Guideline Implementation: Autologous Tissue Management

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Purpose/Goal

To provide the learner with knowledge specific to implementing the AORN "Guideline for autologous tissue management."

Objectives

- 1. Describe the US Food and Drug Administration exclusion regarding registration as a tissue bank or tissue establishment.
- 2. Identify benefits of using the patient's autologous tissue for transplantation or delayed replantation.
- 3. Discuss packaging and labeling of autologous tissue.
- 4. Describe actions to take when an autograft is contaminated.
- 5. Discuss management of avulsed teeth.

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Marie A. Bashaw, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, has no declared affiliation that could be perceived as posing a potential conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

The behavioral objectives for this program were created by Liz Cowperthwaite, BA, senior managing editor, and Rebecca Holm, MSN, RN, CNOR, clinical editor, with consultation from Susan Bakewell, MS, RN-BC, director, Perioperative Education. Ms Cowperthwaite, Ms Holm, and Ms Bakewell have no declared affiliations that could be perceived as posing potential conflicts of interest in the publication of this article.

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ABSTRACT

Managing autologous tissue correctly may help prevent patients who are undergoing replantation or autotransplantation of tissue from developing a surgical site infection. The updated AORN "Guideline for autologous tissue management" provides guidance on transferring tissue from the sterile field, packaging and labeling, transporting and storing, and handling autologous tissue for delayed replantation or autotransplantation within the same facility. This article focuses on key points of the guideline to help perioperative personnel develop protocols for autologous tissue management. The key points address some of the major tissue types—avulsed teeth, cranial bone flaps, autologous skin—that may be preserved and replanted or autotransplanted. Perioperative RNs should review the complete guideline for additional information and for guidance when writing and updating policies and procedures. AORN J 102 (September 2015) 271-280. © AORN, Inc, 2015. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2015.07.003

Key words: autologous tissue, cranial bone flap, autograft, avulsed tooth, skin graft.

any patients who require surgery may donate autologous tissue for their surgery that day or for a future surgery. In addition, trauma patients may need surgery that involves autologous tissue during their unanticipated care. Facilities that handle autologous tissue either for autotransplantation or delayed replantation into the same patient within the same facility are not required to register with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a tissue bank or tissue establishment. However, these facilities or health care organizations are required to recover, process, package, label, store, track, and replant or autotransplant the tissue in a manner that minimizes microbial growth, prevents mix-ups, and reduces the risk for errors. Perioperative nurses are the patient's advocate and should clearly understand management of autologous tissue in the perioperative setting to ensure that the perioperative patient is not exposed to an increased risk for infection.

The AORN "Guideline for autologous tissue management" was first published in November 2014. AORN guideline documents provide guidance based on an evaluation of the strength and quality of the available evidence for a specific subject. The guidelines apply to inpatient and ambulatory settings and are adaptable to all areas where operative or other invasive procedures may be performed.

Topics addressed in the autologous tissue management guideline include care and treatment of avulsed teeth, autologous cranial bone flaps, parathyroid tissue, skin, and veins (Table 1) and replantation or autotransplantation of dropped or contaminated autografts. This article elaborates on key takeaways from the guideline document; however, perioperative RNs should review the complete guideline for additional information and for guidance when writing and updating policies and procedures.

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