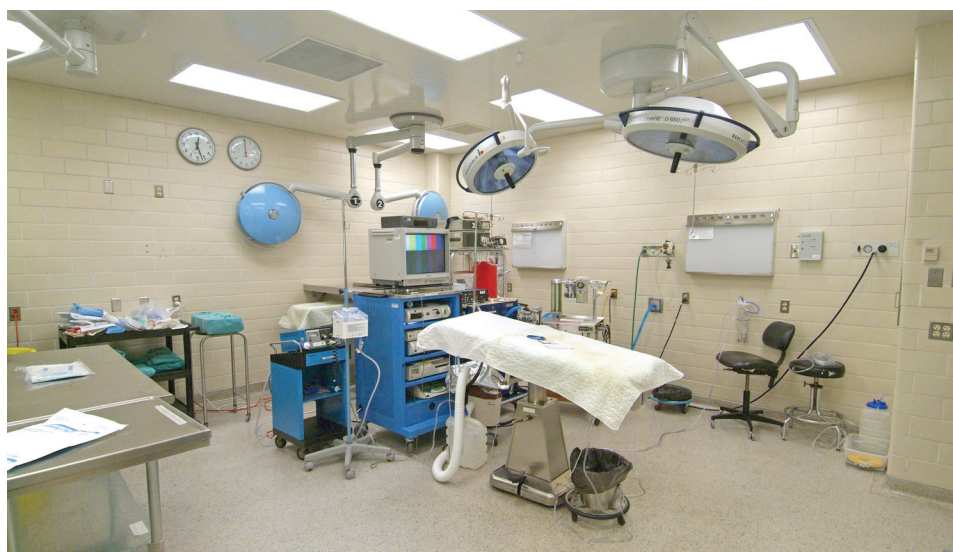


Chapter 14 - Lesson 2



Surgical Preparation & Procedures



The surgical room is disinfected prior to surgery.

Introduction

The veterinary assistant has important responsibilities during surgery preparation. The assistant's job entails helping the veterinarian to prepare the surgery room, the tools and instruments, the animals, and the surgeon. The veterinary assistant needs to be sure an aseptic environment is available to provide the best conditions for the welfare of the patient.

The Surgical Facility

Aseptic conditions in the surgical facility require proper preparation. The assistant begins readying the room by removing all dust from woodwork, light fixtures, tables, cabinets, heaters, and floors. The assistant

should use a disinfectant to clean all surfaces. Close or adjust all the windows to allow necessary ventilation without permitting drafts or the influx of airborne dust and other pollutants.

Anesthetic equipment, supplies, ties for the patient, and all necessary surgical equipment should be readily accessible. Sterile bundles and packs should be in place, but left unopened prior to scrubbing. Lastly, the assistant must clean and disinfect the surgery table.

Assisting the Surgeon

The assistant should have the scrub soap, sterile brushes, shoe covers, caps, and masks readily accessible. If disposable caps and masks are not used they should be freshly laundered (they do not need to be sterile).

After the surgeon has scrubbed, the assistant opens the sterile wrap around the surgical gown. The assistant secures the tie strings on the surgeon's gown and sterile packs. The assistant must avoid touching and contaminating sterile surfaces and should be no closer than 2 feet from exposed sterile instruments and accessories. Accordingly, the gowned and gloved surgeon must arrange the instrument table.

Maintaining Sterile Conditions

Any person entering a room prepared for surgery, or where surgery is in progress, must wear clean clothes and shoes that are free of dust and dirt. The face, head, and hair of anyone who comes near the operating table should be covered with a freshly laundered cap and mask or new disposable covers. Operating room personnel should leave the room to cough or sneeze. If unavoidable while in the surgery room, direct coughs and sneezes away from the sterile field and gowns.

Preparing the Surgical Sites

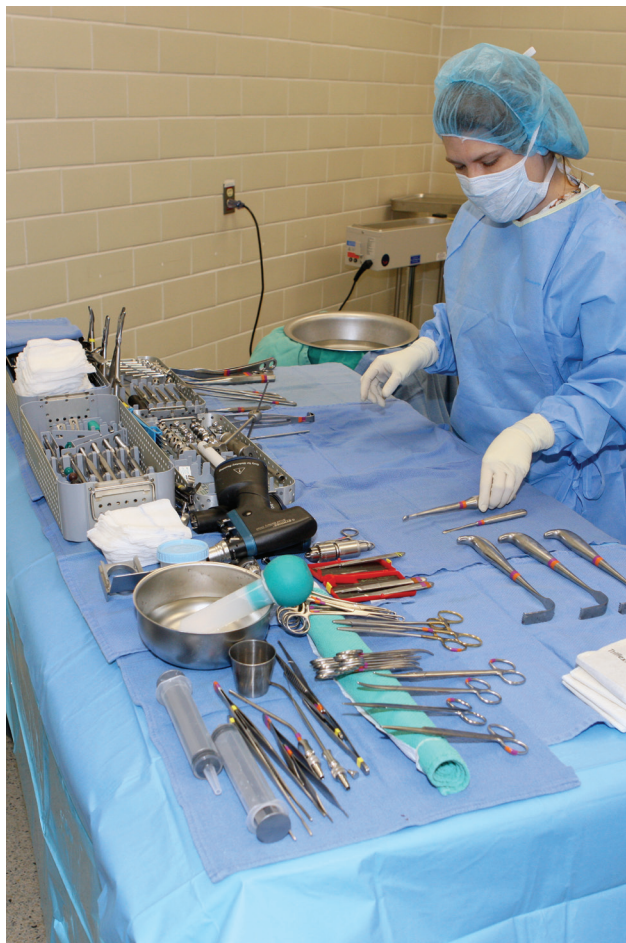
Patient preparation should be performed in an area other than on the surgery table. Chapter 14, Lesson 4, *Preparing Hands and the Field of Operation*, covers preparation of the surgical site on the patient. If this pre-operative procedure was appropriately situated in another room, the assistant will now need to clean the prep area. Vacuum, scrub, and disinfect table surfaces and sweep, vacuum, and mop the floor. The assistant should leave the prep area in readiness for the next patient.

After Surgery

After completion of the surgery, the assistant should clean and sterilize all instruments, accessories, and supplies for reuse. Launder and autoclave gowns and drapes, and launder the caps and masks if necessary. When all equipment has been cleaned and placed in storage, thoroughly scrub and disinfect the room.

Reference

Bassett, J. M., & McCurnin, D. M. (2010). *McCurnin's clinical textbook for veterinary technicians* (7th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Saunders Elsevier.



A gloved surgeon must arrange the instrument table.

Questions

1. Describe in detail the pre-operative preparation of the surgery room.
2. Sterile bundles and packs are opened when, and by whom?
3. Who arranges the instrument table? Why?
4. What is the required dress for anyone entering the surgery room?
5. Describe in detail:
 - a. Cleaning the prep area
 - b. Post-operative cleaning of the surgery area

Activity

1. Under the supervision of a veterinarian, clean and sterilize surgical instruments.