

Table 1 Theoretical expansion ratios for various parameters (L : length of cut; d : distance between cuts; and g : vertical gap between cuts)

L(mm)	d(mm)	g(mm)	Expansion ratio	Healing time(days)
30	10	10	1.56:1	21
20	10	10	1.33:1	14
20	10	5	1.4:1	14
20	5	10	1.67:1	14
20	5	5	1.8:1	14
10	5	5	1.33:1	7
10	4	2	1.52:1	7
10	2	2	2.04:1	7
10	1	1	3.27:1	7

in mm, then:

$$t_1 = 0.7L$$

When $L = 20$ mm, the healing time is 14 days.

Table 1 shows how the parameters can be changed to produce different expansion ratios and gives the estimated healing times.

This method of meshing allows the use of relatively large cuts on a moderately sized piece of skin. The technique is limited by the lack of precision of handmade cuts. Previously described methods to be used when a skin-meshing machine is unavailable have not indicated the measurements needed for expansion.^{5,6} The geometric mesh pattern I describe is simple, and predetermined measurements can give a predictable expansion ratio.

Yours faithfully,

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Painless steroid injections for hypertrophic scars and keloids

Sir,

The recent letter by Azad and Sacks conveyed a simple modification of the steroid-injection technique for hypertrophic scars and keloids.¹ We do appreciate this method of achieving a virtually painless injection. However, we are concerned about the needle prick adjacent to the actual scar because this can give rise to another keloid. The principle of keloid excision is that subsequent injection should always be intralesional in order to avoid a potential hypertrophic or keloid scar in the vicinity. The speed of injection is an important determinant of pain in intralesional chemotherapy.² Therefore, we think that slow injection of a lidocaine-mixed preparation of steroid using an electric pump is the best solution.

Yours faithfully,

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