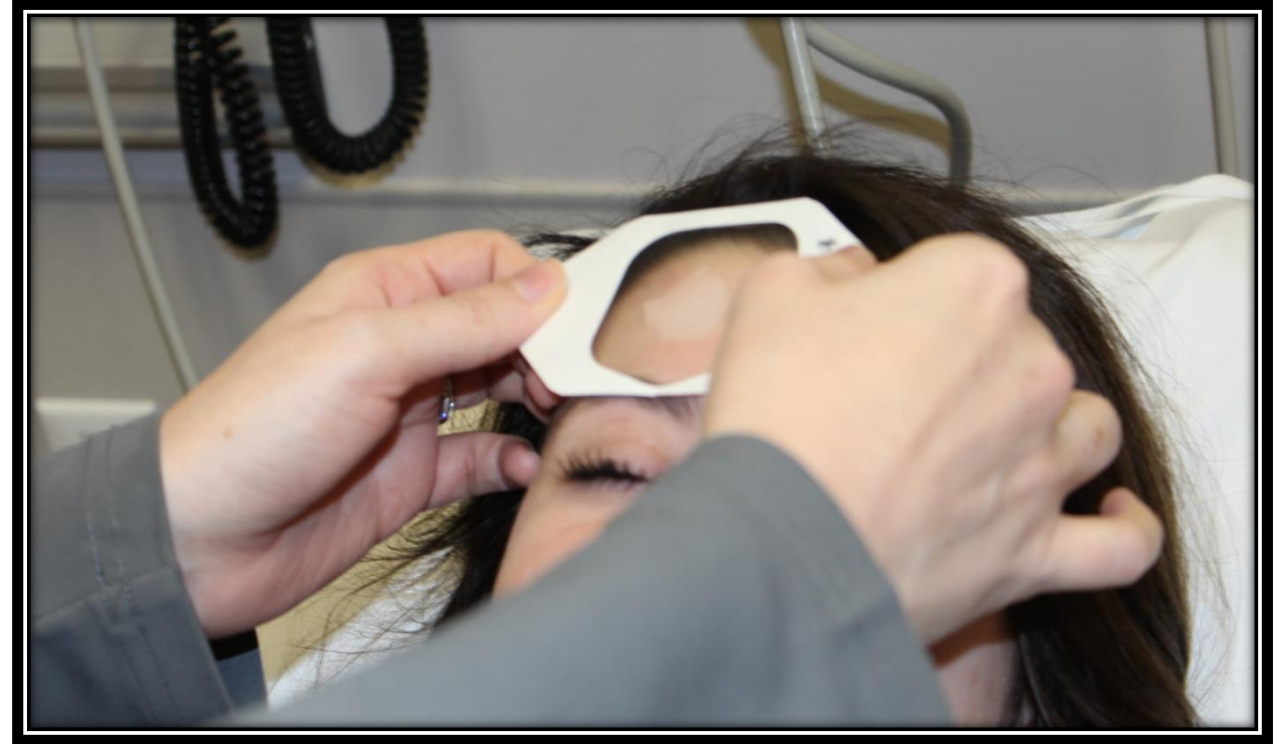


# Sutures



I am at the hospital because I have a cut that needs to be fixed.

The nurses and doctors at the hospital will help fix my cut and make me feel better.



First, my nurse will place a special medicine on my cut.

This medicine looks like lotion and may feel cold.  
That's OK because this medicine helps to numb my cut.

Numb means my cut will fall asleep and not feel pain.

Once the numbing medicine is placed on my cut, my  
nurse will place a clear bandage over it.



When it is time to fix my cut the doctor will remove the clear bandage.

I can help take my bandage off if I want!



The doctor will then use water from a syringe or water bottle to clean my cut.

The water may feel cold and wet to me. This helps get rid of any germs that may be in my cut.



Next, my doctor will use soap around my cut to get rid of any extra germs that may be on my skin.

The soap looks brown and may feel cold and wet on my skin.

This soap should not sting or burn me.



The doctor will lay blue and white towels around my cut to keep new germs away and to remind me not to touch my clean cut.

I do not want to put new germs in my cut by touching it.

Next, my doctor will begin the stitches.  
Stitches look like strings and may be clear or black.

My doctor will use a special tool called hemostats  
to hold my stitches.

Hemostats look like scissors but are flat on the  
inside and do not cut.





I may feel pressure when the doctor touches with the strings.

The stitches may tickle when they touch my skin.



My job is to be very still while I get my stitches.

While I get my stitches, I can hold someone's hand and take big deep breaths to help my body relax.





Now I am done and I can choose a band aid to cover my new stitches.

This social story has been developed as a resource for families, clinical practitioners and trainees at The Children's Hospital of Alabama by the Sensory Task Force. Effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this story, but it is the user's responsibility to evaluate the appropriateness of this information for each clinical situation (1st ed. 2018)