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NBSTSA-CST

Certified Surgical Technologist 2025

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Question: 1272

You are preparing for a surgical procedure and must ensure that all electrical equipment is functioning properly. Which of the following checks is most crucial for preventing electrical hazards?

- A. Inspecting the equipment for visible damage only
- B. Ensuring all equipment is plugged in correctly and grounding is intact
- C. Testing equipment only when there are reported issues
- D. Ignoring manufacturer instructions for setup

Answer: B

Explanation: Ensuring all equipment is plugged in correctly and that grounding is intact is crucial for preventing electrical hazards and ensuring safe operation.

Question: 1273

When performing the surgical scrub, what specific area often requires additional attention to detail to ensure thorough cleaning?

- A. Under the nails
- B. The wrists
- C. The back of the hands

D. The palms of the hands

Answer: A

Explanation: Under the nails often requires additional attention during the surgical scrub as it can harbor bacteria and contaminants that need to be removed.

Question: 1274

In the context of robotic-assisted surgery, which of the following advantages does this technique offer compared to traditional laparoscopic methods?

- A. Enhanced dexterity and precision
- B. Increased risk of complications
- C. Longer operative times
- D. Higher costs

Answer: A

Explanation: Robotic-assisted surgery offers enhanced dexterity and precision due to the articulated instruments and 3D visualization, which can improve surgical outcomes compared to traditional laparoscopic methods.

Question: 1275

What should the surgical technologist do if they notice that a patient is positioned in a way that could lead to pressure ulcers during a lengthy procedure?

- A. Wait until the end of the procedure to make adjustments
- B. Inform the anesthesiologist of the concern
- C. Adjust the patient's position immediately and safely
- D. Document the concern in the surgical notes

Answer: C

Explanation: Adjusting the patient's position immediately is crucial to prevent the development of pressure ulcers, which can lead to additional complications.

Question: 1276

In preparation for a laparoscopic procedure, which of the following interventions is essential for maintaining a sterile environment during instrument setup?

- A. All instruments should be placed in a stack for easy access.
- B. Instruments should be set up prior to the patient's arrival.
- C. All non-sterile team members should be excluded from the room.
- D. The scrubbed surgical technologist should avoid touching any non-sterile items.

Answer: D

Explanation: A scrubbed surgical technologist must avoid touching non-sterile items to maintain the sterile field and prevent contamination during the procedure.

Question: 1277

During the removal of surgical drapes post-operation, which of the following techniques is recommended to minimize the risk of contamination?

- A. Pulling the drapes off quickly in one motion
- B. Folding the drapes inward towards the patient
- C. Removing the drapes from the head of the bed first
- D. Allowing the surgical team to assist in a coordinated manner

Answer: D

Explanation: Allowing the surgical team to assist in a coordinated manner ensures that drapes are removed methodically, reducing the risk of contamination and maintaining a sterile environment.

Question: 1278

When classifying surgical wounds, which of the following best describes a wound that is deliberately created under sterile conditions but involves the entry of a hollow organ into the surgical field?

- A. Clean wound
- B. Clean-contaminated wound
- C. Contaminated wound
- D. Infected wound

Answer: B

Explanation: A clean-contaminated wound is created under sterile conditions but involves entry into a hollow organ, increasing the risk of contamination.

Question: 1279

In a postoperative discussion, the surgical team addresses the need for improved communication regarding medication administration. What is the most effective strategy to enhance this communication?

- A. Establishing a standardized medication checklist
- B. Relying on verbal communication alone
- C. Limiting discussion to only the anesthesia provider
- D. Ignoring past communication failures

Answer: A

Explanation: A standardized checklist improves clarity and ensures all team members are aware of the medications administered during the procedure.

Question: 1280

After assembling the sterile instruments for a procedure, the surgical technologist notices that one of the instruments is not functioning properly. What should be done next?

- A. Ignore the issue and proceed with the surgery
- B. Inform the surgeon and prepare to replace it with a new instrument
- C. Attempt to fix the instrument during the procedure
- D. Wait until the procedure is over to report the issue

Answer: B

Explanation: The surgical technologist should inform the surgeon and prepare to replace the non-functioning instrument, ensuring that the surgical procedure can proceed safely and effectively.

Question: 1281

In the event of a sudden drop in the patient's blood pressure during surgery, which action should the surgical technologist prioritize to assist the surgical team effectively?

- A. Apply a tourniquet to the limb
- B. Initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- C. Ensure the patient is in a supine position
- D. Notify the anesthesia provider immediately

Answer: D

Explanation: A sudden drop in blood pressure can indicate a critical situation. The surgical technologist should notify the anesthesia provider immediately, as they can assess the need for interventions such as fluid resuscitation or medication adjustments.

Question: 1282

When evaluating the effectiveness of sterilization methods, which of the following indicators provides the most reliable confirmation that an item has been adequately sterilized?

- A. Chemical indicator tape
- B. Visual inspection of the item
- C. Physical monitoring of sterilizer parameters
- D. Biological indicator

Answer: D

Explanation: Biological indicators provide the most reliable confirmation of sterilization efficacy by demonstrating that viable microorganisms have been killed during the process.

Question: 1283

During a bilateral oophorectomy, which anatomical structure must be carefully dissected to avoid hemorrhage?

- A. Ovarian artery
- B. Ureter
- C. Round ligament
- D. Fallopian tube

Answer: A

Explanation: The ovarian artery supplies blood to the ovaries and must be meticulously ligated to prevent significant hemorrhage during oophorectomy.

Question: 1284

A surgical technologist is tasked with setting up a bovie pad for an

electrosurgical procedure. Which of the following is the most critical consideration to ensure patient safety?

- A. Place the pad on an area with excessive hair
- B. Ensure the pad is connected to the electrosurgical unit
- C. Apply the pad to an area close to the surgical site
- D. Make sure the pad is placed on the patient's arm

Answer: B

Explanation: Ensuring that the bovie pad is properly connected to the electrosurgical unit is critical for effective and safe operation. Incorrect placement can lead to burns or ineffective coagulation.

Question: 1285

In preparation for a surgical procedure, a surgical technologist is tasked with calculating the appropriate dosage of a medication based on a ratio of 1:500,000. If the surgeon orders 10 mL of this medication, how many milligrams does this represent?

- A. 0.02 mg
- B. 0.1 mg
- C. 20 mg
- D. 2 mg

Answer: D

Explanation: A 1:500,000 ratio means there is 1 mg in 500 mL. Therefore, in 10 mL, there would be $(10 \text{ mL} \times 1 \text{ mg}) / 500 \text{ mL} = 0.02 \text{ mg}$, which is incorrect. The correct calculation should yield 2 mg for 10 mL.

Question: 1286

When preparing to initiate suction during a procedure, what is the most important aspect the surgical technologist must confirm about the suction apparatus?

- A. That it is turned off until needed
- B. That the suction canister is properly connected and secured
- C. That it has an adequate supply of sterile fluid
- D. That it is located within easy reach of the surgeon

Answer: B

Explanation: Confirming that the suction canister is properly connected and secured is crucial to ensure the suction apparatus functions correctly when needed, minimizing delays during surgery.

Question: 1287

As part of the pre-operative checklist, what is the most important aspect to verify regarding the operating room's suction system?

- A. That the suction canister is full
- B. That the suction pressure is set to a high level
- C. That the suction is located near the surgical table
- D. That the suction tubing is free of kinks and obstructions

Answer: D

Explanation: Ensuring that the suction tubing is free of kinks and obstructions is critical to guarantee effective suctioning during the surgical procedure.

Question: 1288

When preparing to assist with suturing, what key aspect must be communicated to the surgeon regarding the suture material being used?

- A. The color of the suture
- B. The expiration date of the suture
- C. The tensile strength of the suture material
- D. The brand of the suture

Answer: C

Explanation: Communicating the tensile strength of the suture material is crucial as it informs the surgeon about the suitability of the suture for the specific tissue being closed.

Question: 1289

When a medication dosage is calculated based on BSA and the patient has a BSA of 1.5 m^2 with a dosage of 100 mg/m^2 , what is the total amount of medication the patient should receive?

- A. 150 mg
- B. 200 mg
- C. 130 mg

D. 120 mg

Answer: A

Explanation: The total dosage is determined by multiplying the BSA by the dosage per square meter: $1.5 \text{ m}^2 \times 100 \text{ mg/m}^2 = 150 \text{ mg}$.

Question: 1290

Which of the following actions is considered inappropriate when disposing of contaminated sharps after a surgical procedure?

- A. Using a two-handed technique to dispose of needles
- B. Placing sharps in a puncture-resistant container
- C. Ensuring the container is clearly labeled and accessible
- D. Securing the lid of the sharps container tightly

Answer: A

Explanation: A two-handed technique increases the risk of needle-stick injuries; a one-handed technique should always be used to enhance safety during disposal.

Question: 1291

Which of the following statements about the use of a Bovie pad during electrosurgery is most accurate?

- A. It can be placed on any part of the body without consequence.

- B. Its placement is irrelevant as long as the active electrode is used correctly.
- C. It should be applied after the incision is made.
- D. It must be placed in proximity to the surgical site for effective grounding.

Answer: D

Explanation: The Bovie pad must be placed in proximity to the surgical site to ensure effective grounding and minimize the risk of burns or electrical injuries during electrosurgery.

Question: 1292

When preparing to irrigate a surgical site, which of the following solutions should be avoided, and why?

- A. Normal saline; it is safe and effective
- B. Sterile water; it can cause hemolysis of red blood cells
- C. Lactated Ringer's; it is isotonic and safe
- D. Dextrose solution; it provides nutrients

Answer: B

Explanation: Sterile water should be avoided for irrigation because it can cause hemolysis of red blood cells, leading to complications in the surgical site.

Question: 1293

In a case where a surgical team is preparing for a procedure involving a contaminated field, which infection control procedure is essential to uphold

aseptic technique?

- A. Use of sterile saline for irrigation
- B. Application of a sterile drape over the site
- C. Utilization of non-sterile gloves
- D. Frequent changing of the surgical gown

Answer: B

Explanation: A sterile drape is crucial in maintaining an aseptic field to prevent contamination from the surrounding environment, particularly in contaminated cases.

Question: 1294

During a surgical procedure, a patient suddenly becomes unresponsive. What is the first step you should take to ensure the safety of the patient and the effectiveness of the team response?

- A. Assume it is a temporary issue and continue with the procedure
- B. Check the patient's vital signs and alert the surgical team
- C. Leave the room to find additional help
- D. Wait for the anesthesiologist to respond

Answer: B

Explanation: Checking the patient's vital signs and alerting the surgical team immediately is critical for ensuring prompt intervention and maintaining patient safety.

Question: 1295

In the context of surgical preparation, when utilizing antiseptic solutions for skin preparation, which of the following statements is most accurate regarding the use of chlorhexidine gluconate?

- A. It should be applied in a circular motion from the incision site outward.
- B. It is contraindicated for use in patients with latex allergies.
- C. It is effective against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.
- D. It requires a 3-minute drying time before draping.

Answer: C

Explanation: Chlorhexidine gluconate is a broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent effective against a variety of pathogens, making it a preferred choice for surgical site preparation.



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