CHAPTER II.5.15

Sutures

**QUESTION**

1. Why would you choose an absorbable suture over non-absorbable? Or a braided suture versus a monofilament? Or *vice versa*?

**KEY POINTS FOR ANSWER:**

a. Absorbable – short-term security is all that is needed, difficult to retrieve suture after implantation (e.g., subcutaneous or within abdominal wall, to secure anastamosis), surgeries where a second procedure is not advised.

b. Non-absorbable – easy to retrieve suture (external skin closure), long-term support is needed (ligament repair, geriatric patients with slow healing wounds), known sensitivities to degradation by-products of absorbable sutures.

c. Monofilament – easily friable tissue that would be damaged by roughness of braided construction, areas that may be more prone to infection (braided strands have void space that could harbor microorganisms).

d. Braided suture – application that requires very limp suture (endoscopy), for use of materials that are too stiff to provide functional monofilament sutures (UHMWPE sutures).