Comparison of Adhesive Strip versus Traditional Superficial Suture in the Layered Closure After Medium-Size Pigmented Nevus Removal on the Head-Neck Region

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Introduction: Due to the importance of the cosmetic role, the meticulous treatment of surgical wound on the head-neck region always attracts a lot of attention. The discussions about how to improve the appearance, to avoid the complication after surgery have never stopped. In China, the removal of medium-size pigmented nevus for better appearance, which needs operation, is prevalent in dermatologic surgery. Its high cosmetic demand raises a great challenge to clinician. In theory, adhesive strip tends to reduce the superficial tension and leaves no needle-hole scar on the skin, which may bring better cosmetic results. However, it is overlooked by dermatologists as a less elegant method of wound closure with perceived higher risk of dehiscence.

Objective: This research aimed at observing the effect and safety of using adhesive strip treat the surgical wound on the head-neck region.

Materials and Methods: Sixty patients with pigmented nevus were randomly divided into 2 groups. Adhesive group (A), traditional superficial suture group (B) each had 30 patients. Both two groups underwent standard elliptical excision followed by subcutaneous buried suture. During epidermal approximation, group A was given adhesive strip while group B received traditional superficial suture. One, three and six months after operations, the Vancouver scar scale (VSS) and the gross satisfaction scales (GSS) were assessed.

Results: The group A had superior appearance and greater patient satisfaction at one-month and three-month follow up. Evaluation at 6 months revealed no statistically significant difference in VSS and GSS.

Conclusion: Using adhesive strip to treat may acquire better short-term and equivalent long-term cosmetic results, compared with traditional superficial suture.