

## Total scar management including surgery and postoperative care

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Studies on pathological-scar management including conservative and surgical therapies have increased markedly over the last decade. They have greatly improved total scar management. Proper wound healing is achieved by orienting the incision line appropriately, employing the correct suture depth, applying suture methods that do not cause ischemia, and administering postoperative wound management. Specifically, if the direction of the incision line matches the direction in which the skin is pulled in daily body movements, the entire scar will be placed under strain. This will delay scar maturation and promote the persistence of inflammation. This greatly increases the risk of hypertrophic scar and keloid development. Moreover, suturing should not involve tugging on the skin to close the wound : rather, the subcutaneous and soft tissue should be firmly sutured with an absorbable thread such that the wound edges contact each other naturally before the dermal suturing is performed. Finally, after the sutures are removed, the wound should be stabilized by fixation with surgical or silicone tape. Starting 1 month after surgery, steroid tape/plaster application should be used immediately if there are signs that hypertrophic scars or keloids are forming. Moreover, long-term follow-up plays a key role in making the scar less visible.