



Paging Future Doctors

Small Animal Surgery



Hello kids!

My name is Dr. Zoey! Today I am going to be walking you through a case, and you are going to help me figure out what is wrong with the patient!

Have fun! Save the patient!



Photo credit: Arielle Avraham

Patient Presentation



Photo credit: Katie Manika

This is Illini. Illini is very sad and it is our job to figure out what is wrong with her!

Illini is a 3 year old female spayed Labrador Retriever. She was playing in her backyard and ran close to a short tree. One of the branches snagged her arm, giving her a large scratch.

What should we do next?

- A. Send her home.
- B. Complete a physical exam.

Let's perform a physical
exam!

How to perform a physical exam

1. Examine her behavior! Does she seem nervous? Calm? Excited?
 - a. If she seems nervous, be very careful
2. Listen to her heart, see if it sounds normal and is beating at a healthy pace.
3. Take her temperature using a thermometer.
 - a. In case any medications or shots need to be given, we must make sure she is not running a fever first.
4. Examine the area of interest and palpate (feel) the surrounding areas to see what is going on!
5. Take a look at her ears, eyes, mouth and feel other areas if necessary.
6. Based on her injury and a thorough exam, a better idea of how to treat Illini can be reached now!

Good job! You found an opened wound on her arm. Now what?

- A. Time to prep for surgery!
- B. She will be fine with an open wound, just send her home with medication.
- C. Wait, I found a wound?



Photo credit: Arielle Avraham

Let's get Illini
to surgery!

Steps for surgeon preparation

1. First the surgeon needs to put on their fancy scrub cap!
 - The scrub cap helps keep the surgeon's hair out of their face and any hair falling from falling into the wound
1. Second, the surgeon needs to wash their hands so they are sparkling clean
2. Then the surgeon needs to put on their surgeon gown so they stay clean and they keep the patient's wound clean too!
3. Last step of preparation is the surgeon needs to put on their gloves!

Now we are ready for surgery!



Photo credit: Rachel DuBose

Based on this wound, would stitches help Illini heal faster?

- A. Yes
- B. No



YES OF COURSE!

Here is the outside packaging of what some of the different suture strings look like.

Based on wound location, depth of injury, and healing time, we use pick and choose what type of suture string would be best for our patient.



Photo credit: Arielle Avraham

Time to fix her!

Step 1: Gather materials needed to place a stitch!

Thought question! What do you think you need?

Step 2: VERY carefully pass the needle through the skin using your instruments

Thought question! Why do you think you should only go through the skin?

Step 3: Tie knots on top like a bow on a present, don't forget to cut the ends short!

Thought question! How many knots do you think you should tie to make it nice and tight?

Step 4: Repeat steps 1 through 3 until the wound is all closed!

Thought question! How many stitches do you think Illini would need?



Photo credit: Arielle Avraham

Thought Question Answers!

- Needle drivers, scissors, suture, forceps, and a needle!
- It is important to only go through the skin, and not the muscle underneath, to promote safe, rapid recovery!
- The lowest number of knots you should tie for ONE suture is 5 and sometimes you even do more.
- Illini will probably need 3 or 4 sutures for her wound.

How can we best protect Illini's arm after surgery?



Photo credit: Katie Manika

- A. Put a little bandaid on it
- B. Leave it open
- C. Bandage it

Bandaging Illini's
arm will give her
the best protection!



Photo credit: Katie Manika

Bandaging 101

First, we will put a non-stick gauze pad on the stitches..

Next, we will wrap some roll bandage around it, starting near the paw, to hold the gauze on and help keep the area clean.

We will then check to make sure that the bandage is not too loose, and not too tight.

Lastly, we will tape the bandage on the area to keep it secure.

Great job, future veterinarian!

You made Illini feel so much better!
She will go home with medication to help control her pain and prevent infection.

Dr. Zoey will see her back for a recheck appointment in a few days to make sure everything is healed!



Photo credit: Katie Manika