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Absorbable vs non absorbable sutures for wound closure. Systematic review of systematic reviews

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Abstract

Objective: To provide an overview of evidence on Absorbable and non-absorbable sutures (AS & NAS) for the closure of surgical incisions

Methods: Medline, Embase and Cochrane library were searched for systematic reviews including randomised control trials (RCTs) on AS and NAS. Those that matched the inclusion criterion were analysed for data on surgical site infections, post operative complications and risk of wound dehiscence.

Results: The systematic review of reviews yielded data on 5781 patients in 25 RCTs. There was no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) noted in surgical site infections, post operative complications or risk of wound dehiscence post use of NAS or AS sutures.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that absorbable sutures are not superior to non absorbable sutures in the three areas examined: surgical site infections, post operative complications and risk of wound dehiscence. However, there was significant heterogeneity between included RCTs in the systematic reviews. Further RCTs are needed to evaluate the differences between absorbable and non absorbable sutures that are reflected in size of wounds and location.

Keywords: Wound, infection, sutures

Introduction

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