

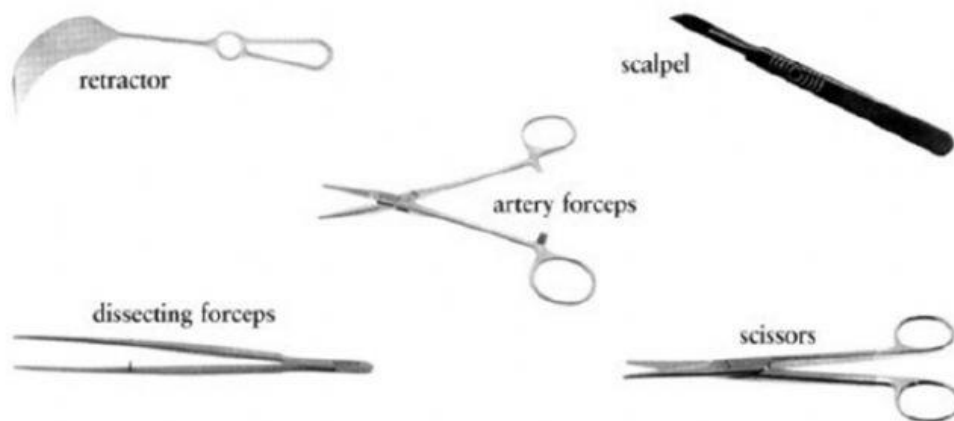
The operating theatre

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.



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

surgical procedure- coordinator- operating room- sanitize- scrub room- post-operative unit- sponge

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)