

Opening and Closing Abdominal Incision

I. Consent

- Discusses the various factors that impair wound healing (e.g. comorbidity, age, immunosuppression, obesity, smoking)

II. Pre operation planning

- Discusses type of abdominal wounds (midline, Kocher's, Pfannenstiel, gridiron)
- Demonstrates understanding of the anatomy of the anterior abdominal wall
- Aware of clinical indications
- Aware of significant co-morbidities - obesity, renal disease, etc.
- Knows relevant results
- Has reviewed relevant imaging

III. Pre operative preparation

- Demonstrates incision technique – blade, diathermy
- WHO Safety check and team time out
- Consideration of DVT prophylaxis and antibiotic prophylaxis
- Ensures specialised equipment available as required
- Patient is positioned appropriately
- Prepares and drapes appropriately

IV. Exposure and closure

- Appropriate sutures selected (PDS/nylon)
- Appropriate spacing of sutures
- Appropriate fascial incorporation with suture
- Appropriate skin closure (staples/sutures)
- Appropriate dressings
- Demonstrates technique for avoiding bowel injury

V. Intra operative technique: global (G) and task-specific items (T)

- Minimum trauma during dissection
- Appropriate use of blade, diathermy (cut/coag)
- Appropriate identification of tissues
- Safe and appropriate entry into the peritoneal cavity
- Appropriate and safe retraction
- Demonstrates safe handling of sharps

VI. Post operative management

- Sound documentation and operating notes
- Statement regarding removal of dressing and/or skin sutures/staples
- Advises wound care

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