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Surfaces that become isotopic after Dehn filling. Preliminary report.

We show that for “most” Dehn fillings on a torus boundary component of a 3-manifold, the set of closed essential surfaces (up to isotopy) remains unchanged. In order to prove the result, we introduce the *compressing sequence*, an analog to thin position designed to discretize an isotopy in the presence of a knot. (Received January 24, 2011)