

Conditionals in Surgery

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ENGLISH & GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

Target Level: B2 – C1

Focus: Clinical Grammar & Communication

TASK 1 Verb Conjugation in Surgical Scenarios

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. If the patient _____ (develop) a fever, we will order a CT scan.
2. If the CT scan _____ (show) an abscess, the patient will need drainage.
3. If I _____ (know) about the patient's allergy earlier, I would have chosen another antibiotic.
4. If the patient had arrived earlier, we _____ (be able to) prevent the complication.
5. If the wound becomes infected, it _____ (require) surgical revision.
6. If the patient _____ (not / follow) the postoperative instructions, complications may occur.
7. If there were no signs of peritonitis, we _____ (manage) the patient conservatively.
8. If the surgeon had recognized the bowel injury earlier, the outcome _____ (be) different.

TASK 2 Multiple Choice – Select the Correct Option

Choose the correct grammatical form to complete each conditional sentence.

1. If the patient **develops / developed** severe abdominal pain, we will reassess him immediately.
2. If there **is / were** evidence of perforation, emergency surgery would be indicated.
3. If the patient had been operated on earlier, he **would have recovered / would recover** faster.
4. If the drain **stops / stopped** functioning, we may need to replace it.
5. If I were the surgeon, I **would perform / would have performed** a diagnostic laparoscopy.

TASK 3 Surgeon's Intraoperative & Ward Statements

Complete the surgeon's direct statements using appropriate conditional verb structures.

1. If the patient's blood pressure _____ (fall), we will start fluid resuscitation.
2. If the patient _____ (remain) stable, we can continue conservative management.
3. If the CT scan shows free air, we _____ (consider) emergency laparotomy.
4. If we had identified the perforation earlier, we _____ (avoid) this complication.
5. If there were no signs of sepsis, I _____ (not / recommend) immediate surgery.

TASK 4 Clinical Discussion & Speaking

Clinical Vignette: A 62-year-old patient presents with abdominal pain and fever. CT scan demonstrates a perforated diverticulum with localized peritonitis.

Respond to each question using at least one full conditional sentence.

1. What will you do if the patient's condition deteriorates?

Sample Answer: If the patient's condition deteriorates, we will perform an emergency laparotomy.

2. What would you do if there were no signs of generalized peritonitis?

Sample Answer: If there were no signs of generalized peritonitis, I would initiate intravenous antibiotic therapy and close monitoring.

3. What might happen if treatment were delayed?

Sample Answer: If treatment were delayed, localized peritonitis might progress to generalized sepsis.

4. What could have been different if the diagnosis had been made earlier?

Sample Answer: If the diagnosis had been made earlier, we could have prevented the perforation with early antibiotic administration.

5. What would you recommend if the patient refused surgery?

Sample Answer: If the patient refused surgery, I would strongly advocate for conservative management with broad-spectrum IV antibiotics and explain the risks clearly.

TASK 5 Conference English – Reframing Clinical Statements

Rephrase informal clinical statements into formal, professional language suitable for international surgical conferences.

~~Informal: If the patient gets worse, we will operate.~~

→ **Professional: If the patient's clinical condition deteriorates, we will proceed with emergency surgical intervention.**

~~Informal: If the patient develops sepsis, we will change the treatment.~~

→ **Professional: Should the patient manifest clinical signs of sepsis, we will adjust the therapeutic regimen accordingly.**

~~Informal: If the CT shows an abscess, we will perform drainage.~~

→ **Professional: If cross-sectional CT imaging demonstrates an abscess, image-guided percutaneous drainage will be indicated.**

~~Informal: If we had diagnosed the complication earlier, the patient might have had a better outcome.~~

→ **Professional: Had the complication been identified at an earlier stage, a more favorable clinical outcome might have been achieved.**

ANSWER KEY (TASKS 1–3)

1.1: develops

1.2: shows

1.3: had known

1.4: would have been able to

1.5: will require

1.6: does not follow

1.7: would manage

1.8: would have been

2.1: develops

2.2: were

