

IN-OFFICE INFECTION CONTROL

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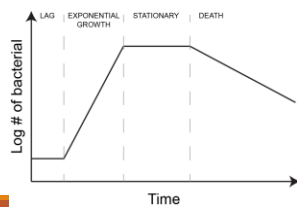
Main Outcomes

Aseptic vs Sterile techniques
Surgical Hygiene
Methods for disinfection
Methods for sterilization
Preparation of patients for procedures

Main reference – Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique

Microorganisms

Bacteria – eukaryotic vs. prokaryotic
Viruses
Protozoa
Fungi
Prions



Lines of defense

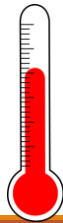
First line – generalized good health, natural biochemical, mechanical and anatomic protection

- Skin
- Mucous membranes
- Reflexes
- Sneeze
- Eyes
- Stomach acid, etc.

Lines of defense

Second line – body systems that aid in preventing the proliferation of bacteria.

- Inflammatory response
- Antibody production
- Elevation of temperature



Lines of defense

Third line – acquired naturally or through therapy. It requires exposure to the pathogen for which resistance is attained.

- Passive
- Active

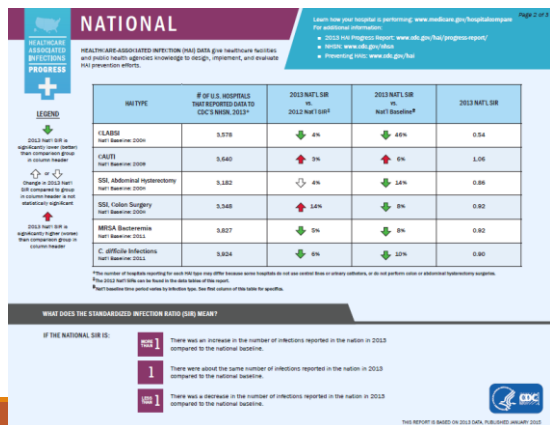
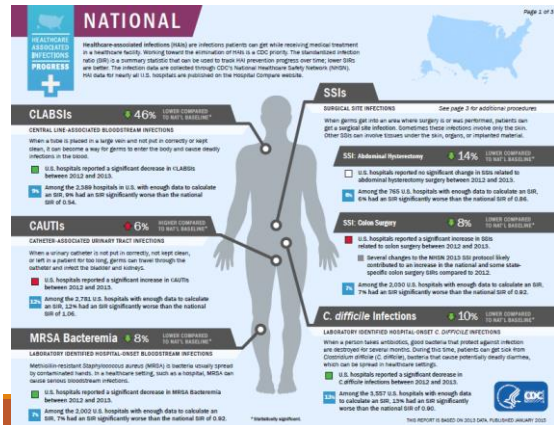
Surgical site infection

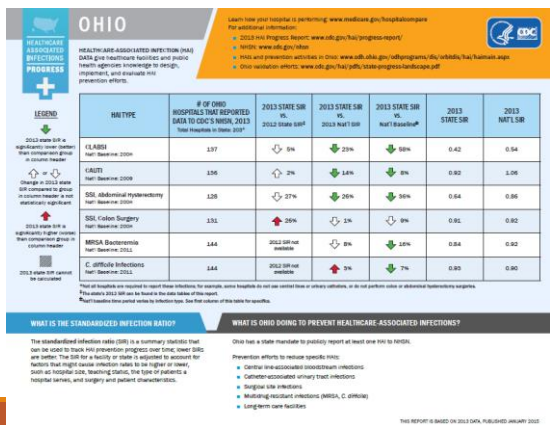
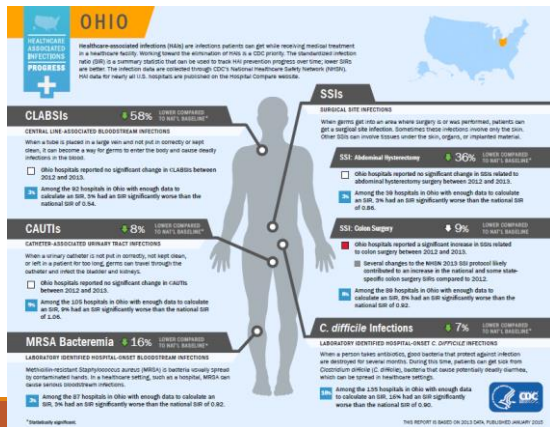
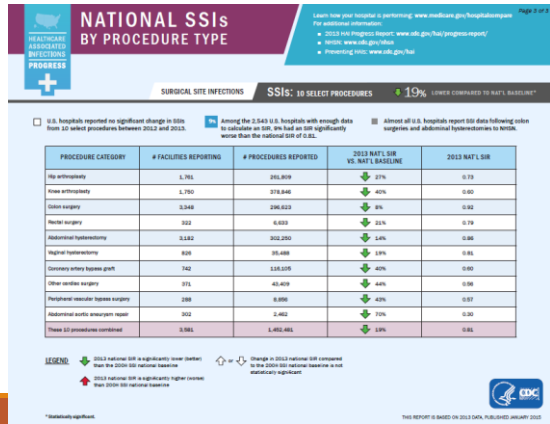
The CDC monitors healthcare associated infections (HAI)

In US hospitals approximately 1/25 patients on any day has at least one HAI.

Data from 2011 would suggest that of 721,800 HAIs, 21.8% were from a surgical site infection.

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/surveillance/>





Infection

It is always better to prevent infection than to treat.

Healing always occurs better by primary than secondary intention

Pre-op, it is important to ensure your patient does not already have some systemic infection. Diagnosis can be made when two of the following are present

- Temperature greater than 100.4°F
- Heart rate greater than 90 bpm
- High respiration rate (20-22/min)
- Elevated white cell count (12,000/mm³)

Infection

Key point

- Avoid surgical procedures on infected tissues unless necessary
- Treat infections prior to performing a minor surgical procedure
 - e.g. Treat blepharitis prior to performing Chalazion procedure.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

- Aseptic & Sterile Techniques
- Instrument Handling
- Surgical Environment
- Regulations/Resources

Aseptic, Sterile Techniques

On average, an individual sheds between 4,000 and 10,000 contaminated skin particles per minute.

In clinical practice, we are accustomed to using clean techniques for working with our patients.

Clean techniques include, washing your hands, wearing examination gloves, and keeping a clean office environment.

Clean techniques reduce communication of infectious materials, but does not eliminate them.

Aseptic, Sterile Techniques

Although the terms aseptic and sterile are used interchangeably, they are technically not the same.

Aseptic technique is similar to clean technique, but involves handling instrumentation, preps, etc. in a manner to minimize the number of microorganisms present.

Sterile technique is asepsis, but to a much higher standard. For example, sterile packs are only opened when needed and in areas designated as sterile. The goal is to minimize the microbial number to as low as possible.

Aseptic, Sterile Techniques

KEEPING IN MIND...

It might be possible to clean a tool to be 100% microbe free

The air in the room, and the patient's skin is still going to have pathogens present.

Spaulding's Levels of Importance

Critical items – confer a high risk for infection if they are contaminated. These include objects that enter sterile tissue or the vascular system. This category includes surgical instruments.

Semicritical items – items that contact mucous membranes or nonintact skin. This could include things such as D&I cannulas. These medical devices should be free from all microbes, but small number of spores may be permissible.

Noncritical items – items that come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membranes. These items should be disinfected using approved materials. Example might be a pulse oximeter used during minor procedures.

http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/Disinfection_Sterilization/2_approach.html

Instrument Cleaning

After each procedure, the instruments should be cleaned as soon as possible.

Instruments should have all debris removed from the surfaces, and opened if needed.

An enzyme based or soap based disinfectant should be used to gently remove all contaminants from the surface of the instruments.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when cleaning instruments. PPE may include a mask, eye protection, gloves, and closed toes shoes. More to come later on PPE in the surgical environment.

Presoaking

If debris or blood are present, or if materials are starting to dry on the instruments, presoak the tools.

Presoaking can be in a mild detergent or enzymatic formulation. Follow the instrument manufacturer's guidelines on how best to presoak, clean and sterilize their instruments.

In general materials may include stainless steel, titanium, and tungsten carbide.

Manual Cleaning

In general, most ophthalmic instruments should be cleaned by hand.

Using a soft brush, remove all debris on the instruments. Avoid splashing water or dispersing debris into the air.

Instruments should be rinsed and dried. Extreme care must be taken with delicate or sharp instruments.

Staff performing these tasks should wear PPE as previously described.



Ultrasonic Cleaning

For small ophthalmic tools – especially those with small crevices such as the chalazion curette, ultrasonic cleaning is an option.

The nature of ultrasound cleaning will loosen debris in the teeth of many tools used.

However, make sure you are able to place the tool in an ultrasonic cleaner prior to doing so.

Disinfection vs Sterilization

Disinfection is a process by which live pathogens are removed. However, spores may still be present.

- High-level – kills all bacteria, viruses and fungi, and may kill some endospores.
- Intermediate-level – Kills most bacteria, viruses and fungi on non-critical items.
- Low-level – Kills most vegetative bacteria, fungi, and some viruses on non-critical items.

Sterilization is a process by which live pathogens and spores are removed. These items can be used for surgical and minor surgical purposes.

Sterilization

There are many methods that can be used to sterilize tools. This will depend on what is appropriate for your tools and that recommended by the manufacturer.

It is necessary to monitor the sterilization process. This can be done using one of three indicators

- Mechanical indicators
- Chemical indicators
- Biological indicators

Instrument placement

Instruments should be placed such that

- They do not touch each other
- They are in the open position
- You should place one instrument per pack when using a pouch



Moist Heat - Autoclave

Easiest, safest, and fastest method.

Gravity displacement sterilizer – 250-254°F at 15-18 psi. Min exposure time 15 min

Pre-vacuum sterilizer – 270-276°F at 27 psi. Takes between 15-30 minutes.

Immediate/flash sterilize – 275°F at 27 psi. Takes 3-10 minutes, should not be used routinely.

Dry Heat

Used for oil based products.

Usually not used for instruments.

Mechanical convection oven – 320 – 340°F for 6-12 min.

Gravity convection oven – 250 – 270°F for 6 hours.

Ethylene Oxide

Used for items that are sensitive to heat.

Working temperature range is between 85 – 145°F

Not used commonly in private practice.

Requires specialized setups with specific health monitoring. Health records of those working with these tools have to be maintained for a minimum of 30 years.

ETO is extremely flammable and toxic.

Exposure time is usually long – up to 6hrs.

Plasma Sterilization

Plasma generation through H_2O_2 can be used to ionize particles on instrumentation

Takes between 35-75 min

Works at low temperatures

Not all materials can be sterilized using this method. Nylon becomes brittle for example.

Chemical

Most work at low temperatures

It offers good penetration into many materials.

It can be corrosive to certain materials.

It often requires extended periods of exposure time.

Many of the chemicals used are hazardous to your health.

Instruments have to be rinsed prior to use.

Chemical

Acetic acid

Formaldehyde

Glutaraldehyde

Paracetic acid

Hypochlorous acid



Many are mixtures with alcohols and/or other disinfectants

THE SURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Pre-op

Verify that all tools and materials needed including emergency supplies are available.

Obtain a complete case history including review of systems. Get HPI of the pathology being addressed.

Provide patient with all alternatives to surgical intervention. Discuss risks and benefits.

Determine if the procedure is medically necessary. Photodocument the lesion or anterior segment pathology.

Get vital signs. Some may order EKG and bloodwork on their patients.

The surgical environment

Components of appropriate attire

- Head cover
- Shoe covers
- Mask (laser)
- Surgical gown
- Surgical gloves



FIG. 15-1 Zones of sterility on front of gown. The zones of sterility can change based on position of draped patient and sterile team.



FIG. 15-3 Sterile personnel keep hands in sight at or above waist or level of sterile field. Gowns are considered sterile only in front from chest to level of sterile field, and the sleeves from above elbows to cuffs.



FIG. 15-2 Zones of sterility when standing at sterile field with patient as the baseline for the level of the sterile field.



FIG. 15-4 Seated team for upper extremity procedure. The zones of sterility change based on the placement of the team in relation to the type of surgical procedure.

Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique

Preparing the surgical site

Patient is informed to wash their face with anti-microbial soap the day prior to, and the day of their procedure. They are also asked to wash their hair. This decreases bacterial load.

Prior to the procedure, the doctor may decide that hair needs to be removed if it will interfere with the surgical process.

Preparing the surgical site

The surgical staff will drape the area being cleaned, and wash the site being worked on.

Cleaning solutions may include

- Chlorhexidine
- Iodine and iodophors
- Alcohol
- Triclosan
- Parachlorometaxylenol



Preparing the surgical site

Using a circular inward to outward motion, clean the area.



It is important to apply the cleaning agent to the lash margin and eyebrow region

Preparing the surgical site

Once area has been cleaned, a sterile drape can be placed over the region of interest.

Sterile drapes should be placed on the instrument stand (Mayo stand). This should not be done ahead of time.

The sterile field must be maintained and is the responsibility of all those in the surgical environment.

Post procedure

Instruments should be handled as previously described.

If there is any exposure or incident, OSHA guidelines should be followed.

All individuals working in an area with reasonable chance of being exposed to bloodborne pathogens should be trained.

Common Exposures

Needlesticks

- The most common exposure.
- Remove both gloves, and place hands under running water, and clean with disinfectant soap. Squeeze the skin around the puncture wound.

Every healthcare facility must develop a written exposure control plan.

OSHA

Exposure plan must be updated annually
Implement the use of universal precautions
Identify and use engineering controls
Identify and ensure the use of work practice controls
Provide PPE
Make available hepatitis B vaccinations
Make available post-exposure evaluation and follow-up to any occupationally exposed worker.
Use labels and signs to communicate hazards.
Provide information and training to workers.
Maintain worker medical and training records.

https://www.osha.gov/OstDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/bbfact01.pdf
