

ATLANTIC MEDICAL IMAGING

POLICY STATEMENT AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

CATEGORY: INFECTION CONTROL

Subject: Aseptic Technique

Purpose:

To minimize the risk of potential infection in patients receiving minimally invasive procedures in accordance with the ACR and AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices guidelines. Proper aseptic technique is one of the most fundamental and essential principles of infection control in the clinical setting.

Policy:

Aseptic technique will be followed during all minimally invasive procedures. When performing minimally invasive procedures, a maximal sterile barrier will be used. The maximal sterile barrier requires washing hands with soap and water, and/or alcohol scrub (61%), and for certain IR procedures an approved antimicrobial product comprised of Chlorhexidine or iodine scrub. A surgical hat, mask, shoe covers, sterile gloves, and gown should be worn when appropriate.

Procedure:

Aseptic technique encompasses practices performed immediately before and during a procedure. These include the following:

- Hand washing
- Personal protective equipment
- Set up and maintaining a sterile field
- Patient prepping

Hand washing:

Mechanically agitate hands under running water with an antimicrobial product for approximately 15-20 seconds. Thoroughly rinse hands under running water. Use paper towels to blot and dry your hands, using a dry paper towel to turn off faucets. For minimally invasive procedures the person/persons setting up the tray or prepping the patient along with the doctor will wash their hands with an approved hand soap, antimicrobial product, Chlorhexidine scrub and/or alcohol scrub (61%), also following the manufacture directions for use.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Gloves, gowns, shoe covers, and masks provide a barrier against potentially infectious microorganisms and should be worn by all health care workers who may come in contact with blood or other body fluids. Any persons working directly in the “sterile field” are required to wear sterile gloves and a mask. In procedures that require a sterile field be maintained, persons in

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contact with the sterile field will don a sterile gown, when appropriate. Masks are to be worn during all procedures and when setting up a sterile tray/field. Hair is pulled up and back off the face and all facial hair will be kept neatly trimmed and easily covered with appropriate hair net or bouffant cap.

Set Up and Maintaining a Sterile Field:

Sterile fields will be prepared as close to the start time of the case as possible, in the room it is to be used. Sterile drapes shall be used on the patient and on the table used for the sterile field. During the draping process, drapes should be compact, held higher than the procedure table and draped from the entry field to the periphery. Anything extending below the level of the table is considered not sterile. Sterile packages shall be opened from the far side to near side, ensuring that tails are secure. The solution receptacle should be placed near the edge of the table and the solutions poured slowly to avoid splashing. It is preferable that no cover be used to cover the sterile table. All sterile equipment is considered contaminated from one procedure to another. A sterile set up cannot be used if it has been exposed to another patient. If sterility of an item is in question, consider it contaminated.

Patient Prepping:

The patient should be made as comfortable as possible before prep and draping begins. Once the procedure site is determined, it should be well exposed so not to increase the risk of contamination during the procedure. Inspect the skin for areas of irritation, cuts/ wounds, and rashes, avoid these areas when possible. Shaving is not allowed; if hair needs to be removed, it should be clipped with a surgical clipper. If the skin is visibly soiled, wash the area first. Using an approved antiseptic, gently scrub the skin in a circular motion, beginning in the center of the site and moving outward. Drape the patient fully while handling the drapes as little as possible to avoid contamination.

References:

<https://aornjournal.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/aorn.12662>

[Clinical Safety: Hand Hygiene for Healthcare Workers | Clean Hands | CDC](#)