

Verification of Proficiency Module for Suturing Skills SIU Surgical Skills Laboratory

OBJECTIVES: By the end of this module the resident will meet proficiency standards for the performance of:

- A running fascial closure with O-prolene in a 16 cm simulated fascial opening
- Interrupted simple sutures closing an 8 cm wound in a simulated skin model
- Vertical mattress sutures closing an 8 cm wound in a simulated skin model
- Running subcuticular sutures closing an 8 cm wound in a simulated skin model

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE

- View the videotape of the expert performance in suturing skills
- Prior to beginning practice, request videotaping of your performance of the four tasks
- Using the performance check list as a guide, begin practice with focus on the mechanics of instrument handling and hand movement
- Next, practice with focusing on precision of suture placement
- Next, practice with focusing on efficiency and economy of motion by observing the time it takes you to complete each task
- Consider requesting verification of proficiency when you are able to perform the suturing skill effectively and precisely in less than 5 minutes for fascial closure, 5 minutes for interrupted simple sutures, 7 minutes for vertical mattress sutures, and 5 minutes for subcuticular sutures.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VERIFICATION FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING

When you believe your practice sessions have resulted in proficiency in the four skill areas and you are able to perform the four suturing activities in the listed time allotment, you may request to sit for the verification of proficiency videotaped performance from the skills lab personnel. Once this videotape has been completed, it will be submitted to a faculty member for evaluation. Their decision will either verify your proficiency in this skill or recommend further practice.