

**Y**our physician cares about your ‘total surgical experience’, and used absorbable skin staples to close your incision. These staples are placed entirely underneath the skin to create a secure, comfortable and cosmetic incision closure. This rapid closure method reduces the time under anesthesia in surgery. Clinical studies show that the use of these absorbable staples may result in lower wound complications than metal skin staples or suture, including Surgical Site Infections. Absorbable staples are not like metal skin staples that puncture the skin resulting in increased pain and discomfort, and a less than optimal cosmetic result. And, metal staples must be removed post-operatively.

*Your total  
satisfaction  
is our  
passion!*



*An absorbable skin staple*

*Over 1,200,000 patients worldwide!*

## What You Need to Know About **Absorbable Skin Staples**



Absorbable Staples are placed entirely underneath the skin to close surgical incisions!

*“Our patients love the cosmesis and comfort of the c-section wounds closed with absorbable staples.”*

*Dr. Michael Girtelschmid  
Obstetrics & Gynecology*

**PATIENT HANDOUT**

### What are Absorbable Skin Staples Made Of?

Absorbable skin staples are made from the same types of polymers as many of the absorbable sutures. In this case, absorbable staples are comprised of a co-polymer of polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid. This co-polymer has a well-established clinical history as a safe and effective closure material.

Tissue studies have shown that the absorbable staple polymer is very benign and causes a lower inflammatory response compared to certain absorbable suture materials and metal staples.



### How Do Absorbables Staples Degrade & How Long Does It Take?

Just like absorbable sutures, absorbable staples degrade by a process of heat and hydrolysis. What happens is the body gets the staples 'wet' and the body's temperature begins the process of 'breaking down' the materials. Typically, the absorbable staples are essentially absorbed (i.e., less than 40% of the original weight) within 90 to 120 days. Eventually, the dissolved polymer is safely absorbed and excreted by the body.

### Is It Normal to Feel or See Tiny Bumps on My Incision?

Depending upon skin thickness and the location of the incision, it may be possible to see or feel tiny 'bumps' under the skin which may be apparent for a number of months. Do not be concerned: the 'bumps' will disappear after the staples are fully absorbed. Below are photos of a surgical incision closed with absorbable staples in the very thin neck tissue. These photos clearly demonstrate that even in this extreme situation, staples were absorbed by six months, and the feel and appearance of the incision continuously improved.



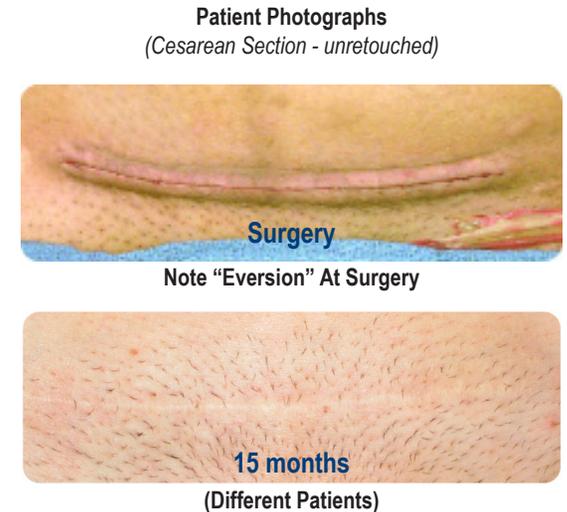
### If I Am Concerned, What Should I Do?

Rest assured, the absorbable staple(s) will continue to degrade with time. But, if you have any additional questions, your physician is the best person to address your healthcare needs and/or concerns.

### Is It Normal to Have a 'Ridge' on My Incision?

That little ridge, or puckering, that you may be experiencing on your incision is called 'eversion.' Plastic surgeons spend significant time in the operating room to achieve an 'everted' closure to optimize the cosmetic outcome. From the American Family Physician: "Because scars tend to retract over time, eversion of the wound edges at the time of closure promotes less prominent scarring."

Depending on the location of your incision and your skin, eversion may be more visible for up to 6 weeks after surgery. Do not be concerned. The everted tissue will eventually flatten out.



### Disclaimer:

This document is for informational purposes only. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of a physician or other qualified health provider with any questions that you may have regarding a medical condition.