MED 101 Word List

Chapter 31

Allergy: Acquired hypersensitivity to a substance (allergen) that does not normally cause a reaction.

Anesthesia: Loss of feeling or sensation; an anesthetic is any mechanism that causes anesthesia.

Antibacterial: Capable of destroying bacteria, often applied to a wound in the form of an ointment or cream.

Approximate: To bring together the edges of a wound.

Avascularization: Expulsions of blood from tissues; leaves the tissues with no blood supply.

Bandage: Nonsterile gauze or other material applied over a sterile dressing to protect and immobilize.

Betadine: Brand of povidone-iodine solution used as a skin antiseptic. Betadine is also available in a scrub (soap) solution.

Caustic: Corrosive and burning; destructive to living tissue.

Cautery: Destruction of tissue by burning.

Contamination: To make something unclean; often used to describe a sterile area being made “unsterile” or exposing a clean area to a pathogenic substance.

Dressing: Sterile gauze or other material applied directly to a wound to absorb secretions and to protect.

Epinephrine: Used to treat allergic reactions; also hormone also known as adrenaline. Epinephrine is manufactured as a chemical (pharmaceutical preparation) and is often mixed with local anesthetics for use as a vasoconstrictor in minor surgery.

Exudate: Accumulated fluid in a cavity; an oozing of pus; matter that penetrates through vessel walls into adjoining tissue.

Fenestrated: Having openings. A sterile, fenestrated drape is used in surgery. It has an opening (round) in it to expose only the operative site. The remainder of the drape covers the patient and is a sterile area.

Friable: Easily broken.

Hibeclens: Brand of antiseptic soap solution.

Hydrogen Peroxide: Antibacterial solution that has a mechanical cleansing action.

Infection: Invasion of pathogens into living tissue.

Inflammation: The normal nonspecific immune response by the body to any type of injury (trauma, bacterial, viral, and temperature extremes).

Informed Consent: Consent given by the patient who is made aware of any procedure to be performed, its risks, expected outcomes, and alternatives.

Isopropyl Alcohol: Commonly called rubbing alcohol; 70% alcohol solution commonly used as a cleaner.

Ligature: Length of suture thread without a needle, used for tying off vessels during surgery.

Liquid Nitrogen: Commonly and incorrectly referred to as dry ice, liquid nitrogen is a volatile freezing agent used to destroy unwanted tissue such as warts.

Mayo Stand/Instrument Tray

Ratchets: Locking mechanisms on the handles of many surgical instruments.

Silver Nitrate: Caustic astringent antiseptic. As a weak liquid, it is applied to the eyes of newborns to prevent infections at birth. In the medical office, it is most often seen as a solid substance impregnated onto the end of a wooden applicator. Silver nitrate applicator sticks contain hydrochloric acid and other chemicals and are commonly used to cauterize small blood vessels in the nose or other mucous membranes.

Sitz Bath: A warm water bath in which only the hips and buttocks are immersed.

Sodium Hydroxide: Chemical used to chemically burn and destroy tissue; usually in a liquid state when used in minor surgery.

Sterile Field: An area that is considered sterile, usually designated by a sterile drape. The area contains sterile supplies and instruments needed for a particular sterile procedure or surgery.

Strictures: Narrowing of a tube-like structure such as the esophagus or urethra.

Suppurant: An agent causing pus formation.

Surgery Cards: Written reference for surgeries and procedures.

Surgical Asepsis: Procedures that render objects sterile; techniques to maintain sterile conditions during invasive procedures.

Suture: Surgical material or thread; may describe the act of sewing with the surgical thread and needle.

Swaged: A surgical needle attached, during manufacturing, to a length of suture material.

Thermolabile: Easily affected by heat.

Thermophile: Resistant to destruction by heat; characteristic of some bacteria.

Unsterile Field: Area that is adjacent to the sterile field where items needed can be accessed, opened, and supplied by an individual who does not wear sterile garb.

Volatile: Easily evaporated.