

SPEAKER:

So today we're going to go over how to properly secure a chest tube. You've already got your chest tube placed here. You want to select a heavy gauge suture, like O silk. And then start by taking a bite of the skin on one side of the chest tube. This will also close the incision slightly.

Once you get that first stitch placed, you want to go ahead and tie that directly down to the skin. Usually putting in six to eight throws should suffice.

And then what you want to do is simply pass it around the tube once, not criss-crossing repeatedly back and forth, and tie again, directly to the tube. Again, six to eight throws should suffice. And then repeat that same movement and tie again directly to your tube.

If you have a larger incision, you can put a secondary suture just below to further close it.

Once you're done, snip your sutures, and connect the chest tube to the atrium.