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This article explains in a step by step way how to swage your own stainless steel sutures on to used needles of 10-0 nylon.

What you require:

1) 50 micron molybdenum stainless steel wire of



316 LR quality. This is approximately equal in gauge to 8-0 suture.
2) a fine plier
3) a suture tying forceps
4) a cigarette lighter or any other gas flame.
5) a used 10-0 nylon spatulated needle. This needle must be 240 micron thick and not be of the ultrafine 160 micron type.

Procedure:

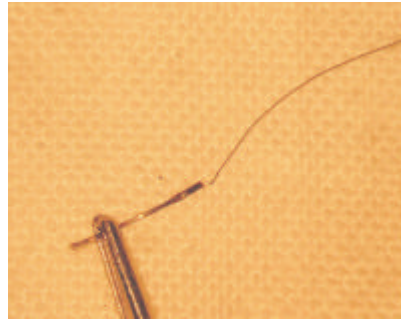
Burn out the 10-0 nylon suture from the hole in the surgical needle to which it is swaged using a gas flame.

Then cut off a short length of the stainless steel wire. Using the plier hold the surgical needle near the end with the hole and with the other hand use

Once the steel suture has been inserted into the

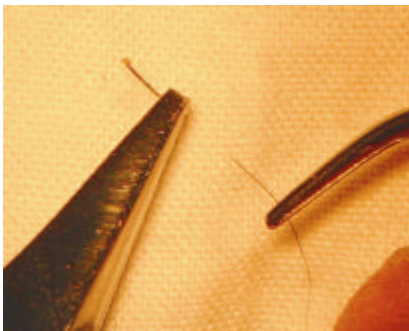


hole in the needle the plier is squeezed to crush

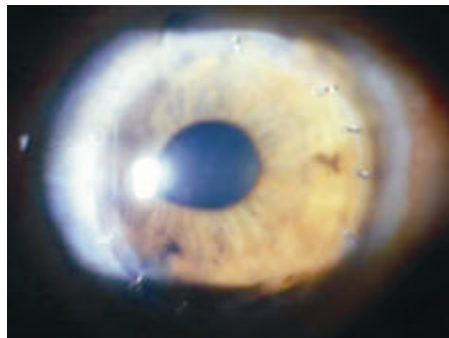


the needle end containing the steel suture on to the suture itself thus "swaging" the steel suture on to the needle.

The stainless steel suture can then be used where total inertness is required as in cataract surgery, keratoplasty etc.



the suture tying forceps to try and insert the stainless steel wire into the hole in the surgical needle's end. This step requires a microscope to do successfully.



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