

Suturing Practice

Objective: To demonstrate the proper techniques in suturing.

Situation: Many of the students in our rural area raise livestock. Accidents frequently happen and animals get lacerations. Veterinary bills can get very expensive, and the closest veterinarian is 150 miles away.

Our veterinary technician program operates a small clinic at the school where the community can bring in animals for vaccinations and other care. There are a lot of sheep and goats raised in this area which are frequent victims of stray dog attacks. The owners bring these wounded animals to our clinic for care.

When these animals have come in, I have able to demonstrate to our students how to suture lacerations, but I wanted to find a way to prepare our students for these situations beforehand.

Activity: The solution I found was using bananas to practice suturing. We found that ripe bananas become too soft and the sutures pull through. We discovered, however, that green bananas keep their strength and are excellent practice material.

This activity is a way that allows students to practice suturing in the classroom at a minimal cost. Using curved sewing needles and dental floss, we can perform this activity for the cost of approximately \$.25 per student.

Results: Since we have been practicing this activity, I have found that when we have wounded sheep or goats come in, the students are very confident in their skills and are very successful in the situation. We also have visiting veterinarians come and work with our students, and they are very impressed with their suturing capabilities. In fact, in many situations the veterinarians have let the students close for them during surgery.

Items Needed:

Banana (greener the better)

Dental Floss

Curved needle

Knife

Needle Holder (needle nose pliers works)

Directions:

1. Cut banana in half.
2. Peel back banana 2"- 3" so there's 2 sections(don't peel completely)
3. Thread dental floss into needle
4. Sew one side using the Continuous method(refer to power point)
5. Sew the other side using the Non- Continuous method(refer to power point)
6. On the cut end put in a purse- string suture(refer to power point)
7. Evaluate
8. Evaluation:

Skill	Points Possible	Total Points
Continuous		
Uniform(½" between every suture equal distance from the cut)	20	
Knots at both ends	20	
Non- Continuous		
Uniform(½" between every suture equal distance from the cut)	20	
Knots (5 square knots per suture)	20	
Purse- String		
Loops every ½"	20	
Doubled floss strung through loops and tightened.	20	
Total	120	