

Excision, Repair & Wound Care

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Incision & Drainage

- 10040-10180
- 10120 & 10121 specific to foreign body removal
- Specific to type (abscess, hematoma, bulla, cyst...) & complexity (simple/single vs. multiple/complex)
- 10180 specific to postoperative wound infection

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Pairing, Cutting, Biopsy, & Tags

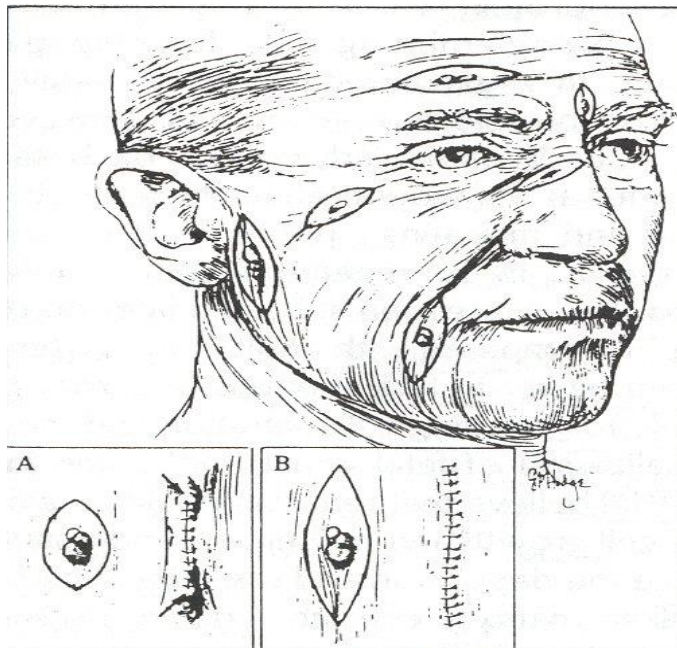
- 11055-11057 Pairing or cutting benign hyperkeratotic lesion (corn/callous) # of lesions
- 11100 Biopsy (includes simple closure)
- 11101 Each addl bx
- 11200 Skin tag removal 1st 15 lesions
- 11201 addl 10 lesions
- 11300-11313 Shaving of lesion (should not require closure) Based on location & diameter of lesion

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Excision

- Full-thickness (not shave or destruction)
- Minimum diameter excised (lesion diameter + margin)
- Diameter only goes to > 4cm (for unusual/complicated use modifier 22)
- Benign (11400-11446)
- Hidradenitis (11450-11471) May include closure
- Malignant (11600-11646)
- Location
- Includes simple (skin-only closure)

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Wound Closure

Techniques

Hausted principles

- Aseptic technique
- Meticulous hemostasis
- Gentle handling of tissue
- Obliteration of all dead space

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Repair

- Three “L”s: Length, Level, Location
- Butterfly/tape/Steri-strips...E/M code only
- Simple(12001-12021): Skin only
 - 1 layer closure
 - Superficial wound-epidermis/dermis, subQ not involving deeper tissue
 - Includes local anesthesia
 - Includes cautery (chemical or electric) of wounds not closed

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Intermediate Repair

- Layered closure
 - 1 or more deeper layers of subQ &/or superficial fascia in addition to skin
- Single-layer closure if extra work of cleaning heavily contaminated wound

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Complex repair

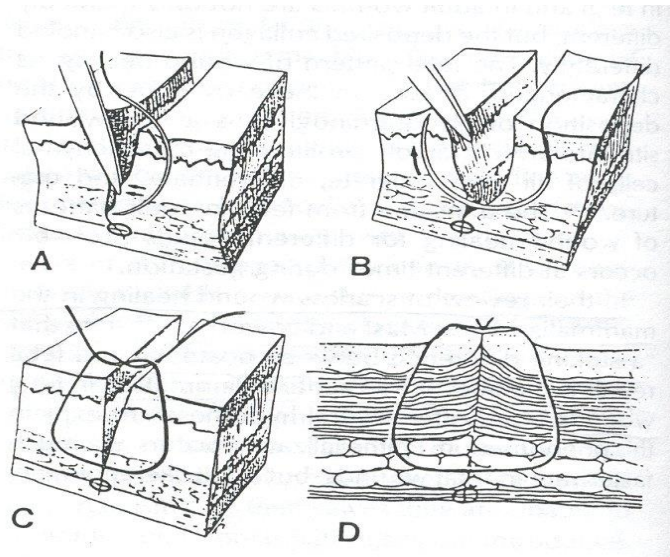
- Requires more than just layered closure
 - Debridement of heavily contaminated wound & layered closure
 - Extensive undermining (without transposition flap)
 - Conservative revision (scar excision prior to closure)
- Does not include excision of benign/malignant lesion
- Does not include excisional preparation of wound bed or open fracture/dislocation
- Add-on codes for each addl 5cm > 7.5cm

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Complex Repair

- New 2014: 13150 deleted (eyelids, nose, ears &/or lips) 1cm or less
- Complex repair in other anatomic areas start @ 1.1 cm
 - 13100, 13120, 13131
- Use simple (12011) or intermediate (12051) for repairs (eyelids, nose, ears &/or lips) 1 cm or less
- Same for other anatomic areas

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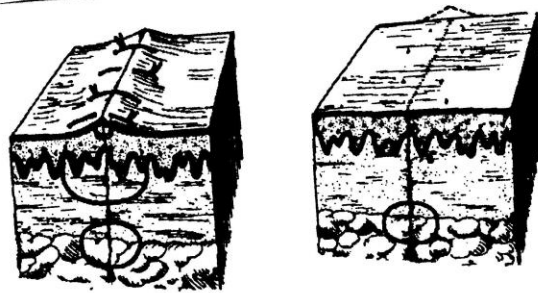
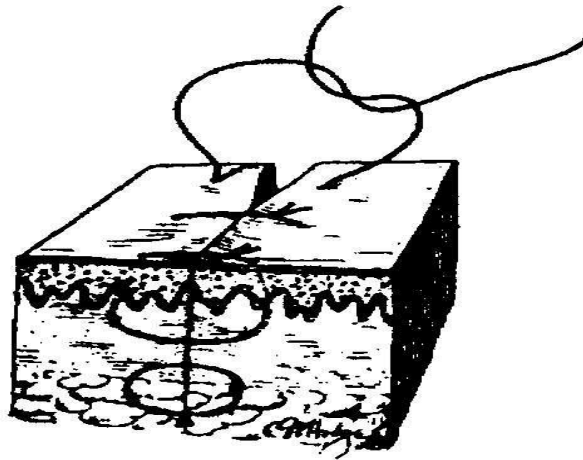


Figure 1-8 Skin edges that are everted gradually flatten to produce a level wound surface.

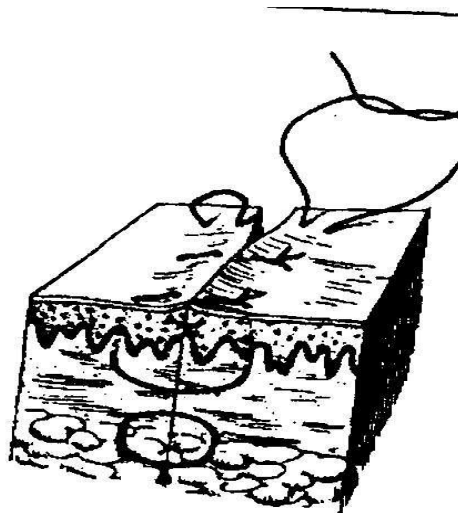
rsion can

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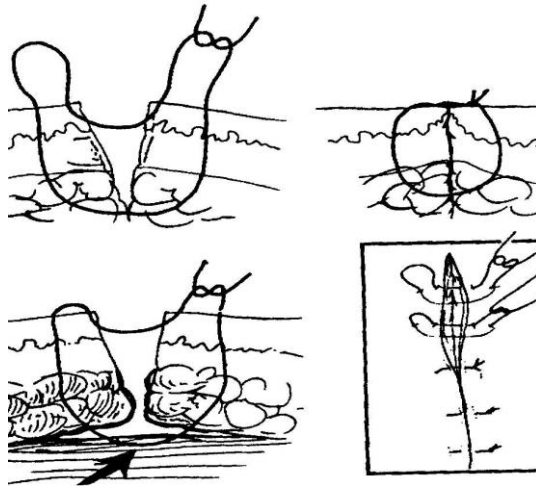
A. Simple interrupted

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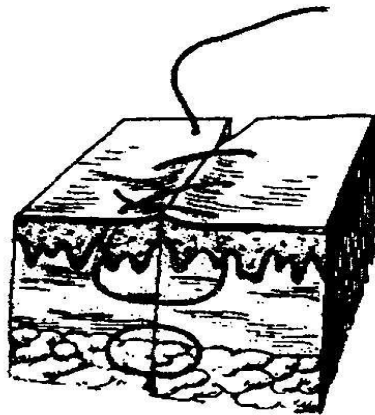


B. Vertical mattress

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Continuous over and over

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Squamous Cell Carcinoma

- 2cm diameter lesion
- 2.5cm minimum diameter excision with margin



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Squamous Cell Carcinoma

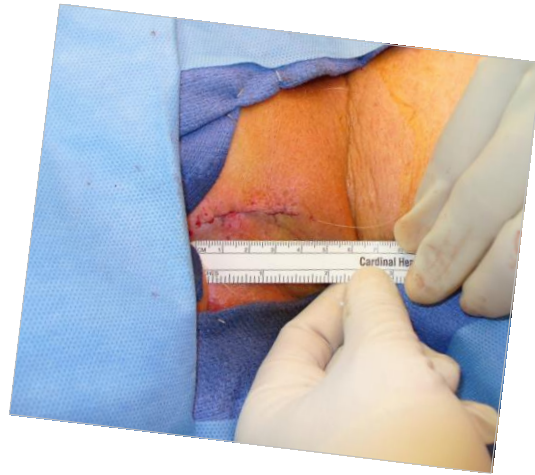
2.5cm x 4cm defect



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Squamous Cell Carcinoma

4cm complex closure
(extensive
undermining, 3-layer
closure)



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Excision & Repair

- 13132 Rt (Complex repair right neck 4cm)
- 11623 Rt 59 (Excision malignant lesion right neck 2.5cm diameter)

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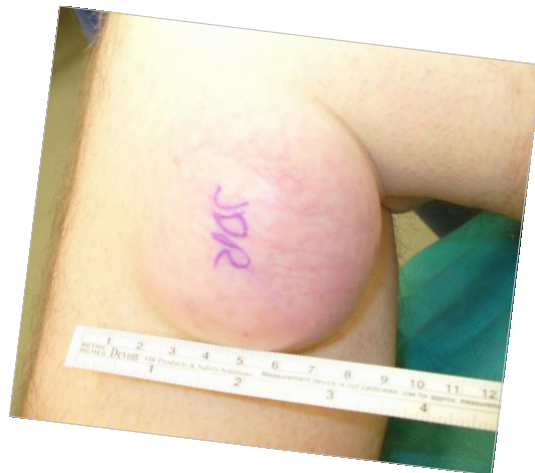
Soft-Tissue Excision

- Diameter of mass (plus required margin)
- Subcutaneous
- Subfascial (intramuscular or subgaleal)
- Location on body
- Prior to 2010 only 3 mass codes that did not specify size or cover all anatomic locations
- Simple or intermediate repair included
- Complex repair specifically not included in CPT (CMS disagrees)

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Subcutaneous Mass

8 cm diameter



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Subcutaneous Mass
8 cm diameter



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Complex Repair
12.5 cm
(not Medicare)



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Excision of Mass

- 27337 Rt (Excision Rt leg subcutaneous mass 8cm diameter)
- 13121 Rt 59 (Complex repair Rt leg 7.5cm)
- 13122 Rt 59 (Complex repair Rt leg additional 5cm)

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Adding Repairs

- Add lengths of repair together when the same level (simple, intermediate, complex) & same anatomic group (trunk...)
- If different level &/or anatomic group, report separately with 59 modifier with most complicated 1st
- Medicare fiscal intermediaries will often only reimburse 1st lesion if 51 modifier used (even though correct)
- Excisions are not added

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Multiple Repairs

- 51 Multiple procedures
- 59 Distinct procedural service
- CMS.GOV

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Local Tissue Rearrangement

- 14000-14061, 14301-14350
- Flap without named blood supply
- Z-plasty, V-Y advancement, Rhomboid, Circumferential advancement, bipedicle flap...
- Includes excision (benign or malignant)
- Based on surface area including that required to repair donor defect

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**Multifocal Basal
Cell Carcinoma**

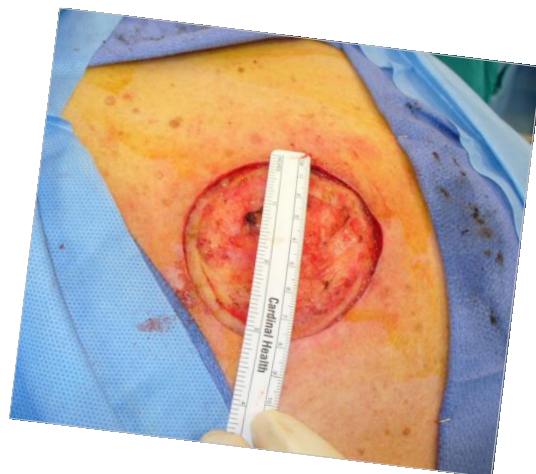
8cm diameter with
clear margin-back



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**Multifocal Basal
Cell Carcinoma**

Back defect



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Local Tissue Rearrangement- circumferential advancement

- Decrease from 8cm diameter to 5.5cm diameter
- LTR ~ 27cm(2)



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Local Tissue Rearrangement

- 14001 Excision malignant lesion 8cm diameter (included) & circumferential advancement flap 27cm(2)
- 15100 59 Split-thickness skin graft 24cm(2)
- Surface area(circles): $\pi \times r(2)$
- Others roughly L x W

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Debridement

- Significant changes in 2011
- 11040 (epidermis) & 11041 (dermis) removed
- Excisional (11042-11047) Based on deepest layer of **viable** tissue removed
- Selective (97597-97598) removal of **non-viable** tissue (&/or viable skin only)
- Non-selective (97602) Gradual removal of non-viable tissue (Generally not by physician)

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Debridement

- Based on surface area (> or < 20 sq cm)
- Document pre & post debridement wound measurement
- % of wound debrided
- Indication, anesthetic, technique, instrumentation, hemostasis, pt tolerance, dressing
- CPT code selection based on post-debridement surface area (unlike lesion excision)
- Round up for 0.5 or greater & down for < (20.4 to 20, 20.5 to 21 sq cm)

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Debridement-Multiple Wounds

- Same anatomic location (legs, arms, trunk, face,...) & same level add surface area together
- Same anatomic location & different levels report only highest level debridement
- If different anatomic locations can charge separately (59)
- If excisional & selective debridements performed in same anatomic group can charge separately

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Debridement-Multiple Procedures

- If skin substitute applied after debridement, charge only skin substitute
- Exception for excisional preparation (1500x) & extensive debridement (muscle 11043 & bone 11044)
- TCC/UNNA boot can only be charged separately from selective debridement (o/w can only charge excisional)

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Debridement

- 11000/11001 Extensive eczematous or infected skin up to 10% BSA/ea additional 10%
- 11004-11012 Necrotizing infections, infected mesh, compound fxs...

Specific to site & material, not surface area

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Surgical Preparation

- 15002-15005
- Surgically preparing a clean & viable wound surface for placement of graft, flap, skin substitute, or NPWT
- May include surgical release of scar contracture or band
- Based on surface area of wound created
- May be similar procedure as debridement with more definitive coverage/healing planned
- 15920-15999 Pressure ulcer excision

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Skin Replacements

- Autograft/cultured autograft (from same pt) 15040-15157
- Full-thickness autograft (includes direct closure of donor site) 15200-15261
- Split-thickness graft includes epidermis & part of dermis (leaves part of dermis to re-epithelialize)
- Full-thickness graft includes all of dermis-does not contract, thicker
- Autograft codes remain unchanged for 2012:surface area & anatomic-site dependent

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Skin Substitute Grafts

- Allograft-transplant from same species
- Xenograft-transplant from another species (most commonly pig)
- 2012 allograft/xenograft/biological products for scaffolding surface application codes deleted
- Based on surface area & not as straightforward or “add-on like other CPT
- Total surface area of application < or > 100cm sq

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Skin

Substitutes/Replacements

- Apligraf
- Dermagraft
- Alloderm
- Flex HD
- Integra
- Oasis/Stratice

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Skin Substitute Grafts

- Total Surface area < 100cm sq
 - 15271: 1st 25cm sq Trunk/Arms/Legs
 - +15272: ea. Addnl 25cm sq
 - 15275: 1st 25cm sq
Face/Scalp/Mouth/Neck/Genitalia/Hands/Feet/Digits
 - +15276: ea addnl 25cm sq

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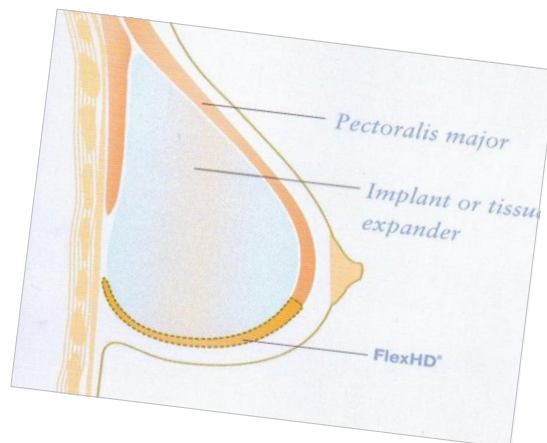
Skin Substitute Grafts

- Total Surface Area > 100cm sq
 - 15273: 1st 100cm sq Trunk/Arms/Legs
 - +15274: ea addnl 100cm sq
 - 15277: 1st 100cm sq
Face/Scalp/Mouth/Neck/Genitalia/Hands/Feet/digits
 - +15278: ea addnl 100cm sq
 - 15272/15274/15276/15278 are add-on codes & do not require modifier 51 (may require 59)

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Biological Implantation

- If skin substitute used deep (breast reconstruction/hernia/...), use +15777
- Implantation of biological implant for soft-tissue reinforcement)
- 2014 CPT emphasizes 15777 is only to be used for breast/trunk o/w use unlisted procedure 17999

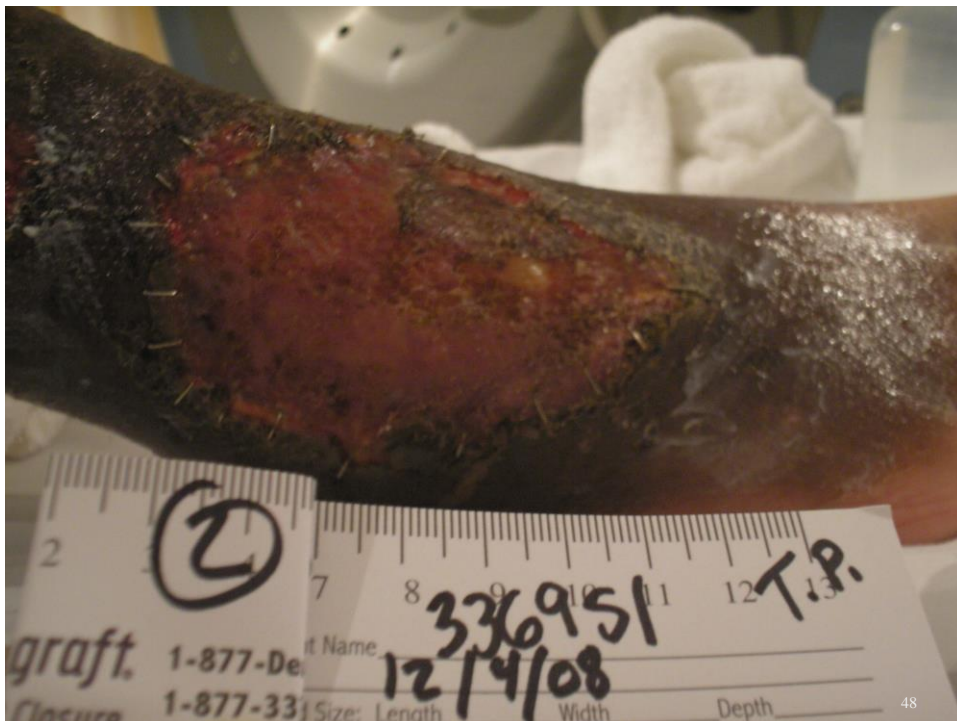


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Serial Debridements

- 97597 & 97598 for removal of necrotic (non-viable) tissue & debris (selective)
- 11042 (11045 ea additional 20 sq cm) SQ
- 11043 (11046 ea additional 20 sq cm) muscle/fascia

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Excisional Preparation & STSG

- 15002 Surgical preparation by excision. Trunk, arms, legs first 100 sq cm or 1% BSA infant/children
- 15003 Each additional 100 sq cm or 1% BSA
- 15100 Split-thickness autograft trunk, arms, legs first 100 sq cm or 1% BSA infant/children
- 15101 Each additional 100 sq cm or 1% BSA

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**Cervical spine
infection
w/dehiscence**

- Exposed spine
- Hardware removed
- External fixation



51

**Cervical spine
wound**

Serial debridements-bone
(11044)



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Cervical spine wound

- Covered with lower trapezius myocutaneous flap
- Complicated by seroma/CSF leak & small peri-flap dehiscence



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Myocutaneous Flap

- 15620 59 Trapezius myocutaneous flap (neck)
- 15004 excisional preparation of wound sq cm

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Cervical spine wound

- Bilateral splenius capitus muscle flaps to close dead space/cover hardware
- Re-advancement of Trapezius flap (LTR)



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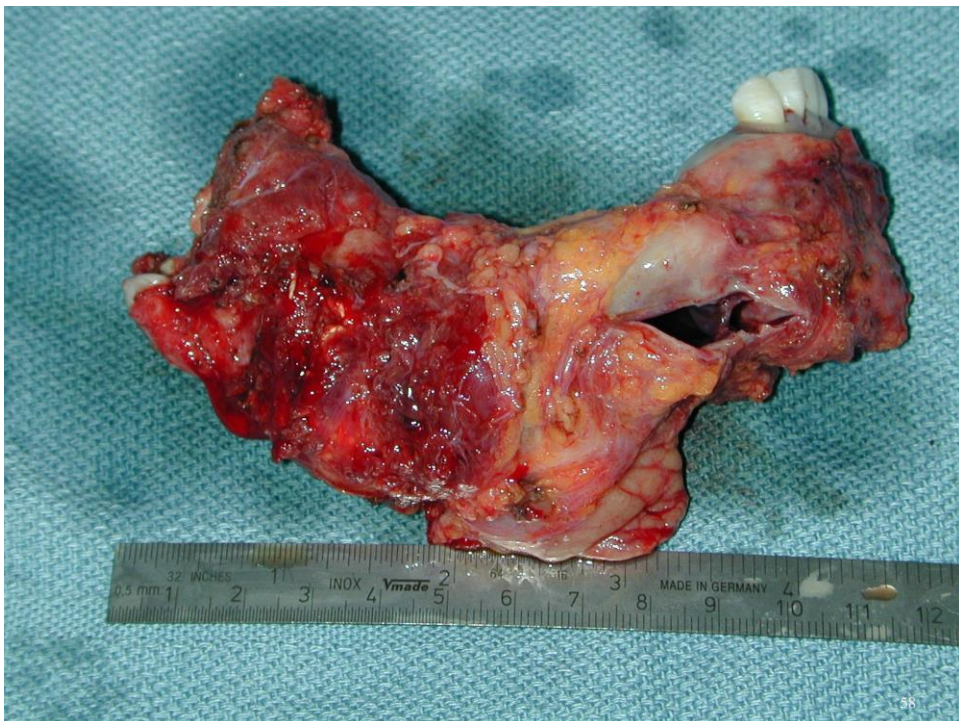
Revision Flaps

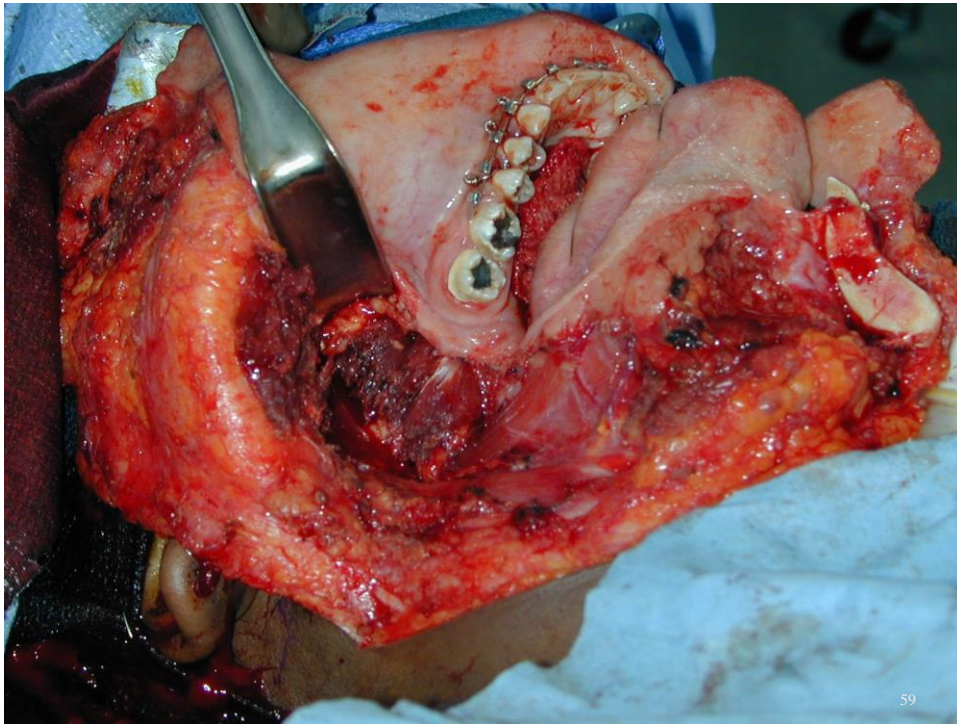
15732 78 50 Muscle flaps during global post-op period

14141 78 59 LTR neck during global post-op period (separate procedure) sq cm

11044 78 59 Debridement bone during post-op period (separate procedure) sq cm

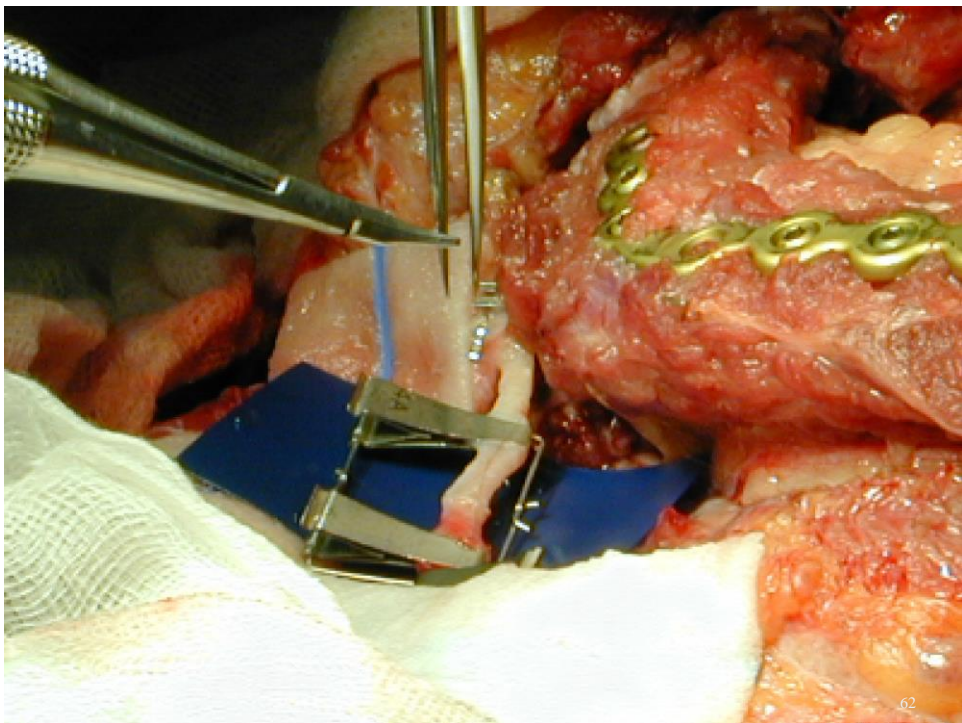
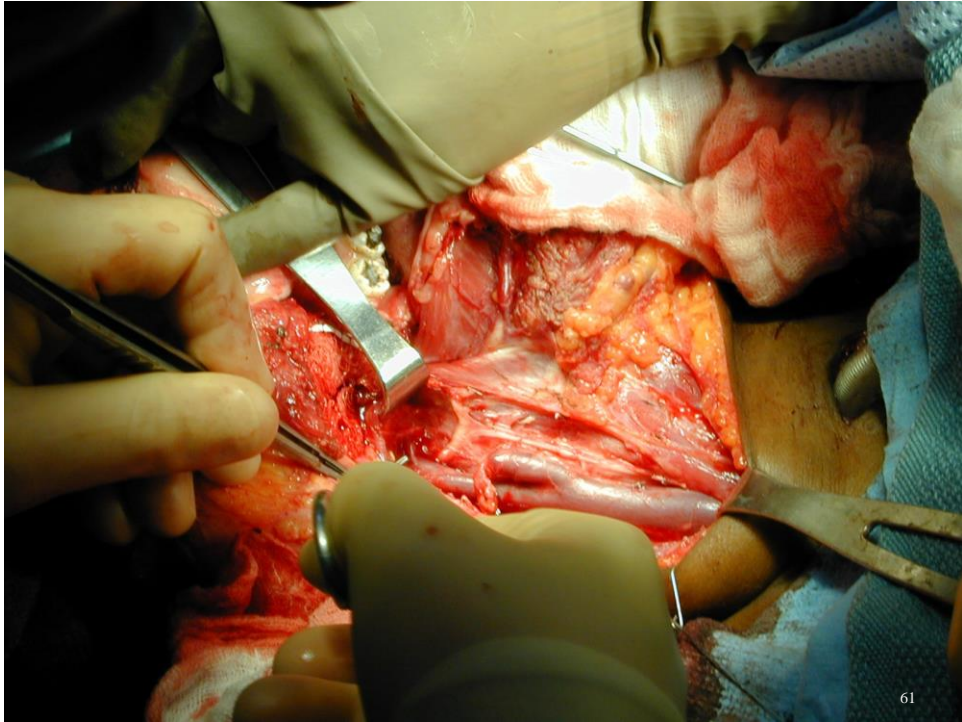
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Ameloblastoma

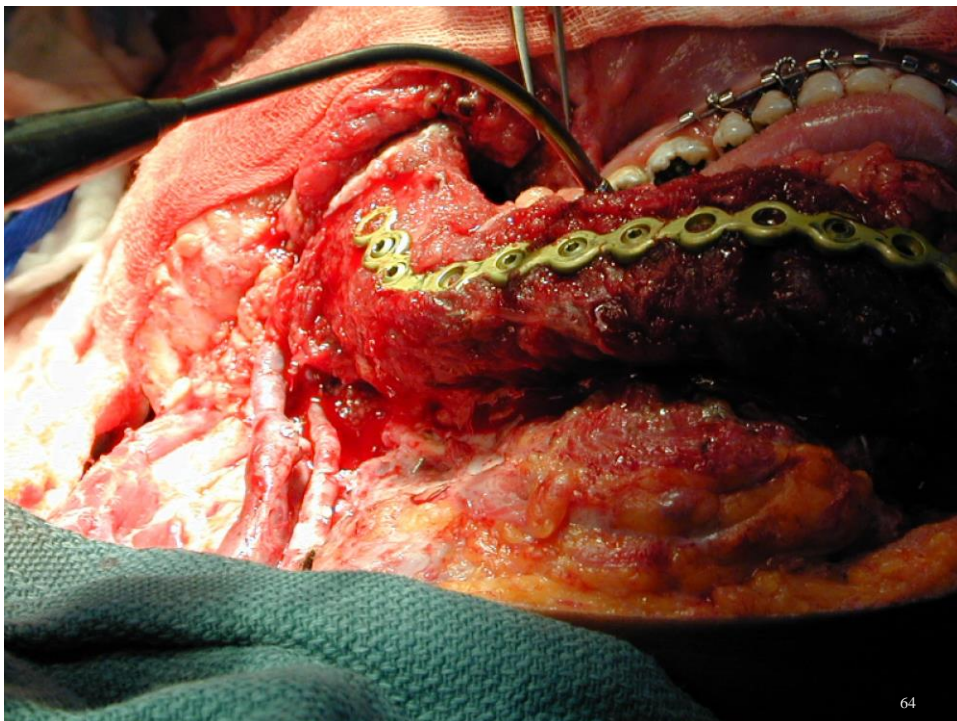
- Technically benign tumor (3rd recurrence)
- 21047 Excision benign tumor or cyst of mandible requiring extra-oral osteotomy & partial mandibulectomy
- 21045 Radical resection technically reserved for malignant lesions



Free Fibula Flap Mandible Reconstruction

- 29069 Free osteocutaneous flap with microvascular anastomosis
- Do not report 69990-use of operating microscope (included in most of the free flap codes)
- STSG to close donor site reported separately 15100/15101
- Tracheotomy 31600
- Cancellous bone graft 21215
- Archbars/maxillo-mandibular fixation 21462

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