COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

E-Pack

Q: What is an E-pack procedure kit?
A: An E-Pack procedure kit is a custom pack containing numerous sutures and other products for a specific procedure, surgeon or surgical specialty.

Q: What surgical specialties should I target when promoting E-pack procedure kits?
A: E-Packs should be promoted for use in surgical procedures that are suture intensive and utilize the same suture products each case. Some examples would be as follows: C/V surgery for CABG and valve replacement, OB/GYN for C-sections, TAH and Neurosurgery for Craniotomy.

Q: How do you place an order for an E-pack procedure kit?
A: All initial orders for an E-Pack procedure kit begin with a call to the E-pack department (800-438-4426), where Josie, Vicki or Karen will discuss the ordering process with you. An application must be completed for all initial orders.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture

Q: What surgical specialties use ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture?
A: ETHIBOND EXCEL Suture is used in placement of prosthetic materials primarily in cardiovascular and orthopedic procedures.\(^\text{1,2}\)

Q: What is ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture made of?
A: ETHIBOND EXCEL Sutures are made of Poly (ethylene terephthalate) coated with polybutylate.

Q: What colors is ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture available in?
A: ETHIBOND EXCEL is available in green and white.

Q: Is ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture coated?
A: Yes. ETHIBOND EXCEL Suture is coated with uniformly coated with polybutylate, a biologically inert, nonabsorbable compound which adheres itself to the braided polyester fiber strand. Polybutylate was the first synthetic coating developed specifically as a surgical suture lubricant. The coating eases the passage of the braided strands through tissue and provides excellent pliability, handling qualities, and smooth tie-down with each throw of the knot. Both the suture material and the coating are pharmacologically inactive.

Q: What are the indications for ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture?
A: ETHIBOND EXCEL Suture is indicated for use in general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including use in cardiovascular, ophthalmic and neurological procedures.

Q: What are the contra-indications for ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture?
A: There are no known contraindications.

Q: Is ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture a braided or monofilament suture?
A: ETHIBOND EXCEL Suture is a braided suture.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Sutures?
   A: ETHIBOND EXCEL Sutures have a gradual loss of tensile strength over time.

Q: What sizes are ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Sutures available in?
   A: ETHIBOND EXCEL Suture is available in USP sizes 5 and 2 through 7-0.

Q: What is the benefit of ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Sutures?
   A: The benefits of a material such as ETHIBOND EXCEL Sutures are its strength, durability, and slippery surface which causes less friction.1,2

Q: What is the absorption profile of ETHIBOND EXCEL® Polyester Suture?
   A: ETHIBOND EXCEL is a non-absorbable suture.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Ethilon® Nylon Suture

Q: What is ETHILON® Nylon Suture made of?
A: ETHILON Suture is a nonabsorbable monofilament suture composed of polymers of Nylon (polyamide) 6 and Nylon (polyamide) 6,6.

Q: What sizes are ETHILON® Nylon Sutures available in?
A: ETHILON Suture is available in USP sizes 2 through 11-0 in varying lengths.

Q: What colors is ETHILON® Nylon Suture available in?
A: ETHILON Suture is available in black, green and undyed (clear).

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of ETHILON® Nylon Sutures?
A: While Nylon is not absorbed, progressive hydrolysis of the nylon in vivo may result in a gradual loss of tensile strength over time (usually 15%-20% per year).

Q: What are the contraindications for the use ETHILON® Nylon Sutures?
A: Due to the gradual loss of tensile strength which may occur over long periods in vivo, nylon suture should not be used where permanent retention of tensile strength is required.

Q: What is the benefit of ETHILON® Nylon Sutures?
A: There are no known contraindications.

Q: What is the absorption profile of ETHILON® Nylon Suture?
A: The benefit is minimal tissue reaction.\(^1\,2\)

Q: Is ETHILON® Nylon Suture a braided or monofilament suture?
A: ETHILON Suture is a monofilament suture.

Q: What surgical specialties utilize ETHILON® Nylon Sutures?
A: ETHILON Suture is predominantly used in general soft tissue approximation and ligation, ophthalmic, plastic, microsurgery, neurosurgery, cardiovascular and skin closure.\(^1\,2\)

Q: Is ETHILON® Nylon Suture coated?
A: ETHILON Suture is not coated.

Q: What are the indications for ETHILON® Nylon Sutures?
A: ETHILON Suture is indicated for use in general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including use in cardiovascular, ophthalmic, and neurological procedures.
**COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Everpoint® Cardiovascular Needle**

**Q: Are EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles coated?**  
A: EVERPOINT Needles have a multi-layer coating process, where by the coating is sprayed on rather than dipped. It has a special coating layers to enhance adhesion of the coating to the needle surface, and therefore, improve multiple pass penetration consistency.

**Q: What alloy are EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles made of?**  
A: A combination of Tungsten-Rhenium, 74% Tungsten and 26% Rhenium.

**Q: What are the contraindications for EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles?**  
A: There are no known contraindications.

**Q: What are the benefits of EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles?**  
A: The benefits are strength and it retains sharpness on repeated passes.

**Q: Are the EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles radio opaque?**  
A: Yes. The Tungsten-Rhenium needles are radio opaque. However, they are too small to be seen in x-ray.

**Q: Will EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles exhibit a magnetic charge like SS needles?**  
A: No. EVERPOINT Needles will not magnetize or stick to other equipment in the OR.

**Q: How do EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needle properties compare to SS needles?**  
A: • EVERPOINT Needles are up to 38% stronger  
• EVERPOINT Needles have 70% less penetration force over 30 passes.
### Commonly Asked Questions

#### Everpoint® Cardiovascular Needle

**Q: What is the availability of EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needles?**

**A:** Please see product brochure for detailed information.

**Q: If EVERPOINT® Cardiovascular Needle is stiffer and stronger than other needles, is it also less ductile?**

**A:** No. Everpoint needle is 121% stiffer and 38% stronger than traditional stainless needles without sacrificing ductility.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture

Q: What is Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture made of?
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture is made of Beef Serosa or Sheep Submucosa.

Q: Is Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture coated?
A: No. Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture is not coated.

Q: What color is Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture available in?
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture is available in yellowish-tan.

Q: What sizes are Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures available in?
A: The available sizes are 5-0 & 6-0.

Q: Are Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures Monofilament or Braided?
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures are (Virtual) Monofilament.

Q: What are the benefits of Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: The benefit is that it does not require suture removal.¹²

Q: What is the absorption profile of Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture absorbs in 21–42 days.

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures have in vivo strength retention of approximately 7 days.

Q: What surgical specialties utilize Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures are predominately used in skin; episiotomy repair, lacerations under casts, and skin repairs where rapid absorption may be beneficial, excluding over joints and high-stress areas.¹²
### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Suture**

**Q: What are the indications for Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures?**
A: Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures are indicated for Dermal (skin) suturing only.

**Q: What are the contra-indications of Fast Absorbing Surgical Gut Sutures?**
A: These sutures should not be used where prolonged approximation of tissue under stress is required, and should never be used on internal tissue. These sutures are contraindicated for use in patients with known sensitivities to Collagen.
General Questions

Q: What does suture spitting mean?
A: Suture spitting or extrusion occurs when the body tries to extrude foreign material (i.e. suture); the body encapsulates the suture and then brings it to the surface of the skin and spits it out because it’s not absorbed by the body.

Q: Does Ethicon make suture racks?
A: Yes. Modular storage racks, designed for convenience and versatility and with easily assembled modules. They accommodate vertical and horizontal suture dispenser boxes, meet small and large storage needs, and can be used on shelves and mounted on walls. It is also available on IV pole stand and portable carrying racks.

Q: What information can be found on an Ethicon suture box?
A: • Plus or non plus
  • Needle length in mm
  • Suture color
  • Suture length
  • Suture size
  • Product code number
  • Metric equivalent
  • Shape and quantity of needles
    - Needle point geometry
    - Lot number
    - Expiration date

Q: Why are Ethicon sutures available in different colors?
A: Ethicon sutures are available in a choice of colors to enhance visibility in tissue.

Q: Why are some Ethicon sutures available in different colors?
A: They are available in a choice of colors to enhance visibility in tissue.
Mersilene® Polyester Fiber Suture

Q: What is MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture made of?
A: MERSILENE Suture is available in a Polymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

Q: What colors is MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture available in?
A: MERSILENE Suture is available in green and white.

Q: Is MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture coated?
A: No. MERSILENE Suture is not coated.

Q: What are the contraindications for MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture?
A: There are no known contraindications.

Q: Is MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture a braided or monofilament suture?
A: MERSILENE Suture is available in braided and monofilament.

Q: What are the indications for MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Sutures?
A: MERSILENE Sutures are indicated for use in general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including use in cardiovascular, ophthalmic and neurological procedures.

Q: What are the benefits of MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Sutures?
A: MERSILENE Suture provides precise, consistent suture tension.

Q: What is the absorption profile of MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Sutures?
A: MERSILENE Suture is nonabsorbable.

Q: What is the BSR profile of MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Sutures?
A: MERSILENE Sutures have indefinite tensile strength.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Mersilene® Polyester Fiber Suture

**Q: What sizes are MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture available in?**
A: MERSILENE Suture is available in USP sizes 1 through 6-0 (braided) and 10-0 through 11-0 (monofilament).

**Q: What surgical specialties utilize MERSILENE® Polyester Fiber Suture?**
A: MERSILENE Suture is predominantly used in general soft tissue approximation and ligation, cardiovascular, ophthalmic, and neurological procedures.
Monocryl® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture?
A: MONOCRYL Sutures have the following in vivo strength retention:
   • Undyed
     - 50% to 60% at 1 week
     - 20% to 30% at 2 weeks
   • Dyed (violet)
     - 60% to 70% at 1 week
     - 30% to 40% at 2 weeks

Q: What is MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture made of?
A: MONOCRYL Suture is made of copolymer of glycolide and epsilon-caprolactone.

Q: What sizes are MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Sutures available in?
A: MONOCRYL Sutures are available as sterile, monofilament, undyed (natural) strands in sizes 6-0 through 2 (metric sizes 0.7-5), in a variety of lengths, with or without needles.

Q: What are the contraindications for MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Sutures?
A: MONOCRYL Sutures, being absorbable, should not be used where extended approximation of tissue under stress is required.

Q: What are the indications for MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Sutures?
A: MONOCRYL Sutures are indicated for use in general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, but not for use in cardiovascular or neurological tissues, microsurgery, or ophthalmic surgery.

Q: What are the benefits of MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Sutures?
A: The benefits are ease of handling and low reactivity.
## Monocryl® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture

**Q:** Is MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture a braided or monofilament suture?
**A:** MONOCRYL Suture is a monofilament.

**Q:** What colors is MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture available in?
**A:** MONOCRYL Suture is available in dyed and undyed.

**Q:** What is the absorption profile of MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Sutures?
**A:** The absorption time of MONOCRYL Suture is 91-119 days.

**Q:** Is MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Suture coated?
**A:** MONOCRYL Suture is not coated.

**Q:** What surgical specialties utilize MONOCRYL® (poliglecaprone 25) Sutures?
**A:** MONOCRYL Sutures are predominately used in soft tissue approximation; ligation, skin repairs, bowel, peritoneum, uterus, vaginal cuff, and ophthalmic surgery.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Needles

Q: Why does Ethicon make needles to be ductile?
A: Ethicon designs needles to have enough ductility so they deform or bend before they break. If this ductility were not designed into the needle the clinician might experience needle breakage.

Q: Do the same needle types vary in diameter?
A: Yes. Depending on the size of the suture the needle diameter can vary. For example, an RB-1 can range in needle diameter depending on the suture size it is swaged to.

Q: Are Blunt Point Needles (BP Series) the same as ETHIGUARD® Safety Needle?
A: No. Blunt Point needles have a much larger point diameter than the ETHIGUARD Safety Needles. The BP needles dissect through tissue instead of penetrating through tissue. ETHIGUARD Safety Needles are actually Modified Taper needles and are designed to be sharp enough to penetrate soft tissue but resist penetrating skin. ETHIGUARD Safety Needles will penetrate skin if enough force is applied.

Q: Can ETHIGUARD® Blunt Point Needle replace all taper needles in a hospital?
A: No. When a hospital converts to ETHIGUARD Blunt Point Needles the taper point needles need to remain in the hospital. There are tissues where taper point needles are used that ETHIGUARD Blunt Point Needles would not be an alternative.

Q: What does the chord length of a needle refer to?
A: The chord length of a needle is the straight line distance from the point of a curved needle to the swage. It can be measured in inches or in metric units.

Q: Is needle length the same as chord length?
A: No. Needle length is the distance measured along the needle itself from point to end where it is swaged.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Needles

Q: What does the term needle diameter mean and how is it measured?
A: Needle diameter refers to the gauge or thickness of the needle and is measured in increments called mils. Each mil equaling 1/1000th of an inch. The exception is BV and V micro needles, where the diameter is measured in microns. For example, BV 130-5 needle diameter is 130 microns.

Q: What does Needle Radius refer to?
A: The radius of a needle is the distance from the center of the circle to the body of the needle if the body of the needle were continued to make a full circle.

Q: What metal alloys does Ethicon use in the manufacture of its surgical needles?

Q: Are Ethicon surgical needles coated?
A: Yes. with Silicone to enhance passage through tissue.

Q: Are all Ethicon surgical needles silver metallic in color?
A: No. Some needles are black (called VISI-BLACK) to enhance visibility.

Q: What is the difference between the two eyed needles and eyeless needles?
A: Closed eyed needles are similar to household sewing needles. The shape can be round oblong or square. The French eyed needles have a slit from inside the eye to the end of the needle with ridges that hold the suture in place. Eyeless needles (swaged) join the needle and suture together as a single unit and do not require manual threading of the suture material.

Q: Does Ethicon manufacture eyed needles?
A: No. Ethicon does not manufacture eyed needles.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Needles

Q: How does Ethicon attach the suture material to the needle?
A: The technique used varies depending on the needle diameter and alloy. In larger diameter needles a hole is drilled, or a channel is formed in the needle attachment end. The suture material is then secured to the needle using a mechanical swaging process. In smaller diameter needles a channel is formed in the needle attachment end then preclosed creating a small hole, the suture material is then secured to the needle using epoxy.

Q: Why are surgical needles flattened in the middle?
A: Surgical needles are flattened for better stability and control in the needle holder.

Q: Why does Ethicon also incorporate longitudinal ribbing in some of their needles?
A: Longitudinal ribbing is incorporated for better stability and control in the needle holder. Curved needles of 22 mil wire and heavier are ribbed as well as flattened.

Q: What is a CONTROL RELEASE needle?
A: CONTROL RELEASE needle is a term used by Ethicon to describe a suture principle that facilitates fast separation of the suture material from the needle when desired by the surgeon. This feature allows for rapid placement of many sutures as in an interrupted suturing technique. Even though the suture is securely fastened to the needle a slight straight tug will release it.

Q: Do our competitors have a similar product?
A: Yes. Most of our competitors do produce a line of needles similar to our CONTROL RELEASE sutures. Covidien’s is called D-Tach.

Q: Where should a surgeon grasp the needle with the needle holder?
A: Normally, the scrub person will “Load” the needle in the needle holder for the surgeon and then pass it to the surgeon. The scrub person should grasp the needle with the tip of the needle holder jaws a distance approximately 1/2 to 2/3 the distance from the swaged end to the point. The surgeon may then opt to change its position.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Nurolon® Nylon Suture

Q: What is NUROLON® Nylon Suture made of?
A: NUROLON Suture is a nonabsorbable braided suture composed of Nylon (polyamide) 6.6.

Q: What sizes are NUROLON® Nylon Suture available in?
A: NUROLON Suture is available in USP sizes 1 through 6-0 in varying lengths, and in dyed black and undyed. It comes in boxes of 1, 2, and 3 dozen.

Q: What surgical specialties utilize NUROLON® Nylon Suture?
A: NUROLON Suture is predominantly used in general soft tissue approximation and ligation, general surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery.1,2

Q: What colors is NUROLON® Nylon Suture available in?
A: NUROLON Suture is available black and undyed (clear).

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of NUROLON® Nylon Suture?
A: While nylon is not absorbed, progressive hydrolysis of the nylon in vivo may result in a gradual loss of tensile strength over time (usually 15%-20% per year).1

Q: What are the contraindications for NUROLON® Nylon Sutures?
A: Due to the gradual loss of tensile strength which may occur over long periods in vivo, nylon suture should not be used where permanent retention of tensile strength is required.

Q: Is NUROLON® Nylon Suture coated?
A: NUROLON Suture is coated with wax to provide a smooth, uniform surface.

Q: What are the indications for NUROLON® Nylon Suture?
A: NUROLON Suture is indicated for use in general soft tissue approximating and/or ligation, including use in cardiovascular, ophthalmic procedures, and neurological procedures.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Nurolon® Nylon Suture**

**Q: What are the benefits of NUROLOMN® Nylon Suture?**
A: NUROLOMN Suture was developed as a replacement for silk sutures because it looks, feels and handles similarly to silk sutures. NUROLOMN Suture is also stronger size for size than silk suture and is less reactive in tissue.\(^2\)

**Q: What is the absorption profile of NUROLOMN® Nylon Sutures?**
A: NUROLOMN Sutures are non-absorbable.

**Q: Is NUROLOMN® Nylon Suture monofilament or braided?**
A: NUROLOMN Suture is braided.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture

Q: What is PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture made of?
A: It is made of Polyester Polymer (polydioxanone).

Q: What are the contraindications for PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture?
A: Being absorbable, PDS II Suture should not be used where prolonged approximation of tissues under stress is required. It should not be used with prosthetic devices, such as heart valves or synthetic grafts.

Q: Is PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture Monofilament or Braided?
A: PDS II Suture is a monofilament suture.

Q: What colors is PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture available in?
A: PDS II Suture is available Undyed (clear) and Dyed (violet).

Q: What surgical specialties utilize PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture?
A: Soft tissue approximation, Fascia closure, small vessel anastomoses, Pediatric cardiovascular and ophthalmic procedures, patients with compromised wound healing, Ophthalmic surgery and Orthopedic surgery.²

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of PDS® II (polydioxanone) Sutures?
A: PDS II Sutures have the following strength retention:
• For 4/0 and smaller – 60% at 2 weeks, 40% at 4 weeks, 35% at 6 weeks
• For 3/0 and larger – 80% at 2 weeks, 70% at 4 weeks, 60% at 6 weeks

Q: What is the absorption profile of PDS® II (polydioxanone) Sutures?
A: PDS II Sutures are absorbed in 182–238 days.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture

**Q: What are the indications for PDS® II (polydioxanone) Sutures?**
A: PDS II monofilament synthetic absorbable sutures are indicated for use in all types of soft tissue approximation, including use in pediatric cardiovascular tissue where growth is expected to occur and ophthalmic surgery. PDS II suture is not indicated in adult cardiovascular tissue, microsurgery and neural tissue. These sutures are particularly useful where the combination of an absorbable suture and extended wound support (up to six weeks) is desirable.

**Q: What are the benefits of PDS® II (polydioxanone) Sutures?**
A: PDS II Sutures have been formulated to minimize the variability of tensile strength retention and absorption rate (loss of mass) and to provide wound support through and extended healing period.1,2

**Q: What sizes is PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture available in?**
A: PDS II Sutures are available in USP sizes 6-0 through 1.

**Q: Is PDS® II (polydioxanone) Suture coated?**
A: No. PDS II Sutures are not coated.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Perma-Hand® Silk Suture

Q: What is PERMA-HAND® Silk Suture made of?
A: PERMA-HAND Suture is made of silk.

Q: Is PERMA-HAND® Silk Suture Coated?
A: PERMA-HAND Suture is coated with a proprietary wax mixture.

Q: What color is PERMA-HAND® Silk Suture available in?
A: PERMA-HAND Suture is available in black.

Q: What is the range of available size for PERMA-HAND® Silk Suture?
A: The available sizes are 5 and 2 through 7-0.

Q: What are the indications for PERMA-HAND Silk Sutures?
A: General soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including cardiovascular, ophthalmic and neurological tissues.

Q: What are the contra-indications of PERMA-HAND® Silk Suture?
A: Due to the gradual loss of tensile strength which may occur over prolonged periods in vivo, PERMA-HAND Suture should not be used where permanent retention of tensile strength is required.

Q: Are PERMA-HAND® Silk Sutures Monofilament or Braided?
A: PERMA-HAND Sutures are Braided.

Q: What surgical specialties utilize PERMA-HAND® Silk Sutures?
A: PERMA-HAND Sutures are utilized in many surgical specialties, including general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including cardiovascular, ophthalmic and neurological tissues.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Perma-Hand® Silk Suture

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of PERMA-HAND® Silk Sutures?
A: PERMA-HAND Sutures have a gradual loss of tensile strength over time.

Q: What are the benefits of PERMA-HAND® Silk Sutures?
A: The benefits of PERMA-HAND Sutures are ease of handling and tying.¹²

Q: What is the absorption profile of PERMA-HAND® Silk Sutures?
A: PERMA-HAND Sutures are non-absorbable.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Pronova® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture

Q: What is PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture made of?
A: PRONOVA suture (clear or pigmented) is a nonabsorbable, sterile surgical suture made from a polymer blend of poly (vinylidene fluoride) and poly (vinylidene fluoride-cohexafluoropropylene). The suture is pigmented blue to enhance visibility.

Q: What are the indications for PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture?
A: General soft tissue approximation and/or ligation including use in cardiovascular, ophthalmic and neurological procedures.

Q: What are the contra-indications for PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture?
A: There are no known contraindications for PRONOVA Suture.

Q: What are the benefits of PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Sutures?
A: Smooth passage through tissue and minimal tissue reaction.1,2

Q: What is the absorption profile of PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture?
A: PRONOVA Suture is a nonabsorbable suture.

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Sutures?
A: PRONOVA Suture is not subject to degradation or weakening by action of tissue enzymes.

Q: Is PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture monofilament or Braided?
A: PRONOVA Suture is a Monofilament.

Q: Is PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture coated?
A: No. PRONOVA Suture is not coated.
### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Pronova® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture**

**Q: What colors is PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture available in?**  
A: PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Suture is available in blue.

**Q: What sizes are PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Sutures available in?**  
A: PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Sutures are available in USP sizes 2-0 through 8-0.

**Q: What surgical specialties use PRONOVA® Poly (Hexafluoropropylene-VDF) Sutures?**  
A: PRONOVA suture is primarily used in general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including use in cardiovascular, ophthalmic and neurological procedures.12
## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Special Order

#### Q: What is a special order suture?
A: A special order suture is a suture which is made to fill a need not satisfied by one of our line item products.

#### Q: Where do I obtain the special order application form?
A: Special order applications can be obtained by contacting the special order department at 800-438-4426.
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Surgical Gut Suture

Q: What is Surgical Gut Suture made of?
A: Surgical Gut Suture is made Beef Serosa or Sheep Submucosa.

Q: Is Surgical Gut Suture coated?
A: No. Surgical Gut Suture is not coated.

Q: What color is Surgical Gut Suture available in?
A: Surgical Gut Suture is available in yellowish-tan.

Q: What sizes are Surgical Gut Sutures available in?
A: The available sizes are 6-0 through 0.

Q: What are the indications for Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: The indications are general soft tissue approximation and ligation.

Q: What are the contra-indications of Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: Gut suture should not be used in cardiovascular and neurological tissues, should not be used in patients with known sensitivities or allergies to collagen or chromium, being absorbable should not be used where extended approximation of tissues under stress is required.

Q: Are Surgical Gut Sutures Monofilament or Braided?
A: Surgical Gut Sutures are (Virtual) Monofilament.

Q: What are the benefits of Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: The key benefit is ease of tying.1,2

Q: What is the absorption profile of Surgical Gut Sutures?
A: The absorption profile of Surgical Gut Suture is 70 days.
**COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Surgical Gut Suture**

**Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of Surgical Gut Sutures?**
A: Surgical Gut Sutures have in vivo strength retention of 7-10 days.

**Q: What surgical specialties utilize Surgical Gut Sutures?**
A: Surgical Gut Sutures are predominately used in soft tissue approximation, ligation, skin repairs, bowel, peritoneum, uterus, and vaginal cuff.¹²
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Surgical Gut Suture Chromic

Q: What is Surgical Gut Suture Chromic made of?
A: Collagen derived from beef and sheep intestine

Q: Is Surgical Gut Suture Chromic Coated?
A: No Surgical Gut Suture Chromic is not coated.

Q: What color is Surgical Gut Suture Chromic available in?
A: Surgical Gut Suture Chromic is available in brown.

Q: What sizes are Surgical Gut Suture Chromic available in?
A: The available sizes are 7-0 through 3.

Q: Are Surgical Gut Suture Chromic Monofilament or Braided?
A: Surgical Gut Sutures Chromic are (Virtual) Monofilament.

Q: What are the indications for Surgical Gut Suture Chromic?
A: The indications are general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including use in ophthalmic procedures.

Q: What are the contra-indications for Surgical Gut Suture Chromic?
A: Surgical Gut Suture Chromic, being absorbable, should not be used where extended approximation of tissue is required. The use of this suture is contraindicated in patients with known sensitivities or allergies to collagen or chromium, as gut is a collagen based material, and chromic gut is treated with chromic salt solutions.

Q: What are the benefits of Surgical Gut Suture Chromic?
A: The benefit of Surgical Gut Suture Chromic is a greater resistance to absorption.1,2
## Commonly Asked Questions

### Surgical Gut Suture Chromic

**Q: What is the absorption profile of Surgical Gut Suture Chromic?**
*A: Surgical Gut Suture Chromic is absorbed in 90 days.

**Q: What surgical specialties utilize Surgical Gut Suture Chromic?**
*A: Surgical Gut Sutures Chromic are predominately used in soft tissue approximation, ligation, general closure, bowel, orthopedic surgery, and ophthalmic surgery.*

**Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of Surgical Gut Suture Chromic?**
*A: Surgical Gut Suture Chromic has in vivo strength retention of approximately 21-28 days for sizes 6-0 through 1.*
Q: What are the indications for Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Suture?
A. Coated VICRYL Suture is indicated for use in general soft tissue approximation and/or ligation, including use in ophthalmic procedures, but not for use in cardiovascular and neurological tissue.

Q: What are the contra-indications for Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Suture?
A. Coated VICRYL Suture, being absorbable, should not be used where extended approximation of tissue is required.

Q: What are the benefits of Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Sutures?
A. Predictable handling for excellent control:
   - Coated VICRYL Suture and Ethicon surgical needles work together to help surgeons optimize knot and needle performance, enabling excellent patient outcomes.\(^2\)

Q: What is the BSR profile/tensile strength of Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Sutures?
A. At 2 weeks post implantation, Coated VICRYL Sutures maintain approximately 75% of the tensile strength of Coated VICRYL Suture remains. Approximately 50% of tensile strength is retained at 3 weeks for sizes 6-0 and larger. At 3 weeks, 40% of tensile strength is retained for sizes 7-0 and smaller. At 4 weeks, 25% of the original strength is retained for sizes 6-0 and larger. All of the original tensile strength is lost by five weeks post implantation.

Q: What sizes is Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Suture available in?
A. Coated VICRYL Sutures are available as braided dyed violet or undyed natural strands in a variety of lengths with or without needles. More specifically, the VICRYL™ sutures are available in gauge sizes 3 up to 10-0 (USP) and length sizes of 4” (10cm) up to 54” (135cm).
**COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**VICRYL Suture**

**Q: Are VICRYL® Sutures Monofilament or Braided?**
A. VICRYL Sutures are braided.

**Q: For which tissue layers should VICRYL® be used for?**
A. At 5–7 days mucosa becomes self-supporting, while skin heals in 7–10 days. Subcutaneous tissue and peritoneum become self-supporting in 7–14 days, and fascia becomes self-supporting in 14–28 days. This means that Coated VICRYL Suture retains enough tensile strength to be effective through the critical wound healing period of skin, mucosa, subcutaneous tissue, peritoneum, and fascia.

(Note: The fact that Coated VICRYL Suture is braided makes it less likely to be used for skin closure). For example, Coated VICRYL Suture is one of the sutures recommended for use during total hip replacement to close the muscle and fascia. The hip's fascia is among the toughest in the body, requiring a strong suture with high TSR like Coated VICRYL Suture.

**Q: Which Ethicon sutures exist under the VICRYL® product family?**
A. Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Suture, Coated VICRYL® Plus Antibacterial (polyglactin 910) Suture and VICRYL RAPIDE™ (polyglactin 910) Suture.

**Q: What colors are VICRYL® sutures available in?**
A. VICRYL sutures are available in violet and undyed.

**Q: What is the absorption profile of Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Suture?**
A. Coated VICRYL Suture is absorbed in 56–70 days.

**Q: What are Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Sutures made of?**
A. Coated VICRYL Suture is made of a copolymer of glycolide and L-lactide.
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**COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**VICRYL RAPIDE™ (polyglactin 910) Suture**

**Q:** What sizes is VICRYL RAPIDE™ (polyglactin 910) Suture available in?

**A:** VICRYL RAPIDE™ (polyglactin 910) Suture is available in undyed (natural) in gauge sizes 0 up to 5-0 (USP) and length sizes of 18” (45cm) up to 54” (135cm).
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Coated VICRYL® Plus Antibacterial (polyglactin 910) Suture

Q: What sizes is Coated VICRYL® Plus Antibacterial (polyglactin 910) Suture available in?
A: The Coated VICRYL Plus Antibacterial Suture are available in gauge 2 up to 5-0 (USP) and length sizes of 18” (45cm) up to 54” (135cm).

Q: What is the Coated VICRYL® Plus Antibacterial (polyglactin 910) Sutures?
A: The Coated VICRYL Plus Suture is a coated, braided, synthetic, absorbable surgical suture. The suture is treated with the antibacterial agent IRGACARE® MP38, the purest form of triclosan. Coated VICRYL Plus Suture:
• Has been proven in vitro to create a zone of inhibition against the most common surgical site pathogens
• Maintains the same integrity and performance characteristics as traditional Coated VICRYL® (polyglactin 910) Suture, including TSR, predictable rate of absorption, and preferred performance and ease in handling
• Is indicated for use in the same tissues and procedures as Coated VICRYL Suture with the exception of ophthalmic tissues

References