



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

ITALIC-S: WHAT IS THIS?

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Background: When an elliptical excision of a skin lesion gives an excessive tension an alternative plastic could be taken in consideration before resorting to skin flaps or grafts. This technique, we call Italic-s plastic, can reduce the length of suture and shows a curved lazy-s profile that can also improve aesthetic result.

Observation: The result is obtained with a modified shortened S-plasty which distributes the vectors of tension in two different directions (perpendicular at the apices and transverse in the central part). The traction on the suture line is reduced and wound healing is facilitated. The length of the final suture is reduced by nearly one third. Moreover two different directions of the S can be chosen according to better aesthetic outcomes. Differences between classic S-plasty and this technique are discussed with clinical cases.

Key message: Italic-S plasty can represent a valid alternative to more complex reconstructive techniques and though being simple to perform and tissue sparing can give best aesthetic results.

