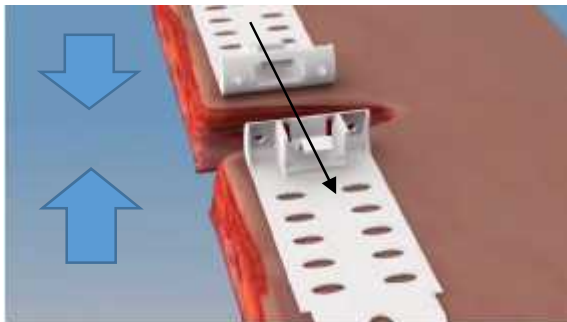


## New Israeli Wound Closure Method

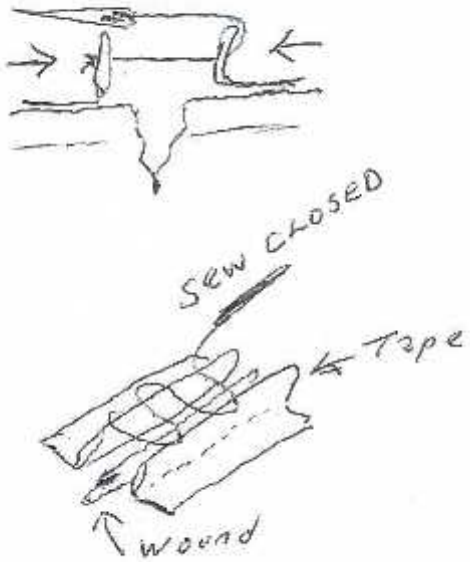
Israel continues to develop new methods for field care of injuries. While Live Free medical classes continue to teach suturing, we always identify it as a “last resort” technique. Wound closure in the absence of antibiotics is an invitation to infection, gangrene, amputation and death. In many cases it is better to let the wound close by natural healing. However if effective antibiotics are available mechanical (sutures, butterfly bandages, staples, etc.) wound closure can certainly speed healing and reduce scarring. The problems with suturing are:

- The needles and suturing material introduce additional infection sources and pain to the area
- Suturing is often difficult on jagged wounds and under wet, dark conditions
- If infection does develop sutures are slow and hard to remove
- Proper suturing requires training and constant practice

The Israeli method uses a device that consists of two devices that are stuck with adhesive to each side of the wound. A “zip tie” like cable is then put through these anchors (see arrow) and pulled until the wound is closed. You can line up as many of the anchors as necessary along the wound edges and close each one to achieve a long closure.



This method is not wholly new. We have taught the use of strips of tape (medical, duct tape, etc.) placed along both sides of a wound about 3/16 inch back from the edges. Before securing the tape strips, you double over about a one-quarter inch strip along one side. This non-stick side faces the wound. Now you simply sew these sides together. This gives you a secure and non-invasive closure. We can be sure that some form of the Israeli devices will be available soon, but knowing and practicing the alternative method that can be improvised is recommended.



Tape on each side of the wound is simply sewn together without puncturing tissue.