

6. Repair of wound with little tissue loss. **Trim edges as little as possible** (Figure 48). Then oppose the tissues carefully. If there is severe swelling and the conjunctiva is pulling away, suture the conjunctiva before placing the skin sutures. Place the conjunctival sutures so that the knots are buried in the wound and therefore do not rub the eye. Place the first skin suture along the sharp edge of the eyelid, with the suture going through the meibomian glands. Cut the suture ends short so they will not irritate the cornea. This is the appositional suture. The next suture is placed in the skin about 2 mm from the edge of the lid. The suture should be deep (nearly to the conjunctiva) and catch the tarsal plate. This is the tension suture taking up most of the wound tension. Place as many sutures as needed to finish closing the wound. An eyelid sutured in this fashion will heal with a smooth eyelid edge. **Split thickness techniques are recommended in man to prevent notching of the eyelid edge**, but are not necessary in animals. Give systemic antibiotics for 4 to 5 days if the wound is severely contaminated or was infected. **DO NOT** manipulate the lids and, if possible, avoid all forms of ophthalmic medication.
7. If considerable tissue has been lost, consider the technique described for replacing tissue lost during surgical removal of eyelid tumors (see Figure 50). Many blepharoplastic techniques are described in the human literature and a technique can generally be found for any situation that might be encountered in animals.

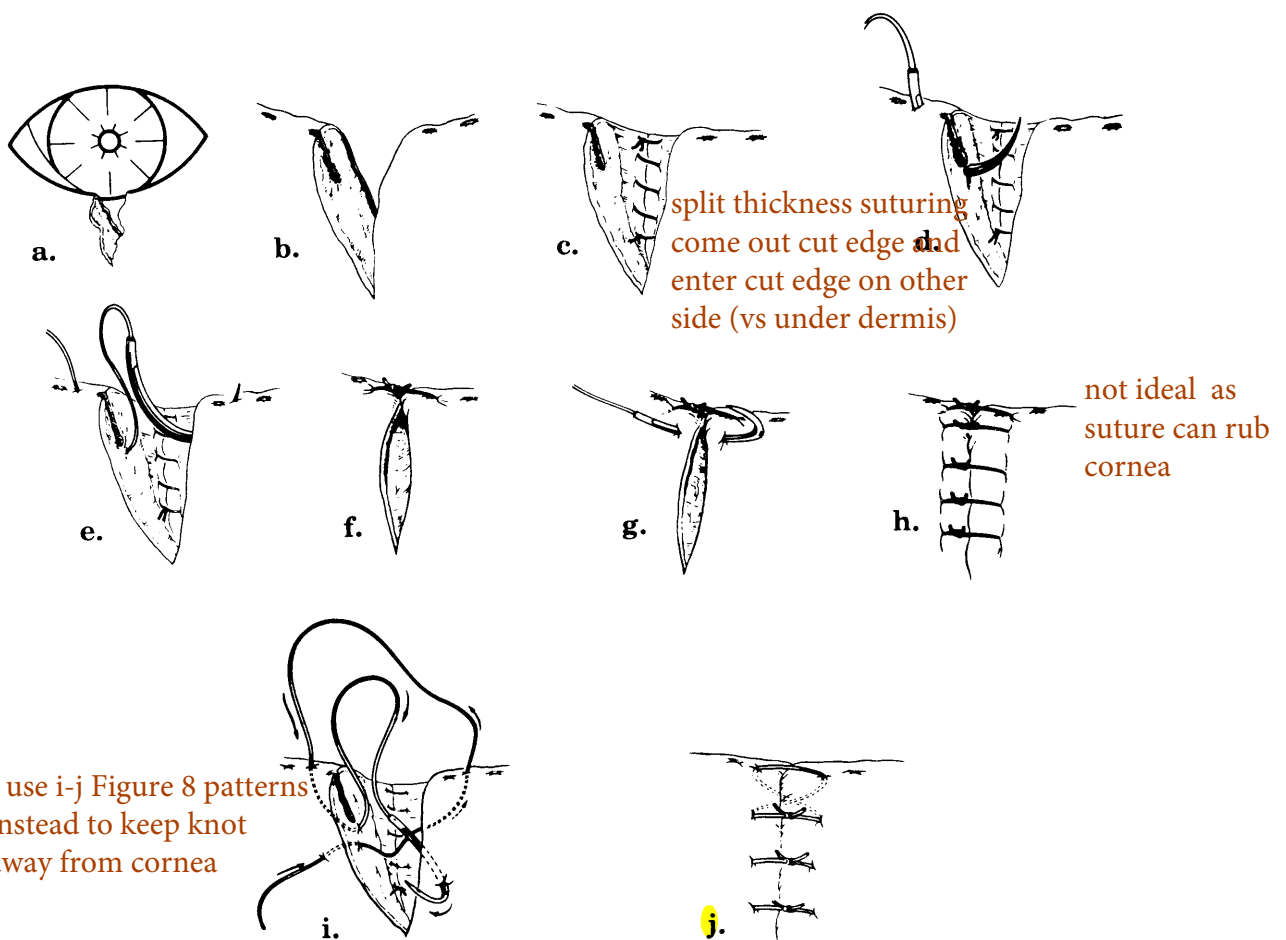


Figure 48. Eyelid wound with little tissue loss.

- a. Appearance of wound before debridement.
 b. Wound cleaned and debrided.
 c. Suturing conjunctiva with continuous absorbable suture.
 d. Appositional suture started along edge of lid.
 e. Opposite side of appositional suture placed.
 f. Suture tied and knot on edge of eyelid.

- g. Tension suture placed.
 h. Final appearance of wound.
 i. **Figure "8" suturing pattern can be used as an alternate to the appositional and tension sutures. Final step of suture placement.**
 j. **Final appearance of sutured wound with figure "8".**