

## MA 215 Medical Assisting Lab

### Critical Thinking 3

**\*All answers must be in complete sentences, giving details and specifics\***

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- 1. There are 5 Surgical Procedures techniques that can be performed in an office setting, name the 5 and briefly describe each one.**

The first of the five surgical procedures techniques to be discussed is called **electrosurgery**, also referred to as electrocautery. This is a procedure that utilizes varying degrees of high-frequency current to cut tissue, destroy small polyps, and burn, or cauterize, bleeding vessels.

The next surgical procedure technique that is often performed in an office setting is called **laser surgery**. Laser stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation. Like electrosurgery, laser surgery is used for cauterizing blood vessels, as well as other uses such as the treatment of conditions related to the retina, removal of moles or warts, the removal of lesions, and some cosmetic surgical procedures. This is performed using a pen-like instrument that emits a specific color laser depending on the procedure being performed and allows for precise detailing, resulting in only minimal damaging to surrounding tissues.

The third surgical procedure technique that is commonly performed within the medical office is **microsurgery**. Microsurgery is a very delicate procedure that requires a microscope to better see how to manipulate the tissues, as needed. It is often used in otologic, gynecologic, and neurosurgical procedures.

The fourth surgical procedure technique that is performed in the medical office is **endoscope**. Endoscopic technique is performed using a tiny camera to examine the inside of an organ or body cavity.

The fifth and last surgical procedure technique is called **cryosurgery**, which is a minimally invasive procedure that uses a probe frozen with liquid nitrogen to destroy cancer cells of the skin, prostate, liver, pancreas, and kidneys.

**2. The Medical Assistant is expected to assist with preparing the patient and setting up the sterile field with minor office procedures. What procedures MUST be used without exception when assisting with some of the procedures? (The theory of sterile technique is universal, regardless of where you work)**

The MA must always ensure that all procedures are being followed per protocol. The patient must always be properly informed of what the procedure will entail and all his or her questions must be answered before the patient signs a consent form, which must be completed before the procedure begins. The MA must ensure that all the proper documentation is recorded, as well. If it wasn't documented, it never happened, so all details must be documented appropriately. It is also imperative that the MA makes sure to review any allergies that the patient may have to ensure there are no contraindications with either the procedure or any of the medications that may be used during the procedure.

**3. What solutions, and medications should be available in the surgical area of a medical office and why?**

The solutions that should always be readily accessible within the surgical area of a medical office include sterile water, which is used for mixing medications or rinsing instruments; sterile saline solution, which is used for injection or wound irrigation; surgical scrub preparations such as Betadine or Chlorhexidine that cleanse the skin; and Formalin, which should always be made available in case of needing to preserve a specimen.

Some examples of medications that should always be readily accessible in the surgical area of a medical office include anesthetics such as Lidocaine, Xylocaine, or Sensor Caine. Topical anesthetics should also be kept in the surgical area in the event that one must be applied to the skin, prior to administration of an injectable anesthetic. Topical silver

nitrate is another medication that is kept readily accessible in the event that it is needed to stop localized bleeding.

**4. Explain how surgical instruments should be handled before, during and after a surgical procedure?**

Surgical instruments should always be thoroughly inspected for any damages and handled with care to prevent any new damages from occurring. The instruments must be autoclaved according to standard practice. When setting up a sterile surgical field, the instruments must be properly handed to the surgeon or flipped onto the sterile field without touching the one-inch perimeter. After the instruments have been applied to the sterile field appropriately, they should be arranged in order, according to how the surgeon will be needing them. They should also be closed and locked into place to ensure everyone's safety during the procedure and while an instrument is being passed to a surgeon. After an instrument has been used it should be put in a basin to soak until it is able to be fully disinfected, sanitized, and re-packaged for sterilization. Blood, tissue, or other bodily fluids should never be allowed to harden onto an instrument.

**5. Name and describe what specialty instruments are.**

Specialty instruments are surgical instruments that are designed specifically for specialty departments and are associated with specific procedures. Various groups of specialty instruments include gynecologic instruments, ophthalmologic and otolaryngologic instruments, which are used for the eyes and ears; genitourinary instruments, used for urology or procedures relating to the genitals; and lastly biopsy instruments, used for taking biopsy samples.