Melanoma Wide Local Excision
Key Simulated Steps and Operative Principles

1. Wide local excision of melanoma with appropriate margin
2. Aesthetic closure of the resulting defect
Goals and Objectives

1. Determine appropriate surgical margins for wide local excision of melanoma
2. Make surgical incision with tension to avoid skiving
3. Explain when to use cut vs coag when using electrocautery
4. Provide tension and counter tension to allow resecting the skin lesion without charring
5. Demonstrate aesthetic skin closure using vertical mattress sutures
Required Materials

1. Pig feet
2. Scalpel with #15 blade
3. Electrocautery
4. Adison forceps
5. 3-0 Nylon sutures
6. 3-0 Vicryl (polyglycolic acid suture)
7. Marking pen
8. Ruler
Setup Step

Use a marking pen and draw a solid circle with a diameter of 1 cm to simulate melanoma
Plan a 2 cm margin around the melanoma
Plan an elliptical incision with a length to width ratio of 3:1
Procedure Step 3

Use a scalpel to start and Metzbaum scissors to complete the melanoma excision from the underlying soft tissue.
Procedure Step 4

Reapproximate skin with vertical mattress 3-0 nylon sutures
Checklist

- Provide tension to make straight sharp incision without skiving
- Appropriate margins obtained
- Full thickness excision performed
- Use appropriate tension and countertension to dissect the skin lesion out with electrocautery
- Secure closure and approximation of skin edges