

T400-Series Technical Note

Aseptic Surgical Guidelines

The following protocol used at Bowman Gray School of Medicine is consistent with the Public Health Service guidelines.

1. Room Preparation

- A. The surgery table surface should be wiped with a disinfectant before and after use. A bluepad/drape should cover the table.
- B. The use of a heating pad is recommended to prevent hypothermia and to aid in a quicker, uneventful recovery.

2. Animal Preparations

- A. Remove hair from surgical site with clippers or a depilatory.
- B. The surgical site should be cleaned with an antiseptic scrub followed by an antiseptic solution (e.g. chlorhexidine or povidone iodine scrub and solution, respectively).

3. Instrument Sterilization

- A. All instruments must be sterilized. The method of choice will be determined by the surgical instruments or devices being used.

4. Surgeon Preparation

- A. The surgeon and all others in the operating room must wear a surgical face mask prior to initiation of animal prep. The surgeon is required to wear sterile gloves; a cap and sterile gown is also recommended.
- B. The surgeon must wear a scrub shirt. Non-surgeon personnel in the room must wear a lab coat or a gown over their street clothes.

5. Draping the Animal

- A. Draping material for the rodent includes a 15"x 15" reinforced paper drape and 3"x 3" gauze sponges.

6. Closure of the Animal

- A. Abdominal/thoracic body wall should be closed with absorbable suture material in a simple interrupted or similar interrupted pattern.
- B. Skin should be closed with non-absorbable, monofilament suture material in a simple interrupted or similar interrupted pattern.
- C. Sutures must be removed 7 to 10 days after surgery to prevent inflammation and other postoperative complications.

7. Animal Recovery

- A. Recovery should occur in a warmed environment.
- B. Animals should be observed closely until they are able to maintain a sternal position and then every 6-8 hours until fully recovered.
- C. Post-operative antibiotics should be given after surgery when justified by the investigator and the veterinary staff.

8. Multiple Surgical Procedures

- A. After the first surgery, the sterilized instruments must be kept in a sterile tray containing 70-90% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol or other acceptable solution.
- B. Sterile gloves must be changed between surgeries.

Aseptic Surgical Guidelines Cont.

Aseptic Surgery

- Follow recommended guidelines & common sense.
Healthier animals yield better science.
- Sterility: follow aseptic techniques; all instruments and gloves, mask, drapes, implants, sutures should be sterile.
- Use top quality surgical instruments: buying the instruments constitutes an initial investment, but the instruments will last for a long time if properly maintained.

REFERENCE:

Principles of Proper Laboratory Use in Research and Teaching, Wake Forest University, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, 1992



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