

**BEFORE USING PRODUCT, READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THOROUGHLY.****DESCRIPTION**

Velosorb™ braided sutures are composed of an absorbable synthetic polyester comprised of glycolide and lactide (derived from glycolic and lactic acids). Velosorb™ sutures are prepared by coating the suture with a mixture of a glycolide and lactide copolymer and calcium stearate. Velosorb™ sutures are provided dyed and undyed.

Velosorb™ sutures meet all requirements established by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and the European Pharmacopeia (EP) for collagen sutures of the labeled USP size, except for minor variations in suture diameter.

Such variations are:

<b>Maximum Suture Oversize in Diameter (mm) from USP</b>		
<b>USP Size</b>	<b>USP Size Designati on (mm)</b>	<b>Maximu m Overag e (mm)</b>
6-0	0.070- 0.099	0.021
5-0	0.10- 0.149	0.036
4-0	0.15- 0.199	0.041
3-0	0.20- 0.249	0.036
2-0	0.30- 0.339	0.021
0	0.35- 0.399	0.056
1	0.40- 0.499	0.046

**INDICATIONS**

Velosorb™ sutures are indicated for use in soft tissue approximation of the skin and mucosa, where only 7-10 days of wound support is required, but not for use in ligation, ophthalmic, cardiovascular or neurological procedures.

**ACTIONS**

Velosorb™ sutures elicit a minimal acute inflammatory reaction in tissue, which is followed by a gradual encapsulation of the suture by fibrous connective tissue.

Progressive loss of tensile strength and eventual absorption of Velosorb™ sutures occurs by means of hydrolysis, where the glycolide/lactide copolymer is broken down to glycolic and lactic acids which are subsequently absorbed and metabolized by the body. Absorption begins as a loss of tensile strength without appreciable loss of mass. Studies indicate tensile strength averages for Velosorb™ sutures are approximately 45% of its original tensile strength 5 days post implantation. All of the original tensile strength is essentially gone by 14 days. Absorption of Velosorb™ sutures is essentially complete between the 40th and 50<sup>th</sup> day.

**CONTRAINDICATION**

Velosorb™ sutures, being absorbable, should not be used where extended approximation of tissue beyond 7 days is required.

**WARNINGS**

Do not resterilize. Sterile unless packaging has been opened or damaged. Discard open, unused sutures. Store at room temperature. Avoid prolonged exposure to elevated temperatures.

In surgery of the urinary or biliary tracts, care should be taken to avoid prolonged contact of this, or any other, suture with salt solutions, as calculus formation may result.

Users should be familiar with surgical procedures and techniques involving absorbable sutures before employing Velosorb™ sutures for wound closure, as the risk of wound dehiscence may vary with the site of application and the suture material used.

As any foreign material in the presence of bacterial contamination may enhance bacterial infectivity, acceptable surgical practice must be followed with respect to drainage and closure of contaminated or infected wounds.

The use of this suture may be inappropriate in patients with any conditions which, in the opinion of the surgeon, may cause or contribute to delayed wound healing.

As this is an absorbable suture material, the use of supplemental nonabsorbable sutures should be considered by the surgeon in closure of the abdomen, chest, joints or other sites subject to expansion or requiring additional support.

#### **PRECAUTIONS**

In handling this or any other suture material, care should be taken to avoid damage from handling. Avoid crushing or crimping damage due to application of surgical instruments, such as forceps or needle holders. Adequate knot security requires the accepted surgical technique of flat, square ties, with additional throws as warranted by surgical circumstance and the experience of the surgeon.

Skin sutures which must remain in place longer than 7 days may cause irritation and should be snipped off or removed as indicated.

Under some circumstances, notably orthopedic procedures, immobilization by external support may be employed at the discretion of the surgeon.

#### **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Adverse effects, which may be associated with the use of this product, include: wound dehiscence, failure to provide adequate wound support in sites where expansion, stretching, or distention occur, failure to provide adequate wound support in patients with conditions which may delay wound healing, localized irritation when skin sutures are left in place greater than 7 days, calculi formation when prolonged contact with salt solutions occurs, enhanced bacterial infectivity, minimal acute inflammatory reaction, and transitory local irritation.

#### **HOW SUPPLIED**

Velosorb™ sutures are available in USP sizes 1 (4 Metric) through 6-0 (0.7 Metric). They are available dyed and undyed (natural). The sutures are supplied sterile, in pre-cut lengths or affixed to various needle types. The sutures are available in box quantities of one and three dozen.