

Medical Technology NBSTSA-CST

**National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical
Assisting: Certified Surgical Technologist™**

Questions And Answers PDF Format:

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Question: 1

A microscope may be used for all of the following surgeries EXCEPT:

- A. Lens replacement surgery of the eye
- B. An appendectomy
- C. Vein anastomosis
- D. Some plastic surgeries

Answer: B

Explanation:

Specialized microscopes are used in the operating room for specific microsurgery procedures. Depending upon the specialty, different focal lengths are available to ensure the surgeon has a clear, magnified view of the area on which the operation is taking place. Microscopes would be used for all of the options listed except for an appendectomy. Magnified visualization is necessary for most eye surgeries, vascular surgeries, and some plastic surgery procedures, whereas an appendectomy does not require the use of a microscope.

Question: 2

Which of the following is a characteristic specific to the laparoscopic technique?

- A. The addition of extreme cold to destroy abnormal tissue
- B. The use of x-rays to visualize the internal structures
- C. The use of video assistance to visualize internal structures
- D. A direct incision to access and visualize the internal structure

Answer: C

Explanation:

Laparoscopic surgeries are surgical procedures of the abdominal and pelvic cavities that employ the use of equipment with video to visualize the internal structures. Laparoscopy involves the creation of one or more working portals in the abdominal or pelvic cavity. Examples of laparoscopic surgical procedures are laparoscopic hernia repairs, gallbladder removals, and appendectomies.

Question: 3

The surgical technologist is on a case with a surgeon he has worked with frequently in the past. The surgeon seems very frustrated and is short-tempered during the surgery. What would be the best approach to take in this situation?

- A. Nothing because most doctors are moody anyway.
- B. Once the case is completed, ask the surgeon in private if everything is alright and if there was anything pertaining to that particular surgery that had upset him.
- C. During the surgery, ask the surgeon what is bothering him so it can be addressed immediately.
- D. Attempt to alleviate the surgeon's frustrations using jokes or redirection.

Answer: B

Explanation:

If a surgeon that a CST works with frequently is acting abnormally frustrated and short-tempered, it would be appropriate to respectfully ask him if everything was okay with the surgery or if there was a problem to help with. It is most appropriate to approach the surgeon after the case. Showing concern and a willingness to correct any problems can often help to diffuse someone's anger or dissatisfaction, but interrupting the case by asking about problems publicly or attempting to diffuse the situation with jokes or redirection could distract the surgeon from his case and/or worsen the situation.

Question: 4

An Achilles tendon repair surgery is being performed using an allograft. The graft material has been prepared with a radioprotectant. What is the process for preparing the graft for surgery?

- A. Allow the graft to thaw and soak in saline for 30 minutes prior to surgery.
- B. Soak the graft in a solution of saline with bacitracin only for at least 60 minutes prior to surgery.
- C. Allow the graft to thaw and keep in a safe area where it can remain sterile.
- D. Soak the graft 3 separate times in a solution of saline with bacitracin and polymyxin B over a 30-minute time period.

Answer: D

Explanation:

An allograft is a piece of skin, tissue, or bone that is obtained from a cadaver. It has been prepared and sterilized for use in another person. It is used frequently in tissue repair surgeries, such as ACL or Achilles tendon repairs. An allograft requires time to soak in a mixture of saline with bacitracin and polymyxin B. If the graft has been prepared with a radioprotectant, the preparation is extended to 3 separate soaks in this mixture for a total time of 30 minutes.

Question: 5

Which of the following does NOT usually contribute to surgical site infections?

- A. Improperly sterilized surgical instruments

- B. Respiratory droplet contamination by the operating room staff
- C. Antibiotics given only 30 minutes before the opening incision
- D. Increased foot traffic in and out of the operating room during surgery

Answer: C

Explanation:

Several factors within the operating room can contribute to the risk of a surgical site infection. Antibiotics are usually given within 30 minutes of the opening incision, and this helps to decrease the risk of infection rather than increase it. All of the other answer options are factors that can contribute to an increased risk of infection.

Question: 6

Which of the following refers to a partial representation of a tissue or entity that requires further evaluation?

- A. Tissue sample
- B. Specimen
- C. Benign sample
- D. Blood sample

Answer: B

Explanation:

A specimen is a partial representation of the tissue or entity being evaluated and can be retrieved by either incision or excision biopsy methods. The specimen that is sent for evaluation should be large enough to make positive identification. It is the surgical technologist's responsibility to know the location and the type of tissue that is being removed.

Question: 7

Which of the following identifies the minimum elements to be included in the surgical time-out per AORN-endorsed WHO guidelines?

- A. Surgery to be performed, site of the surgery, and surgeon's name
- B. Patient name, surgery to be performed, and identification of the correct site/side for the surgery
- C. Patients date of birth, surgery to be performed, and names of everyone in the operating room
- D. Patient's age, surgery to be performed, and location of the surgical site

Answer: B

Explanation:

The surgical time-out is performed just prior to the initial incision being made for surgery. Per WHO guidelines (which are supported by the AORN and are a regulatory requirement), the

surgical time-out should be performed with every member of the surgical team to identify that the correct patient is on the table, the correct surgery is going to be performed, and the correct site or side is being operated on. Some facilities assign specific components of the time-out to different team members. For example, the surgical technologist may be responsible for pointing out the site of the surgery, usually marked with a surgical pen, and ensuring that each member of the surgical team has looked at the location to ensure it is correct.

Question: 8

Which of the following is the LEAST effective method for monitoring the patient's core body temperature?

- A. Oral thermometer
- B. Rectal thermometer
- C. Head monitoring strip
- D. Esophageal temperature probe

Answer: C

Explanation:

The use of a head monitoring strip is generally recognized as the least effective method in evaluating the patient's core body temperature. The best method of evaluating body temperature during a surgical procedure is with the use of a rectal or esophageal temperature probe. The best method of evaluating body temperature in the preoperative setting is the use of a thermometer in the oral, rectal, or axillary regions of the body.

Question: 9

What are the two main types of bacterial toxins that are critical in the toxigenesis process?

- A. Lipopolysaccharides and proteins
- B. Proteins and exotoxins
- C. Endotoxins and enterotoxins
- D. Neurotoxins and lipopolysaccharides

Answer: A

Explanation:

Toxigenesis is the ability of a microorganism to produce disease-causing poisons called toxins. The body can be exposed to many different forms of toxins, and each form of toxin has its own specific characteristics and affects the body in its own unique way. The two main types of bacterial toxins are lipopolysaccharides (endotoxins) and proteins (exotoxins). Enterotoxins and neurotoxins indicate the target of some more defined protein toxins.

Question: 10

The primary function of the gallbladder is to:

- A. Break down fat to glucose
- B. Store bile
- C. Digest proteins
- D. Store pancreatic enzymes

Answer: B

Explanation:

The primary function of the gallbladder is to store bile. It is stimulated when food enters the small intestine and bile is secreted through the common bile duct to help with digestion of fats. Stored bile can crystallize and form into gallstones, which can cause abdominal pain and other health problems. A cholecystectomy is surgical removal of the gallbladder.

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