

- 1) Fenestrated drapes are drapes containing holes or openings that are placed over the operative site after the area on the patient has been prepped and sterilized. There are drapes that do not have an opening but can still be used. You have to use multiple nonfenestrated drapes to create the sterile field around the operative site. These drapes are used in the surgical field and are disposable for one time use only. You can also find sheets in a medical office that can be used for drapes during a physical exam to provide privacy and warmth. These can be positioned differently depending on which examination is being completed.
- 2) Autoclaving is a method of sterilization that kills all pathogens and spores from steam under pressure. The pressure of the steam is what allows the heat to become higher than the boiling point. The first step is to get the autoclave up to temperature. The recommended temperature is 250 to 255 degrees. The steam moisture must come in contact with all surfaces that need to be sterilized. Unwrapped tools are sterilized for 20 minutes, small wrapped tools for 30 minutes, and large wrapped tools are sterilized for 40 minutes. It is important not to start the time until after the autoclave has reached the correct temperature. .
- 3) Instruments must be cleaned while submerged in water or solution in order to prevent splattering or splashing.
- 4) Local anesthetics that contain epinephrine are used in vascular areas due to it causing vasoconstriction. Vasoconstriction keeps the anesthetics in the tissues longer which helps to prolong the effect. Epinephrine also aids in minimizing bleeding. It would not be used in areas such as fingertips or toes due to it causing decreased circulation. Decreased circulation could cause potential problems within those areas.
- 5) Absorbable sutures are used when deep incisions or lacerations require inner layers of sutures to close the wound. They can also be used where suture removal could be difficult. They are dissolved by the body's enzymes during the healing process.
- 6) All instruments should be inspected after cleaning and before packaged for sterilization and storage. It is important to inspect all instruments to be sure everything is in working condition and if they are not they need to be repaired. It is also important to make sure that there are no indents, or scratches on instruments that can hide or hold any bacteria.
- 7) Suture material is determined by the diameter of the strand. Smaller gauges are numbered below 0 and larger gauges are numbered above 0. The suture material used for a facial lesion ideally would be steri-strips because they reduce the chance of infection and do not cause suture scars. However, if steri-strips would not work then a 5-0 or 6-0 suture would be used on the face. The suture for a knee scope closure would be surgical staples.