

Artiss human fibrin sealant glue for mastectomy flap adherence.

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Abstract:

Aim: To demonstrate the role of human fibrin sealant glue for mastectomy flap adherence. **Methods:** We audited the use of ARTISS fibrin sealant glue versus surgical drain placement for six months at a District General Hospital, looking at two primary endpoints; discharge within 23 hours and post-operative complications. All mastectomy patients were included and complications were identified up to 60 days. Data was collected prospectively from physical and electronic records. **Results:** Complete data was collected for 18/19 patients who underwent mastectomy in the study period. The rate of discharge within 23 hours using fibrin sealant glue was 6/7 patients compared with 5/8 with surgical drains. For the four patients who had neither drain nor glue, two were discharged within 23 hours. The rate of seroma with fibrin glue was 1/7 versus 4/8 with a drain. Using neither drain nor glue 2/4 patients developed seromas and one was re-admitted. **Conclusion:** The use of fibrin sealant glue resulted in reduced complications and earlier discharge compared with surgical drains for mastectomy patients in this small sample. Larger scale studies are required to demonstrate statistical significance, but fibrin sealant glue may negate the use of drains, expedite discharges and reduce costs from community nursing, prolonged admissions, drain complications and delays starting adjuvant treatment.