

## Excision Considerations

- When removing something round or oval, the design of the excision (including any margins) must be at least **3 times in length** (fig. 1) in order to avoid developing a dog ear (fig. 2) and either end of the incision.

figure 1

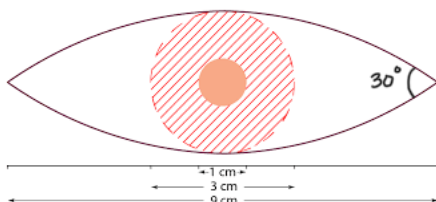


figure 2



- Suture lines that are longer but lie flat will heal and fade but “lumps” from an improperly designed excision will be permanent
- There are 3 factors that affect how well the incision heals and how noticeable the final scar will be:
  - The skill of the surgeon and design of the repair
  - Uncontrollable patient related factors such as age, sun damage, history of hypertrophic or keloid scars, and location and size of the surgery
  - Postoperative care after surgery (see below and refer to our website)
- If your incision requires bandage changes please follow these guidelines to maximize healing:
  - Leave the first pressure dressing intact and dry until the 2<sup>nd</sup> morning after surgery
  - Wash the entire incision and stitches **vigorously** making sure to **remove all goo and grease** so that nothing remains along the stitch line
  - Reapply ointment along the incision and then apply an **airtight** bandage (if this is not possible because of location such as the scalp or lip, just make sure that it stays very greasy continuously)

