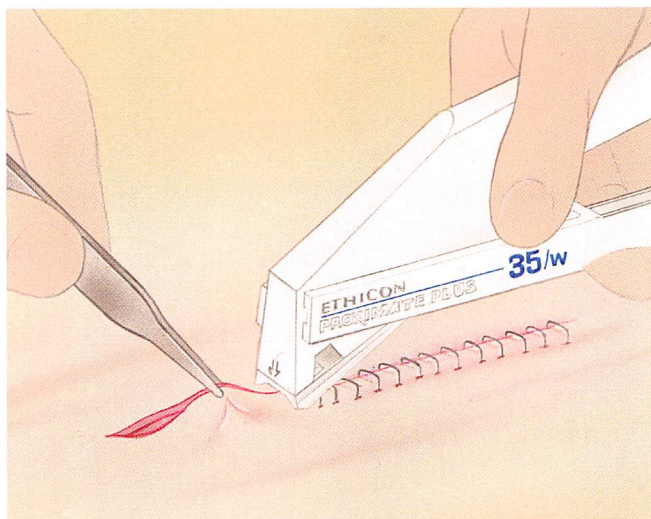


Skin Stapling

In this section, the basic technique for skin stapling is described and illustrated. Although the PROXIMATE* Plus Disposable Skin Stapler is shown, the technique would be essentially the same with other models of PROXIMATE* Disposable Skin Staplers.



The PROXIMATE Plus Skin Stapler is applied lightly across the everted edges of the incision. Firing the instrument places a single, rectangularly shaped staple. The stapler is fired repeatedly until the incision is completely closed.

Instruments commonly used in skin stapling



PROXIMATE* II Disposable Skin Stapler - TW35



PROXIMATE* Plus Disposable Skin Stapler - PPW35



PROXIMATE* Disposable Skin Staple Extractors - RHX & PSX

SEE PACKAGE INSERT FOR FULL PRODUCT INFORMATION.

Aligning and Everting Incision Edges

The edges of the incision must be everted before applying the PROXIMATE Plus Skin Stapler. This may be done by several techniques.

The skin edges can be pulled together with one tissue forceps until they evert (Figure 1). Alternatively, each wound edge may be picked up individually, approximated and everted (Figure 2).

Fig. 1

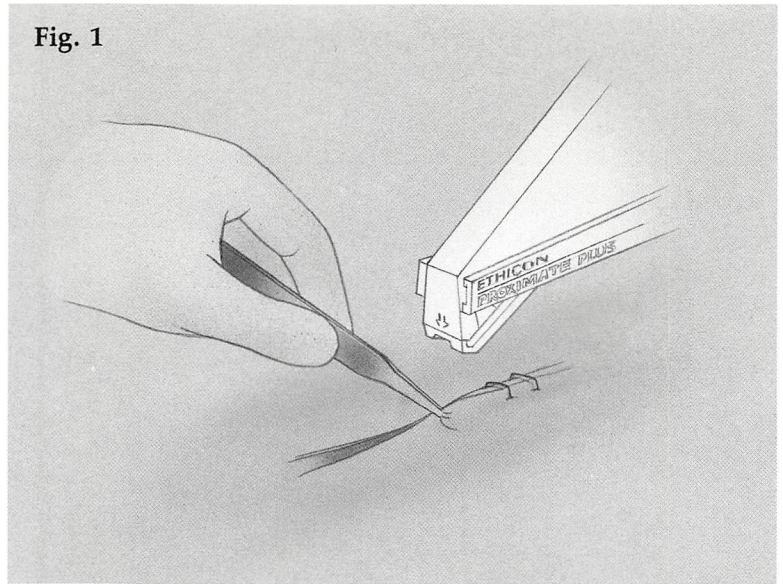
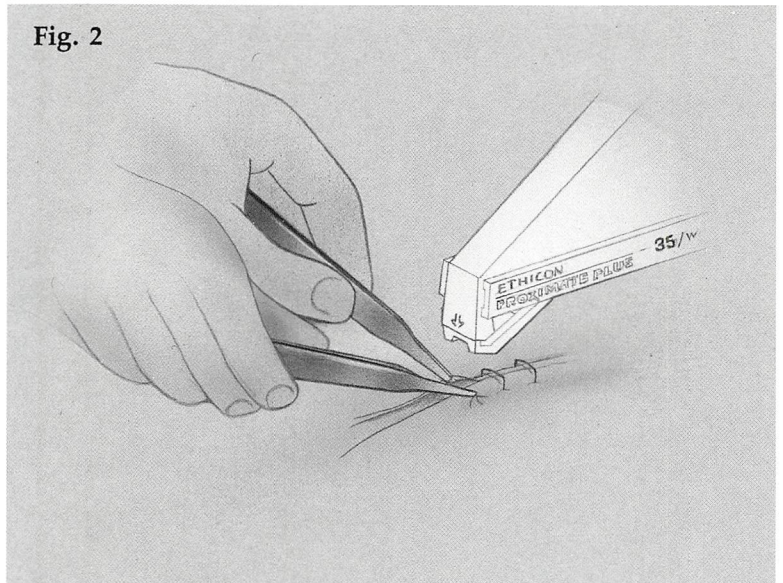


Fig. 2



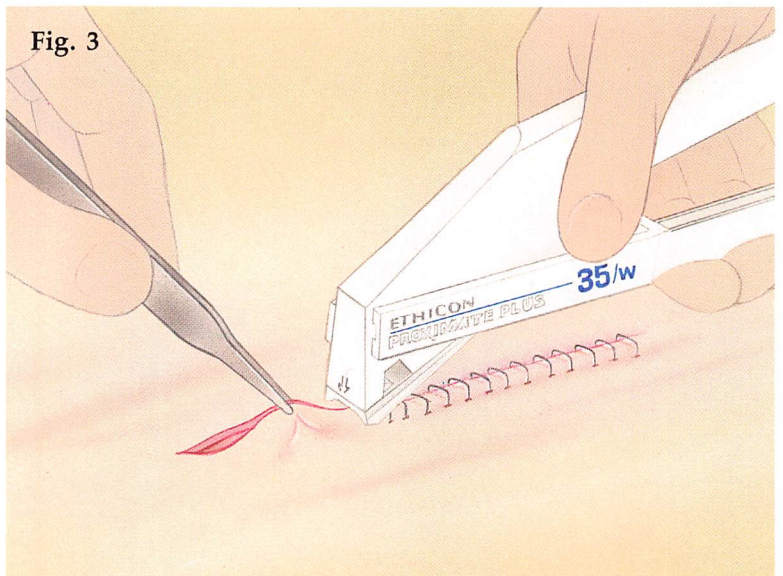
Applying the Staples

Position the PROXIMATE Plus stapler *very lightly* over the everted skin edges (in order to reduce the chance of cross-hatching and to facilitate postoperative staple removal). Align the arrow and notch on the nose with the incision to assure centering of the staple (Figure 3).

Fire the stapler by squeezing the trigger until it stops. As firing commences, the staple is forced against the anvil located in the nose. This action gradually bends the staple, causes it to enter the skin edges, and to assume its final rectangular configuration.

Release the trigger and back the instrument off the staple. Reposition the stapler and fire it again, repeating the above described steps until the incision is completely closed.

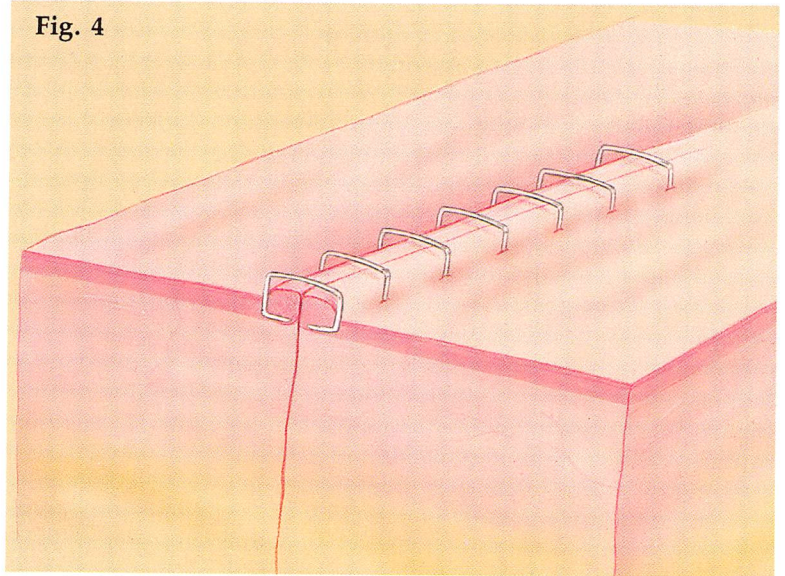
Fig. 3



Completed Closure

Figure 4 illustrates an incision completely closed with repeated firings of the PROXIMATE Plus Skin Stapler. Note the everted edges of the incision and the rectangular form of the staples. As it heals, the tissue tends to flatten out into an even surface. The space left between the closed skin edges and the crown of the staple minimizes cross-hatching and facilitates postoperative staple removal.

Fig. 4



Extraction of Skin Staples

Skin staples must be removed postoperatively with an extractor specially designed for that purpose. Slide the lower jaw of a PROXIMATE Disposable Skin Staple Extractor beneath the staple span so that the staple is positioned in the retaining slot (Figure 5). Squeeze the handles until they are completely closed (Figure 6). This action will re-form the staple almost to its original shape, allowing it to be lifted from the skin. A re-formed staple is illustrated in Figure 7.

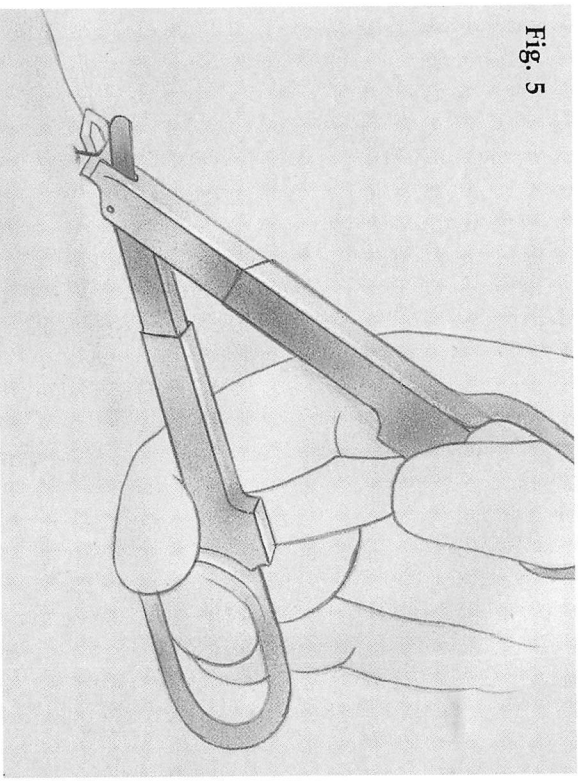


Fig. 5

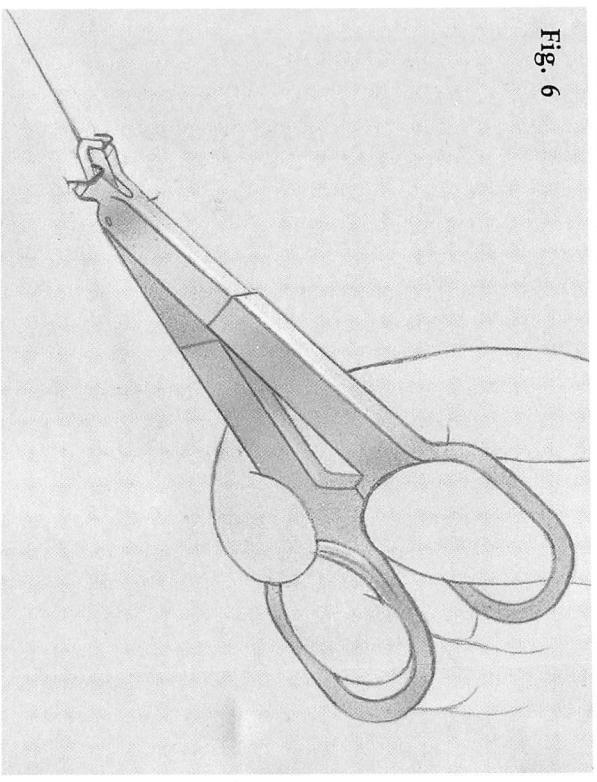


Fig. 6

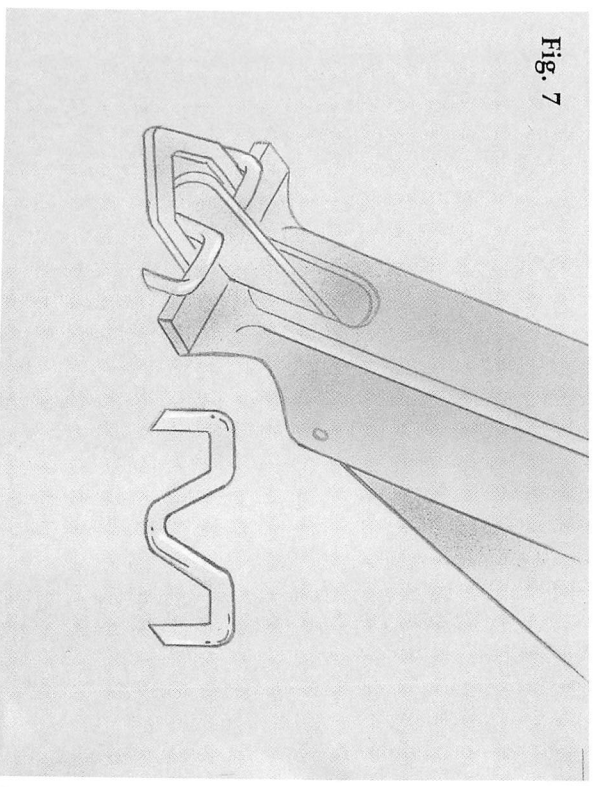


Fig. 7