

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

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Clinical Rotation Site: Surgery

1. Briefly write about today's experience(s)

I did a rotation in surgery/OR and was able to watch Dr. Smith and Dr. Green. the procedures that doctor Smith did where inserting tubes in a pediatric patients ears and on the list it said adenoidectomy on the same patient. Things ran behind because it was difficult for them to get an IV but once that was in it was extremely fast paced. I was not surprised at the demeanor of Dr. Smith considering the delay. It was evident he was not pleased with the situation. I inquired about the procedure and the room we were in, thinking that might have been what the difficulty was about (minus the issue with the IV). There were a few snafus with the suction and his machine he used to be able to see in the patients ears. they said that they just don't do very many pediatric patients and they were not used to it. Also bringing in different equipment into the room made it a little more difficult for the doctor. I was able to watch the nurse take the child to postop. They moved the bed out and just had a chair that one of the nurses sat in and held the patient as he continued to wake up from the anesthesia. At that point I went back to the surgical suite to see how they prepared for Dr. Greene's carotid endarterectomy, which was the main procedure I wanted to see.

Watching Dr Greene perform this procedure was quite amazing. I was able to stand on a stool behind Dr. Green to watch the procedure. the nurse that was helping me that morning did advise me that if I felt odd or strange or any unusual feeling the first thing I needed to do was step off of the stool so that I didn't pass out and fall off of it. She said I'm sure you've probably seen some things in the ER so I'm not too worried about you but I like to mention that to all the students. I expected there to be a lot more blood. I was able to feel the plaque that they took out of the carotid artery. I was completely amazed at how Dr. Green was so nonchalant about everything. I mean honestly I'm standing there looking at a human being that has half of their neck opened up and one of the main arteries clamped off and split open which I'm sure is a procedure that they do all the time so they are like "Oh no big deal" but wow it was truly insightful and amazing and incredible at what can be done. there was a surgical tech who was a traveler who is being instructed prior to the procedure on the instruments and Dr. Green's preferences. I was also intrigued by the fact that doctor green has a PA who assists him in surgeries.

2. What is one thing you learned?

Something that I learned, would be that my perception of surgeons and how sometimes they communicate/treat their assistants and nurses was somewhat correct. I would consider working in an OR except for the fact that I have zero self esteem or faith in myself and would be scared to death that I would mess something up and get yelled at by a surgeon.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

I honestly do not think there is anything that I would have done different if I had the experience to do over again. Maybe watching the surgical tech closer arrange her tray, but I honestly wanted to stay away from the sterile equipment because I know how essential that is. It was very interesting seeing the aseptic process of the surgical tech and how she just went about her job so nonchalantly, when I seemed to panic just trying to get the aseptic procedure for a catheter right.

4. What is your major “take home” from today’s clinical experience(s)?

I'd have to say the major “take home” of the clinical experience would be just how amazing technology really is, how far things have advanced, the amazing skills of the physicians and surgeons, and that it was a real privilege to be able to observe in the OR.

5. Is there anything else you would like to mention?

I know that Dr. Green does a lot of procedures and I know first-hand that he does repairs of dissections on AAA's. My mom's mother (my grandmother), passed away on the operating table at Barnes Jewish hospital when I was a little kid 3 or 4 tops. I didn't know from what, other than “heart surgery” until a couple years ago when my mother told me of her fear of surgery for herself and others the real reason. Her mother passed away while in surgery because they went in to repair an aortic aneurysm, and when they opened her up, from what mom said, it basically disintegrated, and she bled out on the table. Unfortunately, technology was not that advanced they did not have the equipment/technology, or the procedures to be able to help her or even possibly install a graft. Based on what happened I'm not sure there would have even been hope for her today if the same thing were to happen.

I was able to talk to the nurses and techs between procedures so I think that they might have been a little more friendly to me than an average student since I have worked in the ER for so long. I was also able to talk to them about my nursing school experiences, struggles, and successes, and they shared experiences with me of their schooling. I was able to communicate in a professional manner and I was told I asked some very good questions. They were all very nice and informative and did not make me feel like the typical student in the room, like some people make you feel. Overall, I had a very good experience in OR.

