

SURGICAL THREAD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a surgical thread. In particular, the present invention
5 relates to a surgical thread for medicine, cosmetic medicine and cosmetic surgery used
particularly for corrective facial surgery also known as "facelift" surgery.

STATE OF THE RELATED ART

Over time, subcutaneous facial tissue, also known as hypodermis or subcutaneous fat,
10 sags, pulling the facial skin down with it. This sagging is recognised as being essentially
the result of gravity acting upon the face wherein the connective fibres slacken as well
as of peripheral bone resorption. This ageing is referred to medically as facial "ptosis".

To prevent facial skin from sagging, several surgical techniques included under the
generic name "lift" are known. This lift may be referred to as "malar", "cervicofacial",
15 or otherwise depending on the area treated as well as the procedure involved. It
generally consists of making an incision in the skin, lifting it, repositioning the
subcutaneous and superficial muscle tissue and then excising the excess lifted skin. This
technique makes it possible to treat the problem of "ptosis" but tends to leave scars
along the various incisions as well as damage the subcutaneous tissue irremediably.
20 Furthermore, this technique is frequently declined by the patient due to the irreversible
and not always natural result.

A more recent practice consists of using surgical threads for repositioning sagging
subcutaneous facial tissue. This technique does not involve major surgical procedures.
These threads are implanted under the facial skin using foam-tipped needles leaving no
25 visible mark.