

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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Question: 44

What is the purpose of covering reconstituted disinfectant solutions when not in use?

- A. The solutions may otherwise become contaminated.
- B. The solutions may emit noxious fumes or odors.
- C. The solutions may otherwise lose levels of concentration.
- D. The solutions may expire more quickly.

Answer: B

The purpose of covering reconstituted disinfectant solutions is that the solutions may emit noxious fumes or odors. Disinfectant solutions can contain very powerful odors because they are created from chemical compounds designed to kill microorganisms. However, noxious odors and fumes from these chemicals can become overwhelming to staff when left unattended and may be very uncomfortable for the patient who is recovering.

Question: 45

Which of the following steps is part of the terminal process of cleaning instruments used in surgery?

- A. Disinfection
- B. Neutralization
- C. Sterilization
- D. Both A and C

Answer: D

Disinfection and sterilization are both parts of the terminal process of cleaning instruments used in surgery. Both disinfection and sterilization involve eliminating microorganisms that have the potential to cause disease so instruments may be used again for future procedures. The process follows the decontamination stage and is done before supplies are stored for use.

Question: 46

What items must the perioperative nurse check to ensure safety during a surgery that uses electrocautery?

- A. The electrosurgical unit is set at the highest setting necessary for the procedure.
- B. The footpad should be located just next to the suction canister for ease of use.
- C. The ground pad is in an appropriate location, such as on the back of the elbow.
- D. The alarm is turned on and can be heard by those in the room.

Answer: D

The perioperative nurse should ensure that the alarm for the electrocautery unit has been turned on and can be heard by those in the room. This alarm typically activates if the ground pad is not working or if the patient is at risk of becoming burned. The nurse can also check for this by ensuring the ground pad stays dry during the procedure and that it maintains consistent contact with the patient.

Question: 47

Which of the following factors may have an effect on a patient's risk of developing an infection after a surgical procedure?

- A. The patient's condition before surgery
- B. The state of the surgical wound at closure
- C. The route the antibiotics were administered preoperatively
- D. Both A and B

Answer: D

Both the patient's condition before surgery and the state of the surgical wound at closure have an effect on the patient's risk of developing an infection after a surgical procedure. Some patients with certain medical conditions are more likely to develop infections than others; for example, a patient with diabetes may be at higher risk. A wound that is kept clean during the surgical procedure is less likely to become infected.

Question: 48

A nurse in the operating room helps the surgeon by using surgical instruments, providing suturing and handling tissue specimens. The most likely title of this nurse would be:

- A. Scrub nurse
- B. RN first assistant
- C. Circulating nurse
- D. Nurse anesthetist

Answer: B

The most likely title of this nurse would be an RN first assistant. This type of nurse works in the perioperative setting but may have duties that exceed those of the circulating or scrub nurse. The RN first assistant usually assists the physician directly, but their actual scope of practice may vary between states.

Question: 49

While administering blood products during a surgical procedure, the nurse notes that the patient has spiked a fever to 101 degrees, their skin is flushing and their heart rate has increased. What is the nurse's first reaction?

- A. Administer oxygen by non-rebreather mask at 10L/min.
- B. Call the Blood Bank to verify labeling of the blood products.
- C. Check the patient's chart to ensure the orders are correct.
- D. Stop the transfusion and notify the physician.

Answer: D

The nurse's first action is to stop the transfusion and notify the physician. When giving a blood transfusion, if the patient develops a fever, flushing and becomes tachycardic, they are most likely having a transfusion reaction. The nurse needs to notify the physician who placed the order, as well as the Blood Bank; treat the signs of transfusion reaction; and begin another transfusion, if ordered.

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