

Above Knee Amputation

Closure

Deep fascial closure

Close the deep fascia of the quadriceps to the deep fascia of the hamstrings at the myodesis site.

Superficial fascial closure

Close the superficial fascia medially.

Place drain

Bring the drain out anteriorly and laterally. The drain is pushed out of the skin, then cut between holes and pushed deep with the finger.

Close the lateral fascia

Superficial fascial closure

Centrally, suture the superficial and deep fascia of the lateral hamstring up to the quadriceps fascia to bury the muscle.

Trim excess skin

Trim excess skin with a scalpel.

Complete the fascial closure

Subcutaneous closure

Complete subq closure with dermal suture, horizontal placement, using 2-0 absorbable suture.

Trim “dog-ear”

Fix the corner to avoid a dog eared appearance.

Nylon skin closure

Start the nylon skin closure with a 3-0 nylon suture placed in the figure 8 fashion.

Suture drain in place

Suture the drain in place to prevent it from being pulled out, dislodged, or removed early. In an AKA, the dressing is a soft ACE wrap spica around the waist, but the soft dressing can be easily opened to cut the stitch and remove the drain anytime it is ready.

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