



Standard Test Method for Wound Closure Strength of Tissue Adhesives and Sealants¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2458; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a means for comparison of wound closure strength of tissue adhesives used to help secure the apposition of soft tissue. With the appropriate choice of substrate, it may also be used for purposes of quality control in the manufacture of medical devices used as tissue adhesives.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D907 Terminology of Adhesives](#)

[E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines](#)

2.2 *Other Document:*

[American Association of Tissue Banking, Standards for Tissue Banking](#)³

3. Terminology

3.1 Many terms in this test method are defined in Terminology [D907](#).

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *tissue adhesive*—any material used as a medical device to help secure the apposition of two wound edges or opposed soft tissues.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F04.15 on Material Test Methods.

Current edition approved May 1, 2015. Published July 2015. Originally approved in 2005. Last previous edition approved in 2010 as F2458 - 05 (2010). DOI: 10.1520/F2458-05R15.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), 1320 Old Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 450, McLean, VA 22101.

3.2.2 *tissue sealant*—a surface coating with adequate adhesive strength to prevent leakage of body fluids.

3.2.3 *cohesive strength*—internal strength of the adhesive.

3.2.4 *adhesive strength*—the strength of the tissue adhesive/substrate interface.

3.2.5 *cohesive failure*—failure of the internal adhesive bond.

3.2.6 *adhesive failure*—failure of the adhesive/substrate bond.

3.2.7 *substrate failure*—failure of the tissue substrate.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Materials and devices that function at least in part by adhering to living tissues are finding increasing use in surgical procedures either as adjuncts to sutures and staples, or as frank replacements for those devices in a wide variety of medical procedures. While the nature and magnitude of the forces involved varies greatly with indication and with patient specific circumstances, all uses involve to some extent the ability of the material to resist imposed mechanical forces. Therefore, the mechanical properties of the materials, and in particular the adhesive properties, are important parameters in evaluating their fitness for use. In addition, the mechanical properties of a given adhesive composition can provide a useful means of determining product consistency for quality control or as a means for determining the effects of various surface treatments on the substrate prior to use of the device.

4.2 The complexity and variety of individual applications for tissue adhesive devices, even within a single indicated use (surgical procedure, which itself may vary depending on physical site and clinical intention) is such that the results of a single tensile strength test is not suitable for determining allowable design stresses without thorough analysis and understanding of the application, adhesive behaviors, and clinical indications.

4.3 This test method may be used for comparing adhesives or bonding processes for susceptibility to fatigue, mode of failure, and environmental changes, but such comparisons must be made with great caution since different adhesives may respond differently to varying conditions.

4.4 A correlation of the test method results with actual adhesive performance in live human tissue has not been established.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*—A testing machine of the constant-rate-of-crosshead-movement type and comprising essentially the following:

5.1.1 *Fixed Member*—A fixed or essentially stationary member carrying one grip.

5.1.2 *Movable Member*—A movable member carrying a second grip.

5.1.3 *Grips*—Grips for holding the test specimen between the fixed member and the movable member of the testing machine can be either the fixed or self-aligning type. Gripping pressure should be adjustable to prevent damage to the substrate and the use of sandpaper or plastic scrubbing pads between the gripping surfaces and the substrate is recommended to help prevent slippage.

5.1.3.1 Fixed grips are rigidly attached to the fixed and movable members of the testing machine. When this type of grip is used, extreme care should be taken to ensure that the test specimen is inserted and clamped so that the long axis of the test specimen coincides with the direction of pull through the centerline of the grip assembly.

5.1.3.2 Self-aligning grips are attached to the fixed and movable members of the testing machine in such a manner that they will move freely into alignment as soon as any load is applied so that the long axis of the test specimen will coincide with the direction of the applied pull through the center line of the grip assembly. The specimens should be aligned as perfectly as possible with the direction of pull so that no rotary motion that may induce slippage or damage to the sample will occur in the grips; there is a limit to the amount of misalignment self-aligning grips will accommodate.

5.1.4 *Drive Mechanism*—A drive mechanism for imparting to the movable member a uniform, controlled velocity with respect to the stationary member, with this velocity to be regulated as specified in 8.3.

5.1.5 *Load Indicator*—A suitable load-indicating mechanism capable of showing the total tensile load carried by the test specimen when held by the grips. This mechanism shall be essentially free of inertia lag at the specified rate of testing and shall indicate the load with an accuracy of $\pm 1\%$ of the indicated value, or better. The accuracy of the testing machine shall be verified in accordance with Practices E4.

5.2 *Temperature-controlling Equipment*—Capable of maintaining the test temperature to $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. If ambient laboratory conditions are employed, the same degree of control is required.

6. Test Substrate

6.1 *For Comparative Testing*—Either fresh or frozen split thickness porcine skin graft may be used.

6.1.1 Frozen split thickness porcine skin that has been aseptically prepared is available commercially and is preferred due to ease of use and the potential for more consistent properties. It should be thawed according to the manufacturer's instructions prior to use. Unused graft may be kept at 2 to 8°C for up to two weeks after thawing.

6.1.2 If fresh skin is chosen, it should be prepared according to the method in Appendix X1.

6.2 *For Application Specific Testing*—The grips of the test machine must be able to hold the tissue without having the tissue slip or be crushed by the grips. Some tissue (liver, lung) may not be suitable for this test.

6.2.1 The strength of any adhesive is highly dependent on the test substrate or adherend. For a specific application, the preferred substrate is freshly harvested tissue from the target organ of a domestic food animal. Tissue from bovine, porcine, or ovine origin is preferred due to wide availability and the fact that relatively large samples of tissue can be harvested from a single source. Ideally, the tissue should be used within 24 h of harvest and should be kept between 5 and 10°C prior to testing if it cannot be used immediately after harvesting. Storage and handling of tissue samples should be carried out according to the guidelines set forth in Standards for Tissue Banking by the American Association of Tissue Banks. The specimens should be brought to the test temperature or other prescribed temperature (such as body temperature) prior to application of the adhesive.

6.2.2 Fixed tissue should not be used since it has been demonstrated that fixatives cause large alterations in the mechanical properties of the tissue and it is probable that the adhesive strength would be affected as well.

6.2.3 If the target organ is of a size or geometry that does not allow fabrication of test samples as shown in Fig. 1, a tissue of similar origin but larger size should be used. For example, if the intended indication is for anastomosis of small blood vessels, a larger vessel should be substituted.

6.2.4 The thickness of the tissue sample should not exceed 5 mm.

6.3 For Quality Control Testing:

6.3.1 For testing that is undertaken as part of a quality control process in the manufacturing of a tissue adhesive device, the use of freshly harvested tissue is highly inconvenient and may also lead to unacceptable variation in the test results, especially if the failure occurs in the adherend (substrate failure). Since the purpose of quality control testing is to demonstrate consistency in the device, substitution of a model substrate is preferred so long as it is demonstrated that the adhesive bonds to the adherend. If the test is intended to generate data on the cohesive strength of the device, any metallic or polymeric material is acceptable so long as it has been demonstrated that the adhesive bonds to the adherend and that failure is substantially cohesive ($>90\%$ by area) and not adhesive. For adhesive quality control testing, it is recommended that test results for any substrate of non-biological or fixed tissue origin be correlated to testing previously done on fresh tissue substrates prior to acceptance of the procedure.

7. Test Specimen

7.1 The wound strength test specimen is shown in Fig. 1. Two substrate samples are required for each test specimen.

7.2 A template of the correct dimensions should be used. A sharp scalpel or similar device should be used to cut the substrate material.

7.3 Sample width should be 2.5 ± 0.1 cm.

7.4 Sample length should be 10 ± 0.2 cm.