

MA-212 Medical Assisting Lab IV

Critical Thinking 3

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1. Identify the types of drapes used in the medical office and what are their specific use?

Disposable surgical drapes are available in several different materials and sizes. These typically have an opening and called a fenestrated drape. The drape is placed over the operative area, using sterile technique. The non-fenestrated drapes help to maintain a sterile field.

2. Describe the process of Autoclaving instruments. Length of time, temperature etc.

First all instruments need to be sterilized, washed, rinsed, and wiped down thoroughly. Next the instruments are to be wrapped in a wrapping material made for autoclaving with a disposable temperature paper. The temperature of the autoclave should be between 250-255 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes and then put on to the drying cycle.

3. Why must instruments be cleaned while being submerged in water/solution?

The instruments must be cleaned while submerged in the water/solution to prevent blood or body fluids from contaminating yourself or other objects and helps to prevent cross contamination of clean instruments and equipment.

4. Why do physicians use local anesthetics that contain epinephrine, what effect does the patient feel and when is it NOT appropriate to use lidocaine with epi?

Local anesthetics contain epinephrine because the epinephrine acts as a vasoconstrictor to decrease systemic absorption of local anesthetics and to increase the duration of anesthetic action. The only reason not to use lidocaine with epi is if someone is allergic to it.

5. What conditions are necessary for absorbable sutures to be effective?

Absorbable sutures should be used when the suture needs to function for a short time and cannot be recovered when its use is completed. They are used when the inner layers of a deep wound need to be closed or in areas that would make removing them difficult.

6. Why is it important to inspect all surgical instrumentation and when is it inspected?

It is important to inspect all surgical instruments to make sure they are all in proper working order. The best time to inspect them is when they are being cleaned and sanitized and when you are setting them up right before they are to be used.

7. How are suture material sized and what suture would be used for a facial laceration and which one for a knee scope closure?

The smaller gauges are numbered below zero and the larger gauges are identified with numbers above zero. 2-0 suture is thinner than size 0, which is thinner than size 2. With a facial laceration you would want minimal scarring so a smaller thread and needle would be best. With a knee scope closure, you would want a bigger thread and needle to help keep that area closed. Not only does the knee probably have thicker skin it is also an area of the body that moves frequently.