steri-Strip Antimicrobial skin closures have the highest adhesion of the Steri-Strip skin closure product line.

Steri-Strip skin closures were designed for closure of low-tension wounds. They are contraindicated for use in high-tension wounds that cannot easily be approximated with fingers or forceps or on infected wounds.

Question:

Should I use a skin tackifier under Steri-Strip skin closures?

Answer:

Compound benzoin tincture (CBT) may be used to increase adhesion of Steri-Strip skin closures but is not usually needed with the Steri-Strip wound closure system. Although, CBT does not contain iodine, it may be an irritant to some individuals and should not enter the wound.

Question:

What can I do to protect very fragile skin?

Answer:

Apply the skin closure to dry, clean skin that is free of chemicals. If hair is to be removed, a clipper should be used. To further protect from adhesive trauma, a skin barrier such as 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film may be applied and allowed to dry thoroughly before applying the skin closure. Avoid chemicals designed to increase adhesion. To reduce the risk of skin stripping, gently remove both the Tegaderm transparent dressing and the Steri-Strip skin closures: “low and slow”, towards the center of the wound, while supporting the skin.

Question:

What could cause blistering of the skin under the ends of skin closure strips?

Answer:

The most common cause of blistering is tension. Edema, hematoma, or distention due to bloating may distort the skin surface. If the adhesive is firmly attached to the epidermis and the adhesive closure backing does not “give”, the epidermis may be pulled away from the dermis resulting in blisters or skin tears. Blistering is usually noted on both ends of the strip. A similar situation occurs when a joint or other area of movement is covered with a strip that doesn't stretch. If tension is noted, loosen, reposition, or replace the skin closure strips. To decrease the risk of tension injuries:

- Do not use Steri-Strip skin closures on high-tension wounds.
- Apply Steri-Strip skin closures without tension. Do not strap the wound closed.
- Consider Steri-Strip Elastic skin closures if edema, hematoma, distention, or movement are anticipated.
- Monitor the wound for evidence of swelling or blistering.
- If tension is noted under Steri-Strip closures, they may be replaced under the direction of a health care professional.

Question:

I suspect that the area around the wound may swell. Will this affect the type of skin closure I should use?

Answer:

Yes, if expansion or movement (such as over a joint) is anticipated, consider using the Steri-Strip Elastic skin closures.

- **Length of wear**

Question:

How long can Steri-Strip Wound Closure System be worn?

Answer:

Up to 7 days. Wear time may vary depending on area of the body, skin type, degree of friction to that area, etc.

Some health care providers prefer to remove, and sometimes replace, the Steri-Strip skin closures, on follow-up visits. The timing of strip removal and the length of continued reinforcement and support of the wound with skin closure strips is left to the discretion of the health care provider.

Question:

Can I get the Steri-Strip wound closure system wet?

Answer:

Yes. Unless contraindicated, you may shower after the Steri-Strip wound closure system has been applied. Then pat the dressing dry.

For More Information

Contact your 3M Health Care Sales Representative, or call the 3M Health Care Customer Helpline at **1-800-228-3957**. These products can be ordered from your local distributor. Outside the United States, contact the local 3M subsidiary.



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