

### The operating theatre

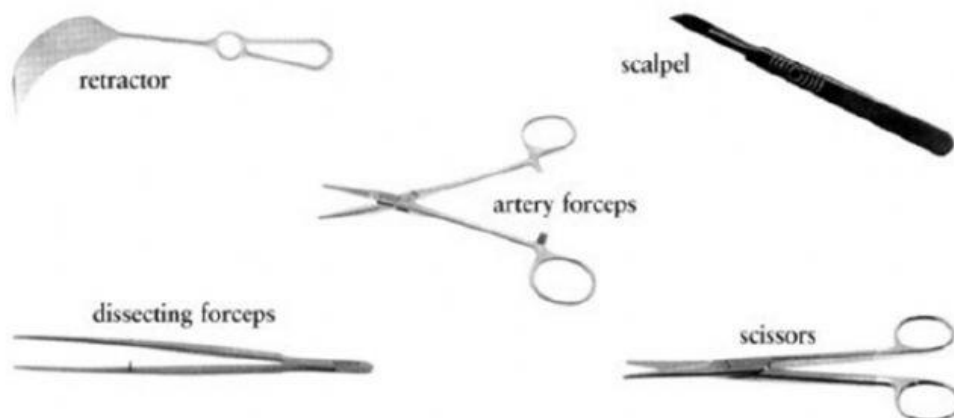
Surgery is carried out in an **operating theatre**. Great care is taken to make sure that operations take place in **sterile conditions** – free from microorganisms. The surgeon and his or her **assistant** wash or **scrub up**, and put on **surgical gowns, masks, and gloves**. The patient's skin is prepared by disinfecting it with an antiseptic solution. This is known as **prepping** (preparing) the patient. They are then covered with **sterile drapes**, so that only the area of the operation is exposed.



glove mask gown

### Instruments

The most basic surgical instruments are shown in the picture.



### The operation

The **operation** begins when the surgeon makes an **incision** or cut. Control of bleeding is very important. A **swab** is a pad of cotton or other material used to soak up blood from the operation site. A **sucker** is a mechanical device which **aspirates** – sucks up – blood. Bleeding vessels are tied with **ligatures** or sealed by an electric current (**diathermy**).

**Drains** may be inserted to carry away fluid which might act as a culture medium for bacteria. Various methods are used to close the wound, for example **sutures** (also known as **stitches**), or **staples**. Finally, the wound is covered with a **dressing**.

### An operation report

This patient had an indirect right inguinal hernia.

**Anaesthesia:** Spinal anaesthetic with local anaesthetic **infiltration**

**Incision:** Right inguinal

**Procedure:** The external oblique aponeurosis was **divided** and the spermatic cord **mobilized**. The hernial sac was identified and separated from the spermatic cord. The hernial sac was then mobilized back to its neck where it was **transfixed** and the **redundant tissue excised**. The fascia at the neck of the spermatic cord was divided, carefully **preserving** the vessels, the genital branch of the nerve and the vas deferens. Thereafter the posterior wall of the inguinal canal was **repaired** in two layers.

**Closure:** The wound was **closed in layers** with Dexon suture material to the external oblique aponeurosis and staples to the skin.

**1- Which of the instruments shown in the text for each of the following procedures?**

1. making an incision \_\_\_\_\_
2. keeping the sides of the wound open \_\_\_\_\_
3. cutting sutures \_\_\_\_\_
4. holding the cut ends of blood vessels before they are tied \_\_\_\_\_

**2- A surgeon is talking to a medical student about assisting at operations. Complete his advice using words from the text.**

An \_\_\_\_\_ must be able to carry out the following tasks to help the surgeon. Firstly, he or she must help in \_\_\_\_\_ the patient and putting the \_\_\_\_\_ in place to provide \_\_\_\_\_ conditions. Expert handling of a \_\_\_\_\_ is essential to allow the surgeon to see what he is doing. The assistant must also keep the operation site free of blood, by careful use of the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. The surgeon also needs assistance with trying and cutting \_\_\_\_\_, and with the insertion of a \_\_\_\_\_, if necessary. Finally, the assistant may be asked to close the wound with \_\_\_\_\_ or other devices.

**3- Find words in the text with the following meanings**

1. cut into two parts \_\_\_\_\_
2. corrected (something that was damaged) \_\_\_\_\_
3. freed from surrounding tissues \_\_\_\_\_
4. removed by cutting out \_\_\_\_\_
5. spread of liquid into an area \_\_\_\_\_
6. making sure something is not damaged \_\_\_\_\_
7. small metal devices to hold the edges of a wound together \_\_\_\_\_
8. unnecessary \_\_\_\_\_
9. sewing up of the wound \_\_\_\_\_
10. flat, thin pieces of tissue that lie on top of one another \_\_\_\_\_

**4- Match the words with the definitions**

<b>surgical procedure- coordinator- operating room- sanitize- scrub room- post-operative unit- sponge</b>
---

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an absorbent material that is used in surgery to soak up blood or to apply disinfectant
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of the hospital where patients are taken after surgical procedures to recover
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a procedure in which surgeon uses instruments to cut into a living body to repair damage or remove diseased tissue
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is in charge of a system or organization and who is responsible for keeping the system running smoothly
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a room near an operating room that contains sinks and strong disinfectants in order to allow all medical personnel to remove bacteria from their skin
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is a room in a hospital specially designed to have surgical procedures performed in it
7. \_\_\_\_\_ something is to clean it and kill or remove all bacteria

**5- Listening**

**Listen and complete the conversation:**

**Nurse:** Thompson Pediatrics, Nurse Jackson speaking

**Parent:** Hi, this is James Roberts. My son Alan is a new \_\_\_\_\_ (1) at your practice

**Nurse:** Is something wrong Mr Roberts?

**Parent:** Well. I think Alan might \_\_\_\_\_ (2) jaundice. His \_\_\_\_\_ (3) looks yellowish

**Nurse:** And how old is he?

**Parent:** He was just born a week ago

**Nurse:** Well, don't worry. Many newborns get jaundice and most cases are mild. Tell me, is his \_\_\_\_\_ (4)?

**Parent:** It's hard to tell. I mean, his skin is yellow all over

**Nurse:** Okay, can you \_\_\_\_\_ (5) his eyes? If they're \_\_\_\_\_ (6), it might be a serious case

**Parent:** Actually \_\_\_\_\_ (7), his eyes are \_\_\_\_\_ (8)

**Nurse:** Hmm. To be on the safe side. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (9) bring him in?

**Parent:** We'll be right in, \_\_\_\_\_ (10)