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Purpose/Goal

To provide the learner with knowledge of AORN's guidelines related to using an automated washer or washer/disinfector that includes a lubrication cycle to process implants, using items packaged in impervious packages if dropped, using a normal saline solution rather than sterile water to wipe instruments and flush lumens during surgical procedures, wicking versus blotting excess skin antiseptics in a gel form, and using silver-impregnated dressings in the OR.

Objectives

1. Discuss practices that could jeopardize safety in the perioperative area.
2. Discuss common areas of concern that relate to perioperative best practices.
3. Describe implementation of evidence-based practice in relation to perioperative nursing care.

Accreditation

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Approvals

This program meets criteria for CNOR and CRNFA recertification, as well as other CE requirements.

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Conflict-of-Interest Disclosures

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CLINICAL ISSUES

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THIS MONTH

Using an automated washer or washer/disinfector that includes a lubrication cycle to process implants

Key words: *surgical implants, lubrication, critical water.*

Using items packaged in impervious packages if dropped

Key words: *impervious package, dropped items, event-related sterility.*

Using a normal saline solution rather than sterile water to wipe instruments and flush lumens during surgical procedures

Key words: *normal saline solution, sterile water, lumens, gross soil.*

Wicking versus blotting excess skin antiseptics in a gel form

Key words: *wicking, blotting, skin antiseptics.*

Silver-based dressings and risk of patient injury if left in place during a surgical procedure

Key words: *silver-based dressings, surgical procedures, patient injuries.*

Using an automated washer or washer/disinfector that includes a lubrication cycle to process implants

QUESTION:

Should implants, such as plates and screws, be processed in an automated washer or washer/disinfector that includes a lubrication cycle?

ANSWER:

Unless specifically directed to do so by the implant manufacturer's instructions for use (IFU), implants should not be processed through the lubrication cycle of an

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