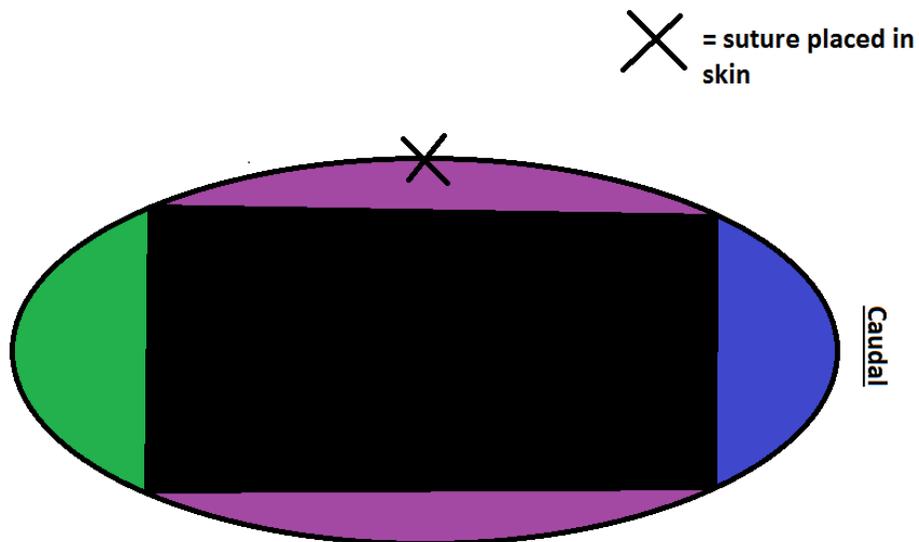


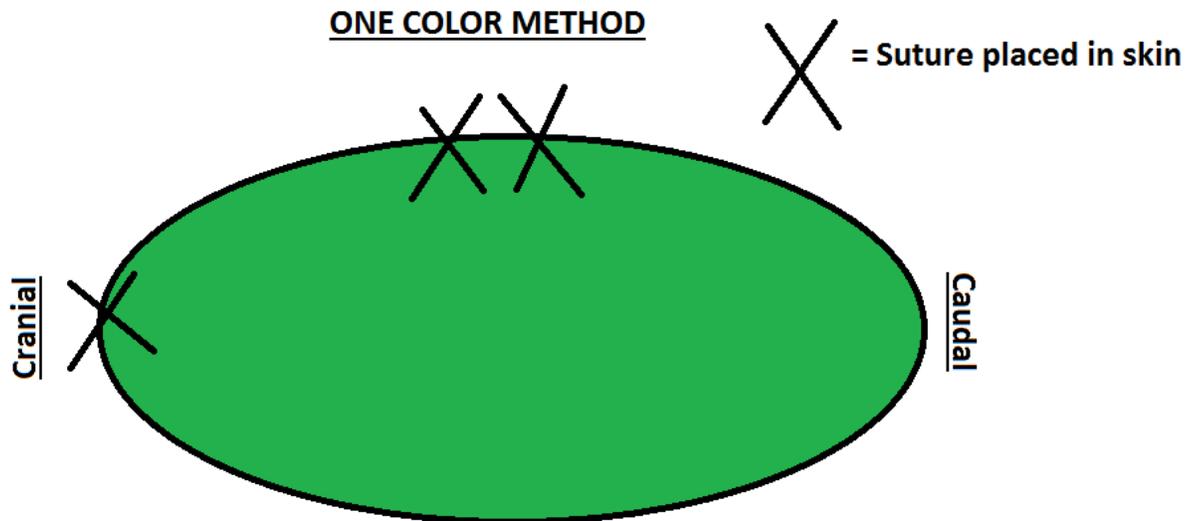
## Painting Biopsies for Margin Evaluation

Painting margins with tissue ink prior to fixation is ideal for margin evaluation and should be done as soon as possible. If margins are painted after fixation the ink does not stick well to the tissue and fades after processing. Painting of margins should be done using the following instructions. The first diagram shows the most ideal method if all four colors of ink are available, however there is a second diagram showing the method for painting with a single color.

1. Blot the margin with paper towels to get rid of excess blood.
2. Using a wooden applicator stick or cotton swab paint the margins using the following diagram for an elliptical excision



- Only use green, blue, purple, and black, **DO NOT** use orange, yellow, or red as these colors do not show up well after processing.
- We would like the colors to be consistent, so whenever possible
  - Green should represent cranial and blue should be caudal
  - Purple should be used to represent Lateral/Medial, Dorsal/Ventral, or Proximal/Distal using the most appropriate combination for the location of the biopsy
    - A single suture should be placed on one of the purple sides so we can differentiate
  - Black should be used to represent the deep margin
- Translate this as best as you can to non-elliptical excisions, being sure to mark what aspects you can in a manner we can differentiate.
- Please avoid putting too many sutures in the skin, as this interferes with trimming the tissue.



- If only one color of ink is available paint all margins with the ink. Be sure only use blue, green, purple, or black ink.
  - Use one suture to mark the cranial aspect
  - Use two sutures to mark whatever is appropriate given to the location of the excision (i.e. proximal aspect has two sutures with the contralateral side being distal, with no sutures.)
3. Let the paint dry for 5-10 minutes. Then place the tissue on a small piece of cardboard, and pin it to the cardboard so that it fixes in the proper shape.
  4. Remember to seal the container with parafilm and place in a Ziploc bag with absorbent material for shipping.