

VTNE Self Study: Domain 2

Surgical Nursing — 20 Practice Questions

1. Which action is most appropriate when preparing a patient for aseptic surgery?

- A. Clip fur after scrubbing
- B. Clip fur widely around the surgical site before scrubbing
- C. Scrub before clipping
- D. Use alcohol only for preparation

2. Which surgical instrument is primarily used to grasp tissue atraumatically?

- A. Mayo scissors
- B. Hemostat
- C. Adson-Brown forceps
- D. Needle holder

3. Which of the following is considered a break in sterility?

- A. Hands kept above the waist
- B. Touching the outside of a sterile gown with sterile gloves
- C. Turning your back to a sterile field
- D. Using sterile instruments inside the drape field

4. A technician accidentally touches a sterile instrument to a non-sterile surface. What should occur next?

- A. Continue using the instrument
- B. Wipe it with alcohol and proceed
- C. Replace the contaminated instrument
- D. Place it back in the sterile pack

5. Which suture material is absorbable?

- A. Nylon
- B. Polypropylene
- C. Polydioxanone (PDS)
- D. Stainless steel

6. What is the primary purpose of a surgical count?

- A. Measure anesthesia time
- B. Prevent retained surgical items
- C. Reduce surgery cost
- D. Organize medications

7. During sterile gowning, hands should remain:

- A. Below the waist
- B. At the sides
- C. Above waist level and in view
- D. In pockets to maintain warmth

8. Which patient position is commonly used for abdominal surgery?

- A. Lateral recumbency
- B. Dorsal recumbency
- C. Sternal recumbency
- D. Standing restraint

9. Which instrument is most appropriate for holding a suture needle?

- A. Thumb forceps
- B. Hemostat
- C. Needle holder
- D. Towel clamp

10. Which statement about sterile fields is TRUE?

- A. Moisture contamination is acceptable
- B. The edges of sterile drapes are considered contaminated
- C. Sterile fields may be left unattended indefinitely
- D. Sterility can be assumed if unsure

11. Which phase of wound healing involves collagen deposition and granulation tissue formation?

- A. Hemostasis
- B. Inflammatory phase
- C. Proliferative phase
- D. Maturation phase

12. What is the most appropriate action if sterility is uncertain?

- A. Continue if surgery has already started
- B. Assume it is sterile
- C. Treat the item or field as contaminated
- D. Spray disinfectant and proceed

13. Which instrument is commonly used to clamp blood vessels?

- A. Metzenbaum scissors
- B. Hemostat
- C. Scalpel handle
- D. Thumb forceps

14. Which factor most increases the risk of surgical site infection?

- A. Proper hand scrubbing
- B. Break in aseptic technique
- C. Appropriate clipping technique
- D. Correct sterilization methods

15. What is the purpose of a spay hook?

- A. Remove skin sutures
- B. Locate uterine horns during ovariohysterectomy
- C. Clamp blood vessels
- D. Hold drapes in place

16. Which postoperative finding requires immediate veterinary attention?

- A. Mild sleepiness after anesthesia
- B. Small amount of bruising at IV site
- C. Pale mucous membranes and prolonged CRT
- D. Mild decrease in appetite for one meal

17. Which suture pattern is commonly used to close skin?

- A. Cruciate interrupted
- B. Purse-string
- C. Ford interlocking only
- D. Horizontal mattress exclusively

18. Which statement about surgical instrument care is TRUE?

- A. Instruments should be stored wet
- B. Hinged instruments should remain closed during sterilization
- C. Blood and debris should be removed promptly after use
- D. Rusted instruments are acceptable if sterilized

19. What is the purpose of autoclaving?

- A. Dry surgical drapes
- B. Chemically disinfect surgical packs
- C. Sterilize equipment using steam under pressure
- D. Remove fur from instruments

20. Which postoperative complication is most consistent with redness, swelling, heat, and discharge from an incision?

- A. Seroma
- B. Normal healing
- C. Surgical site infection
- D. Dehydration

Answer Key & Explanations

Domain 2: Surgical Nursing

1. **B** — Fur should be clipped widely before scrubbing
2. **C** — Adson-Brown forceps minimize tissue trauma
3. **C** — Turning your back compromises sterile awareness
4. **C** — Contaminated instruments must be replaced
5. **C** — PDS is absorbable
6. **B** — Surgical counts prevent retained materials
7. **C** — Hands remain above waist and visible
8. **B** — Dorsal recumbency is typical for abdominal surgery
9. **C** — Needle holders secure suture needles
10. **B** — Edges of drapes are considered contaminated
11. **C** — Granulation tissue forms in the proliferative phase
12. **C** — If in doubt, consider contaminated
13. **B** — Hemostats clamp vessels
14. **B** — Breaks in aseptic technique greatly increase infection risk
15. **B** — Spay hooks help locate uterine horns
16. **C** — Pale MM and prolonged CRT suggest shock or hemorrhage
17. **A** — Cruciate interrupted is common for skin closure
18. **C** — Debris should be removed immediately to preserve instruments
19. **C** — Autoclaves sterilize via steam under pressure
20. **C** — Classic signs of infection

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended