**How to Use a Scalpel**

*“Sliding, pressing, sawing, scraping”*

Sliding: is for making precise skin incisions

Pressing: cuts for stabs

Sawing: is for pedicle transection

Scraping: is for separating two muscle tissue layers

Scalpel incisions cause less tissue crushing than scissors. Usually held in a “slide-cutting” fashion, i.e. the direction of pressure applied to the knife blade is at right angles to the direction of scalpel pressure. When incising skin, the scalpel blade should be kept perpendicular to the skin surface.





