

Abstract title:**INTRADERMAL WOUND CLOSURE USING ABSORBABLE 8-0 IN CATS WITH ENTROPION CORRECTED WITH CELSUS-HOTZ PROCEDURE: RESULTS IN 139 EYES**

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Purpose: To evaluate the efficacy of intradermal wound closure using 8-0 absorbable suture in cats with entropion corrected by the Celsius-Hotz procedure.

Material / methods: Medical records of 96 cats (139 eyes) presented to an ophthalmology referral center between 2018 and 2025 for lower lid entropion were reviewed.

Signalment, postoperative treatment, complications, need for additional surgery and follow up-time, up to 7 years, were evaluated. All procedures were performed by the same surgeon. The wounds were sutured with one deep single interrupted knot completed with an intradermal simple continuous pattern. Absorbable polyfilament 8-0 was used in all cases. Postoperative results were evaluated by re-examination and images submitted by the owners. Regarding the long term results questionnaires were sent and replied per e-mail.

Results: The three most represented breeds were European Shorthair 35/96 (36%), British Shorthair 17/96 (18%) and Maine Coon 14/96 (15%). Mean patient age was 6 years (range: 5 months - 19 years) with 38% juveniles (<2 y) and 21% geriatrics (>12 y). All cats received postoperative systemic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs while 47% required no antibiotics therapy at any treatment stage.

The postoperative course was unremarkable in all cases, with no instances of wound dehiscence or other severe complications.

Discussion: Absorbable 8-0 suture material demonstrates sufficient tensile strength for intradermal eyelid skin wound closure in feline patients. This enhances postoperative comfort by minimizing tissue reactivity. Additionally, reduced fur shaving and subcuticular suture placement improve cosmetic outcomes and owner satisfaction.

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