



Lesson Plan: Suturing Assistance Skills for Surgical Technology Students

Course Information

- **Instructor Name:**
 - **Date of Lesson:**
 - **Class/Group:**
 - **Student Skill Level:** Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced
 - **Materials Needed:**
 - Suturing kits for demonstration, including various needles and suture types
 - Needle holders, forceps, scissors, and sterile suture materials
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Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces the skills needed to assist during suturing procedures. Students will learn to select, load, handle, and pass suturing instruments effectively, maintaining sterile technique and anticipating the surgeon's needs.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. **Identify** various types of suturing materials, needles, and instruments commonly used in surgical procedures.
2. **Load** a needle onto a needle holder with the correct technique, following proper alignment for different suturing needs.
3. **Demonstrate** proper handling and passing of suturing instruments to the surgeon.
4. **Assist** the surgeon by maintaining an organized sterile field and effectively passing materials as needed.

5. **Evaluate** the quality of sutures as directed by the surgeon and assist in making any necessary adjustments.

Preparation Steps

- Prepare suturing kits with various types of needles and suture materials.
- Arrange a demonstration station to show correct instrument handling, loading, and passing techniques.
- Ensure students have reviewed AST Core Curriculum content on assisting in wound closure, sterile handling, and instrument identification.

Instructional Outline

Time	Activity	Details
5 min	Introduction to Suturing Materials	Review the types of sutures, needles, and instruments. Emphasize proper identification and selection based on wound type and tissue.
10 min	Loading the Needle Holder	Demonstrate how to load a needle onto the needle holder, including proper angle and grip for different suture types. Ensure students practice this.
5 min	Safe Handling and Ergonomics	Show safe handling techniques, emphasizing ergonomics and aseptic principles.
10 min	Passing Techniques	Demonstrate and practice proper passing techniques, including positioning and timing. Ensure students maintain a sterile field.
5 min	Organizing the Sterile Field	Demonstrate efficient organization of tools and materials to prepare for suturing, ensuring easy access and orderliness.
5 min	Anticipation and Communication	Teach students how to read the surgeon's cues, anticipate needs, and make necessary adjustments during suturing.

Time	Activity	Details
5 min	Review & Q&A	Recap key points, answer questions, and provide practical tips for effective assistance during suturing procedures.

Skill Evaluation Criteria

During practice, evaluate students on their proficiency in the following skills, aligned with AST Core Curriculum standards:

Skill	Proficient	Developing	Needs Improvement	Comments/Feedback
Identification of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loading of Needle Holder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Safe Handling of Instruments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Proper Passing Techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sterile Field Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anticipating Surgeon's Needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Provide targeted feedback on loading technique, instrument handling, and passing skills, helping students refine their aseptic technique and ergonomic handling.

Feedback and Recommendations

- **Strengths Observed:**
- **Areas for Improvement:**

- **Suggested Additional Practice:**

- Practice in simulation labs with different needle types and loading techniques.
- Observe suturing procedures to understand surgeon cues and improve timing.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- **Homework/Practice Assignment:** Practice loading different suture types and handling instruments, focusing on aseptic techniques.
- **Next Session Preview:** Advanced assistance techniques in suturing, including complex wound closures and specialty suturing contexts.

Instructor Signature:

This lesson plan prepares students to proficiently assist with suturing by covering the essential tasks of loading, handling, and passing instruments, ensuring they are well-prepared to support surgeons during wound closure.