

Suture	Composition	Color	Absorption + (slow) to ++++ (rapid)	Breaking Strength + (weak) to ++++ (strong)	Tissue reaction + (low) to ++++ (high)	Construction	Uses	Caveats
Braided synthetic Vicryl (Ethicon) Polysorb and Dexon (Syneture)	Copolymer of glycolide and lactide (Vicryl and Polysorb) or homopolymer of glycolic acid (Dexon)	Undyed (white) or dyed (violet or green)	++	+++	++		Interrupted deep dermal closure, oral mucosa, vessel ligation	Use as interrupted or as running subcutaneous suture
Braided synthetic Vicryl Rapide (Ethicon)	Copolymer of glycolide and lactide	Undyed (white) or dyed (violet or green)	++++	+++	++		Interrupted deep dermal closure, oral mucosa, vessel ligation	Use as interrupted or as running subcutaneous suture Can be substituted for plain gut due to similar absorption
Monofilament synthetic PDS II and Monocryl (Ethicon) Maxon, Biosyn, and Caprosyn (Syneture)	Various polymers	Undyed (clear) or dyed (violet)	+ (PDS II, Maxon); ++ (Monocryl, Biosyn); ++++ (Caprosyn)	+ (Caprosyn); ++ (Monocryl, Biosyn); +++ (Maxon)	++		Subcuticular closure, fascia	Causes less tissue inflammation but requires four ties for secure knot Leave knot on outside of skin for subcuticular closure
Plain gut	Serosa of beef intestine or submucosa of sheep intestine	Light tan	++++	+	++++		Eyelid close to lid margin (where suture removal would be difficult)	Use five ties, because tends to untie when tensed
Chromic gut	Same as above, but treated with chromic salts to delay absorption	Brown	+++	+	+++		Oral and nasal mucosa	When used inside the mouth, it is usually apart within 1-2 weeks
Fast-absorbing gut	Plain gut treated with heat to facilitate more rapid absorption	Light tan	++++	+	++++		Facial wounds under low tension	Maintains strength less than 7 days and is completely absorbed within 2-3 weeks
Nylon Ethilon and Nurolon (Ethicon) Dermalon, Monosof, and Surgilon (Syneture)	Synthetic polymer of Nylon 6	Undyed (clear) or dyed (black or blue)		+++		Ethilon and Monosof: black monofilament Dermalon: blue monofilament Nurolon and Surgilon: black braided		Is ideal for epidermal closure
Polypropylene Prolene (Ethicon) Surgipro (Syneture)	Synthetic polymer of polypropylene (Prolene) or polypropylene and polyethylene (Surgipro)	Undyed (clear) or dyed (blue)		+++		Monofilament		Is ideal for epidermal closure and subcuticular pull-out suture (slides out easier than nylon); also useful in hair-bearing scalp
Silk	Protein-rich thread spun by silkworms	Black or white		++		Braided		Can be used for closure of oral mucosa, but requires removal Used mainly for vessel ligation and bowel anastomoses