

# How could something so small do so much?



**3M™ Steri-Strip™ Reinforced Skin Closures** are the worldwide standard in adhesive skin closures, trusted for their convenience, simplicity and non-invasive design.

## Features and Benefits

Provides wound support and increases the tensile strength of the wound compared to sutures<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Non-invasive design reduces scarring and the risk for infection as compared to sutures and staples, providing less tissue trauma and better cosmetic outcomes<sup>1,4</sup>

Sterile, breathable and comfortable to wear

Hypoallergenic adhesive

Permits early staple/suture removal<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Less expensive than skin adhesives, sutures or staples<sup>5</sup>

## Suggested Applications

Known for their versatility, Steri-Strip Reinforced Skin Closures are used in the closure of lacerations, surgical incisions and following early suture/staple removal.



## Ordering Information

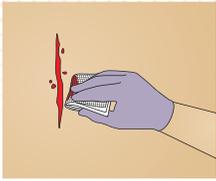
Cat. No.	Size	Closures/ Envelope	Envelopes/ Box	Boxes/ Case
R1540	1/8 in. x 3 in./3mm x 75mm	5	50	4
R1541	1/4 in. x 3 in./6mm x 75mm	3	50	4
R1542	1/4 in. x 1-1/2 in./6mm x 38mm	6	50	4
R1546	1/4 in. x 4 in./6mm x 100mm	10	50	4
R1547	1/2 in. x 4 in./12mm x 100mm	6	50	4
R1548	1 in. x 5 in./25mm x 125mm	4	25	4
R1549	1/2 in. x 2 in./12mm x 50mm	6	50	4

1. Pepicello J, Yavorek H: Five-year experience with tape closure of abdominal wounds. *SG&O*, 169:310-314, 1989.
2. Chao T-C, Tsaetz F-Y: Paper tape in the closure of abdominal wounds. *SG&O*, 171:65-67, 1990.
3. Forrester JC: Wolff's law in relation to the healing skin wound. *J Trauma*, 10:770-779, 1970.
4. Hirshman HP, Schuman, DJ, Kajiyama, G: Penetration of *Staphylococcus aureus* into sutured wounds. *J Ortho Res*, 2:269-271, 1984.
5. Zempsky WT, Zehrer CL, Lyle CT, Hedbloom EC. Economic Comparison of Methods of Wound Closure: Wound Closure Strips vs. Sutures and Wound Adhesives. *Int Wound J* 2005;2:272-281.

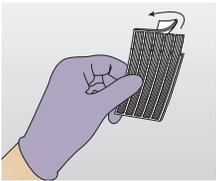


# 3M™ Steri-Strip™ Reinforced Skin Closures

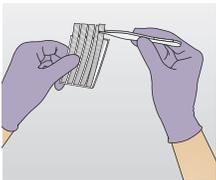
## Skin Closure Application



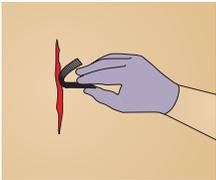
**1** Clean and dry skin at least two inches around wound. If enhanced strip adhesion is desired, a thin layer of Steri-Strip compound benzoin tincture (CBT) may be applied on skin up to wound edge.\* If distention or movement is anticipated, consider using 3M™ Steri-Strip™ Elastic Skin Closures.



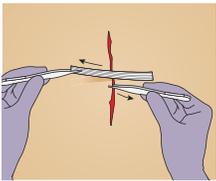
**2** Peel back package tabs to access the sterile Steri-Strip closures. Remove card, using sterile precautions as necessary. Bend card at end perforation and gently remove tab.



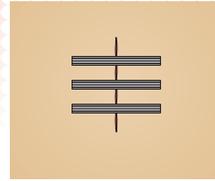
**3** Grasp end of skin closure with forceps or gloved hand; lift straight upward (90 degree angle). Steri-Strip closures lifted at a lesser angle or directly back on themselves may "curl," complicating handling.



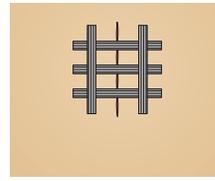
**4** Wound closure generally starts at the middle of the wound. Steri-Strip closures must be applied without tension. Do not stretch or "strap" Steri-Strip closures. Apply one-half of first Steri-Strip closure to wound margin and press firmly in place.



**5** Using fingers or forceps, appose skin edges as closely as possible. Press free half of Steri-Strip closure firmly on other side of wound.



**6** The rest of the wound should be closed with additional Steri-Strip closures spaced approximately 1/8 inch (3mm) apart by (a) sequentially bisecting remaining length of wound with Steri-Strip closures or (b) applying Steri-Strip closures 1/8 inch apart until edges are completely approximated. If edges are not accurately apposed, remove Steri-Strip closures over affected area (peeling each side towards wound) and reapproximate wound.



**7** Additional Steri-Strip closures may be applied parallel to wound, approximately 1/2 inch in from ends (cross stays, railroad tracks). This may reduce stress beneath the ends of Steri-Strip closures decreasing risk of skin tension blisters and premature lifting of Steri-Strip closures.

**Tip:** If tension is noted under Steri-Strip skin closures, they may be replaced under the direction of a health care professional. Lifted edges of Steri-Strip closures may be trimmed. However, when less than 1/2 inch of Steri-Strip closures remains on either side of wound, one might consider gently removing the Steri-Strip closure and replacing it with a new one.

## Skin Closure Removal

**1** Remove cross stays. Gently grasp and loosen ends of Steri-Strip closure.

**2** Stabilize the skin with one finger. Remove Steri-Strip closure "low and slow" towards wound, keeping it close to skin surface and pulled back over itself. Removing Steri-Strip closure at an angle will pull at the epidermis increasing risk of mechanical trauma.

**3** As the Steri-Strip closure is removed, continue moving finger as necessary, supporting newly exposed skin. When both sides of the Steri-Strip closure are completely loosened, lift strip up from center of wound.

\* Avoid contacting wound with CBT as it may impair wound healing.

To learn more about 3M™ Steri-Strip™ Reinforced Skin Closures, visit us at [www.3M.ca/skinwound](http://www.3M.ca/skinwound), contact your local 3M Critical & Chronic Care Solutions Representative, or call the 3M Customer Care Centre at **1 800 3M HELPS**



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**Critical & Chronic Care Solutions Division**  
**3M Canada Company**  
P.O. Box 5757  
London, Ontario N6A 4T1  
Canada  
1-800-364-3577  
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**3M Health Care**  
2510 Conway Avenue  
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USA  
1-800-228-3957  
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