

Delayed Primary Closure of Large Diabetic Foot Wounds Using a Shoelace Technique

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Purpose: Mechanically assisted delayed primary closure of large foot wounds following emergency or ablative surgery may result in substantially faster healing and a less complex treatment course than secondary wound closure. We have subsequently enhanced this technique with the use of a skin stretching device.

Methods: A figure 8 method, or, shoelace technique was utilized on a skin stretching device. The patient was followed closely for wound care. Pictures and measurements were taken weekly until closure of the wound.

Procedure: Using a commercially-available skin stretching device application can take place in a crossed-over in a shoelace fashion rather than the traditional circumferential pattern.

Results: Our experience suggests that large wounds can be substantially reduced in size in a timely manner using this technique. There were no complications noted during this modified course of treatment.

Significance of findings: Skin stretching devices accompanied by modified shoelace closure technique may further accentuate the utility of this mode of wound closure.