

CABLE TIE DYNAMIC WOUND CLOSURE IN INFECTED WOUNDS: A CASE SERIES STUDY

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INTRODUCTION:

Wound closure by secondary intention has always been a norm in clinical practice for large infected wound. The aim is to prevent recurrent infection while waiting for recovery¹. This study investigated the use of cable tie for dynamic wound closure in infected wounds to accelerate healing process.

METHODS:

10 patients with infected wounds were enrolled in this study. The time to wound closure, complications, length and cost of hospital stay were evaluated.

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE (FIG. 1):



Figure 1: Steps of cable tie application for dynamic wound closure.

RESULTS:

All infected wounds were closed within 10 days. One patient passed away due to hospital acquired pneumonia. Wound closure time, hospital stay and cost of daily dressing were significantly lower (Fig.2).

Parameter	Cable tie (n=10)
Mean Wound Closure Time (days)	9.9
Complications (n)	1
Additional Surgery (n)	0
Length of Hospital Stay (days)	41.5
Cost of dressing (RM)	55

Figure 2: Wound parameters

DISCUSSIONS:

A cable tie meant for wound management is a surgical suture device comprising of an elongated flexible strip having an integrated gear rack and a ratchet within a small open case on its opposite end. Once the pointed tip of the cable tie has been pulled through the case and past the ratchet, it does not allow the strip to be released in a reversible manner and hence making the loop tighter in a unidirectional manner.^{2,3} It can be applied in a reasonably loose fashion in the acute phase of wound management and tightened gradually as the wound heals. It has superior strength as compared to vessel loops or monofilament sutures.⁴

CONCLUSION:

This case observation showed that cable tie used for dynamic wound closure in infected wounds is cheaper, reliable and effective alternative to wound healing by secondary intention.

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