References


ICVTS on-line discussion A

Title: Advantages of suture closure of sternotomy incision wound
Author: Anand Sachithanandan, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham B9 5SS, UK
doi:10.1510/icvts.2006.151076A
eComment: The authors conclude that subcuticular suture closure of leg and sternal skin incisions is superior in comparison with stapled closure in that the former is more cosmetic and has a lower infection rate [1]. There are two other benefits of sternal wound suture closure. Firstly, this provides the most junior trainee (often delegated with skin closure) further opportunity to develop suturing skills. Second as noted, stapled closure is quicker than suture closure however ironically re-opening of the sternal closure is much quicker if subcuticular sutures are used instead of staples. This may be important when rapid and expeditious re-opening of the sternotomy wound is required in an emergent situation in the intensive care unit.

Reference