

Minimum Standards for Aseptic Surgery for Rodents

1. Instruments*

- a. Instruments must be sterile (autoclaved) before starting aseptic surgery
- b. Use a fresh set for each operation
- c. If a fresh set is not available for batch surgery then a method of sterilizing instruments between each procedure must be in place

2. Consumables:

- a. All consumables (e.g. swabs, needles, suture materials) must be sterile. These can be ordered in advance from the Unit Manager.

3. Animal preparation

- a. Clip and prep the animal for surgery in a separate place from the operating field.
- b. Clip and disinfect the incision site adequately using organic iodine or chlorhexidine solutions. Avoid alcohol.
- c. Always cover the animal and bench with sterile drapes

4. Surgeon preparation:

- a. Use a clean gown (preferably sterile) or cover-all. These are available from the Unit Manager.
- b. Wash your hands and use sterile gloves

5. During Surgery

- a. Do not touch anything that is not sterile with sterile surgical gloves
- b. Only put down instruments on the sterile drape
- c. If you need to touch a non-sterile surface, e.g. anaesthetic machine, either change gloves immediately afterwards or use a sterile swab and immediately discard it

Do's and Don'ts of Aseptic Technique		
		
Plan	• Have all your surgical equipment ready in advance • If in doubt consult the NVS or NACWO before starting any surgery	• Do not arrive unprepared and expect everything to be available and ready
Instruments	• Use sterilized surgical instruments and consumables for each surgery*	• Alcohol/chlorhexidine does NOT sterilize the instruments. • Do not put sterile instrument down onto the bench
Animal Preparation	• Prepare the skin of the animal adequately** • Use sterile drapes	• Alcohol is ineffective for skin preparation • Don't contaminate the sterile field with non-sterile items
Surgeon	• Wear a clean gown or coverall • Wash your hands • Wear sterile gloves and change them if they become contaminated or punctured.	• DO NOT touch non-sterile surfaces after gloving up This includes the fur of the animal, anaesthetic machine, consumables and your phone! • Do not allow the suture material to drag over a non-sterile surface

* Autoclaving facilities and sterile consumables are available in the BSU. Contact the Unit Manager for further details

** Follow this link for the current LASA Guiding Principles for Preparing for and Undertaking Aseptic

Surgery: http://www.lasa.co.uk/PDF/LASA_Guiding_Principles_Aseptic_Surgery_2010.2.pdf