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**Original article**

**Observational study of continuous versus interrupted suturing of episiotomy in rural population of India in terms of requirement of suture material and pain**

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**Abstract:**

**Context:** Episiotomy is a deliberate incision on perineum made to increase vulval outlet during child birth. Millions of women throughout the world experience pain and suffering as a result of perineal trauma sustained during delivery and yet this is a very under researched area.

**Objectives:** The present study was to compare the pain severity and requirement of suture material at perineal repair in two episiotomy repair methods.

**Methods:** In this observational study, 200 full term patients who came to Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni for delivery and required episiotomy were randomly allocated into two groups of 100 who had undergone either continuous or interrupted episiotomy repair. Verbal Rating Score (VRS 0-3), consists of a scale from 0 to 3 (0= no pain, 1=mild, 2=moderate, 3=severe pain) was used to evaluate pain severity at 1st and 3rd day after episiotomy repair after delivery. Suture material required (chromic catgut no.1) also observed in terms of packets.

**Results:** In the present study, among 100 patients who underwent continuous episiotomy suturing, maximum patients i.e. 84% required only one packet of chromic catgut where as in other group of intermittent suturing, 82% patients required more than one packet. However, the mean required time for repair and the number of used threads were remarkable lower in the continuous repair group.

**Conclusion:** The present study showed that pain severity was more in intermittent suturing of perineum as compared to continuous. Nevertheless, shorter time of repair and fewer threads were required using the continuous repair method. Therefore, this method would provide better services for mothers and reduce the required time and costs.

**Key words:** Continuous suturing, Interrupted suturing, Episiotomy, Rural area