

# Alternatives to sutures

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Skin adhesive strips Self-adhesive tapes may be used where there is no tension and the wound is clean; for example, adhesive strips are used following clean procedures on the face. Tissue glue - Tissue glue can be used as a means of primary tissue apposition or as an adjunct to sutures. Some specific uses have been described such as closing a laceration on the forehead of a fractious child in Accident and Emergency, thus dispensing with local anaesthetic and sutures. Staples There is a wide range of mechanical devices that can be used to staple skin, bowel or even major vascular pedicles. Most of these devices are disposable and relatively expensive, but their cost is offset by the saving of operative time. Alternatives to sutures

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Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:25:56 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:25:56 UTC by Omar Ayman