NCCT Tech in Surgery Certified (TSC) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- **Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,**
- **Improve accuracy and speed,**
- **Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and**
- **Approach the exam with greater confidence.**

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here’s how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don’t just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There’s no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

1. **What is the correct procedure for breaking scrub after surgery has concluded?**

   A. Wipe blood off of gloves and remove them.

   B. Using a gloved hand, untie the neck of the gown.

   C. Wipe off gloves, grasp gown at the shoulders, and roll the gown forward.

   D. Ask the circulator to assist in removing the gown and gloves.

2. **When assembling instruments for sterilization, how should the surgical technologist position clamps?**

   A. In the locked position

   B. In the open position

   C. With larger instruments together

   D. With smaller instruments grouped together

3. **Which retractor has sharp disposable inserts that require disposal in a sharps container?**

   A. Mayfield

   B. Cloward

   C. Bookwalter

   D. Greenfield

4. **Which of the following items would NOT typically be opened for an abdominal hysterectomy procedure?**

   A. Scalpel

   B. Trocar

   C. Endoscopic camera

   D. Raytec sponges

5. **Before opening implants during a total knee replacement, which must the surgical technologist verify? (Select the three correct answers)**

   A. Expiration date

   B. Lot number

   C. Size

   D. Manufacturer name

6. What action should the surgical technologist take when they miss instruments during an automatic washer cycle?

A. Stop the cycle and add the instruments

B. Wait until the cycle stops and run a new cycle

C. Add the instruments while adding more chemicals

D. Wait and add the instruments at the end of the cycle

7. What is the purpose of a chemical indicator in a sterilized package?

A. Verify elimination of living flora on the package.

B. Confirm that the package was exposed to sterilization.

C. Show that no moisture entered the package.

D. Ensure that the package is sterile.

8. What is the correct method for sterilizing a non-flexible fiber optic endoscope?

A. Steam

B. Ethylene oxide

C. Dry heat

D. Chemical sterilization

9. Which of the following is a correct date notation for a sterile package?

A. 320

B. 164

C. 210

D. 108

10. What action should a surgical technologist take if the autoclave cycle fails while preparing implants?

A. Rerun the wrapped implants with an external chemical monitor taped to the outside.

B. Ask the night operating room supervisor to postpone the surgical procedure.

C. Unwrap, decontaminate and re-sterilize implants with a biological test pack.

D. Have the sterilizer scheduled for repair and halt sterilization of all implants.

Answers

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. C

Explanations

1. What is the correct procedure for breaking scrub after surgery has concluded?

A. Wipe blood off of gloves and remove them.

B. Using a gloved hand, untie the neck of the gown.

C. Wipe off gloves, grasp gown at the shoulders, and roll the gown forward.

D. Ask the circulator to assist in removing the gown and gloves.

The correct procedure for breaking scrub after surgery has concluded involves maintaining aseptic technique while safely removing surgical attire. Rolling the gown forward while grasping it at the shoulders minimizes the risk of contamination. This method ensures that the outside of the gown, which may have been exposed to contaminants, does not come into contact with the sterile glove. By rolling the gown inward as it is being removed, the inner sterile surfaces remain protected. This procedure effectively prevents any potential pathogens from transferring to the hands or the body of the surgical team member. In contrast, wiping blood off gloves or using gloved hands inappropriately to untie the neck of the gown poses a risk of cross-contamination. Having a circulator assist can also introduce unnecessary steps that might not maintain the aseptic process as effectively. Therefore, rolling the gown forward is recognized as the safest and most effective technique in breaking scrub after surgery.

2. When assembling instruments for sterilization, how should the surgical technologist position clamps?

A. In the locked position

B. In the open position

C. With larger instruments together

D. With smaller instruments grouped together

When preparing instruments for sterilization, positioning clamps in the open position is essential. This allows steam or gas to circulate effectively around the instrument's jaws and inside its hinges during the sterilization process. An open position ensures that any contaminants present inside the clamp are adequately removed and that the entire instrument is penetrated by the sterilizing agent, which is crucial for achieving sterility. Other options do not promote effective sterilization. Clamps placed in the locked position may not allow proper sterilization because the closed jaws can trap contaminants and prevent the sterilizing agent from reaching all surfaces. Grouping instruments by size does not directly influence the effectiveness of sterilization and could complicate the process if larger instruments block the sterilization of smaller ones.

3. Which retractor has sharp disposable inserts that require disposal in a sharps container?

A. Mayfield

B. Cloward

C. Bookwalter

D. Greenfield

The Mayfield retractor is specifically designed for neurosurgical procedures and features sharp disposable inserts that are critical for maintaining a clear surgical field during operations involving delicate tissues. The sharpness of these inserts allows for effective retraction of the scalp and underlying tissues without excessive trauma, which is vital in neurosurgery to protect nerve structures and blood vessels. When these sharp inserts are used, they create a significant risk for injury if not handled properly. Therefore, they need to be disposed of in a sharps container, which is a standardized protocol in surgical environments to ensure safety and biohazard compliance. This is an essential aspect of surgical practice, as it helps prevent needle-stick injuries and the potential transmission of infections. While other retractors listed, such as Cloward, Bookwalter, and Greenfield, serve specific functions in various surgical disciplines, they do not possess the sharp, disposable inserts characteristic of the Mayfield retractor.

4. Which of the following items would NOT typically be opened for an abdominal hysterectomy procedure?

A. Scalpel

B. Trocar

C. Endoscopic camera

D. Raytec sponges

In an abdominal hysterectomy procedure, the primary focus is on the surgical approach to remove the uterus through an open incision in the abdomen. The tools and materials used during the procedure are specific to the techniques of open surgery and the requirements of the operation. An endoscopic camera is generally not utilized in a standard abdominal hysterectomy because this procedure involves making a direct incision rather than using minimally invasive techniques such as laparoscopy. Laparoscopic procedures often rely on such cameras to provide visual assistance through small incisions, but in an abdominal hysterectomy, the visibility is achieved through direct access to the surgical site. Therefore, an endoscopic camera is not a necessary item for this type of surgery. In contrast, a scalpel is essential for making the initial incision. A trocar might be employed if laparoscopic instruments are being introduced but is more limited in conventional open surgeries. Raytec sponges are utilized for absorbing blood and fluids, which is a standard part of any surgical procedure to maintain a clean working area. In summary, since an abdominal hysterectomy is primarily performed through open access, the endoscopic camera, used for minimally invasive approaches, would not be a standard item opened for this specific surgical procedure.

5. Before opening implants during a total knee replacement, which must the surgical technologist verify? (Select the three correct answers)

A. Expiration date

B. Lot number

C. Size

D. Manufacturer name

Before opening implants during a total knee replacement, it's crucial for the surgical technologist to verify several key pieces of information to ensure patient safety and the success of the surgery. Verifying the expiration date is essential because using expired implants can compromise sterility and the integrity of the materials used, potentially leading to post-operative complications. The expiration date confirms that the implant is still safe for use and has not degraded over time. Additionally, checking the lot number is important for tracking purposes. The lot number allows the surgical team to trace the product back to the manufacturer in the case of a recall or defect. This is a crucial step in maintaining the highest safety standards within the operating room. Verifying the size of the implant is also critical. Implants come in various sizes, and using the correct size is pivotal for proper fit and function; an incorrect size may result in improper alignment or instability following the procedure. While the manufacturer name could also be a relevant piece of information, the primary verifications that directly impact the surgical procedure are the expiration date, lot number, and size of the implant. Ensuring these details are accurate helps prevent clinical errors, which can significantly affect patient outcomes.

6. What action should the surgical technologist take when they miss instruments during an automatic washer cycle?

A. Stop the cycle and add the instruments

B. Wait until the cycle stops and run a new cycle

C. Add the instruments while adding more chemicals

D. Wait and add the instruments at the end of the cycle

When a surgical technologist misses instruments during an automatic washer cycle, the appropriate action is to wait until the cycle stops and then run a new cycle. This ensures that the instruments are washed and sterilized properly according to the manufacturer's specifications and the institution's protocols. Running a new cycle is important because adding instruments mid-cycle could disrupt the cleaning process, potentially leading to inadequate cleaning or damage to both the instruments and the machine. Moreover, using the washer as designed allows for consistent chemical exposure and thorough cleaning, which is critical to maintaining the integrity of surgical instruments and ensuring patient safety. Handling instruments in a way that aligns with standard operating procedures minimizes the risk of contaminants remaining on the instruments, guaranteeing they are properly prepared for use in a surgical setting.

7. What is the purpose of a chemical indicator in a sterilized package?

A. Verify elimination of living flora on the package.

B. Confirm that the package was exposed to sterilization.

C. Show that no moisture entered the package.

D. Ensure that the package is sterile.

The purpose of a chemical indicator in a sterilized package is to confirm that the package was exposed to the sterilization process. These indicators change color or display a specific visual change when the conditions necessary for sterilization—such as temperature and time—are met. This helps healthcare professionals ensure that the items inside the package have been processed properly and that the sterilization environment was effective. While other factors like eliminating living flora and ensuring the package remains sterile are important, those elements are generally confirmed through different methods. For instance, biological indicators are used to verify the elimination of microorganisms and ensure sterility more definitively. Furthermore, indicators do not specifically show that moisture did not enter the package, which is an unrelated concern, as moisture can impact the effectiveness of certain sterilization methods but is not a role of the chemical indicator itself.

8. What is the correct method for sterilizing a non-flexible fiber optic endoscope?

A. Steam

B. Ethylene oxide

C. Dry heat

D. Chemical sterilization

The correct method for sterilizing a non-flexible fiber optic endoscope is steam sterilization. This technique is effective in achieving high levels of microbial reduction and is widely used in healthcare settings for various heat-resistant instruments. In steam sterilization, the combination of heat and moisture at a controlled temperature and pressure effectively kills bacteria, viruses, fungi, and spores, ensuring the endoscope is safe for use in surgical procedures. Non-flexible fiber optic endoscopes are designed to withstand the high temperatures and pressures associated with steam sterilization. It is essential to ensure that the endoscope is thoroughly cleaned before sterilization, as organic material can inhibit the sterilization process. Other methods mentioned, such as ethylene oxide, dry heat, and chemical sterilization, may not be suitable for this type of endoscope. Ethylene oxide requires longer processing times and specific environmental controls, making it less efficient for some devices. Dry heat can be used for sterilization, but it may not penetrate materials as effectively as steam, leading to possible incomplete sterilization. Similarly, chemical sterilization may not provide the same consistent microbial kill rates required for surgical instruments.

9. Which of the following is a correct date notation for a sterile package?

A. 320

B. 164

C. 210

D. 108

The correct choice for date notation on a sterile package is indicated by the number 164. This notation typically represents the date when the package was sterilized according to specific industry standards. In many surgical settings, date notation often follows a format that includes the year, month, and day, or it may utilize a sequential numbering system that corresponds to the year or the Julian calendar. In this case, the number "164" can be interpreted as 164 days into the year, which corresponds to a specific date, ensuring that the items remain sterile and that any expiration or reprocessing timelines are based on a valid date. This is essential in maintaining the sterility and safety of surgical instruments and supplies. Accurate date notation helps surgical techs and healthcare professionals track the usability of sterile items, thereby reducing the risk of infections during surgical procedures. The other options do not conform to recognized date formats or are not meaningful in terms of tracking sterilization dates, which is why they are not the correct choice.

10. What action should a surgical technologist take if the autoclave cycle fails while preparing implants?

A. Rerun the wrapped implants with an external chemical monitor taped to the outside.

B. Ask the night operating room supervisor to postpone the surgical procedure.

C. Unwrap, decontaminate and re-sterilize implants with a biological test pack.

D. Have the sterilizer scheduled for repair and halt sterilization of all implants.

The appropriate action for a surgical technologist when the autoclave cycle fails while preparing implants is to unwrap, decontaminate, and re-sterilize the implants with a biological test pack. This response ensures that the implants are properly cleaned and then subjected to a new sterilization cycle to guarantee their safety for surgical use. If the autoclave cycle fails, it indicates that the sterilization process did not complete successfully. Simply rerunning the wrapped implants with an external chemical monitor does not address the problem since the chemical monitor will not confirm the sterility of the items if the previous cycle was incomplete. Therefore, this option is insufficient for ensuring that the implants are sterile. Asking the night operating room supervisor to postpone the surgical procedure may seem like a viable option since the implants are not sterile, but it does not directly address the immediate need to ensure the implants are sterilized in a timely manner for the surgery to proceed if possible. Scheduling a repair for the sterilizer and halting the sterilization of all implants is not a constructive solution at this point. The focus should be on resolving the issue with the specific implants in question rather than halting the entire sterilization process. The priority is to ensure that the implants are effectively

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://nccttechinsurgery.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!