

MA-212 Medical Assisting Lab IV

Critical Thinking 3

Name: Carrissa Carroll-Brackley

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

There are disposable surgical drapes that come in several different materials and sizes. Fenestrated drapes have an opening for the operative site that can be placed over the operative area while using sterile technique, after the patient's skin has been prepared for the procedure. Non-fenestrated drapes do not have a hole in them. These are used to place sterile supplies and instruments on a sterile field. If a fenestrated drape is needed but are not available, a non-fenestrated drape can be cut using sterile technique to create an opening.

2. What is the purpose of understanding the different types and materials, lengths and whether a needle is swaged or not when considering suture use.

Suture material comes in a variety of diameters and lengths; smaller gauges are numbered below 0 and larger, above 0. Sutures can come in many different materials as well. Silk, polyester fiber and nylon are a few of the choices. Depending on the area in which needs sutures along with the depth and width of the desired suture will determine the materials needed. The most common needle type for minor skin repair is the curved, cutting-edge swaged needle. This is because they do not have an eyelet and cause the least amount of harm as they pass through the tissue.

3. Explain the purpose of why it is important to know what materials are used and lot and expiration dates for supplies, for documentation purposes. Why do I want or need to document lot and expiration for packing material, lidocaine, formalin ECT?

It is important to know what materials are being used during a procedure because as an MA, we will be the ones setting up the supplies for the provider. It is especially important to have everything needed during a sterile procedure so that people are not running in and out of the room, leaving more room for contamination. Also, it looks unprofessional. Lot number and expiration date are needed for materials, just like medications and other office tests for similar reasons. Expiration dates for seemingly obvious reasons; to be sure the item is thrown out if expired because it is not up to standard. Lot number to ensure if something goes wrong; malfunction, reaction or a recall, we can track which patient to contact as well as contact the manufacturer.

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 are injected into the subcutaneous tissue which produces temporary numbing at the site by blocking the generation and conduction of nerve impulses. Local anesthetics that contain epinephrine are used in areas that are highly vascular because it causes vasoconstriction which helps keep the anesthetic in the tissues longer. This also helps minimize bleeding. Epinephrine is not used in areas such as fingertips or toes because there is less circulation here therefore causing problems with healing.

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

Absorbable sutures are dissolved by body enzymes during the healing process. These sutures are used when deep incisions or lacerations require inner suture layers to close the wound. Absorbable sutures are also great for oral surgery where suture removal is difficult. Most absorbable sutures last about 1-2 weeks but other materials can last longer.

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

Each instrument should be carefully inspected when they are purchased as well as throughout their use. Not only are instruments expensive, but the quality of the procedure performed depends on the quality of equipment used. Instruments should be tested to be sure they work properly; scissors that shear the full length of the blade and teeth and serrations checked to be sure they intermesh completely. Also, they should be felt all over to be sure no rough spots tear gloves open.

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

Diameter of a suture strand determines its size. Smaller gauges are numbered below zero, while larger gauges are numbered above zero. The most commonly used in the medical office are sizes from 6-0 to 2-0. For a facial laceration a better route would be the use of Steri-Strips; self-adhesive tapes placed over the wound, pulling the edges together. Another option would be tissue adhesive such as Histoacryl, Dermabond or SurgiSeal. These non-suture options result in better cosmetic outcomes due to the lack of scarring from sutures. In

the case of a knee scope closure, the best way to seal the wound would be with the use of sutures; either absorbable or nonabsorbable.