

YIELD

AND TAKE TIME TO RECONCILE AN INCORRECT COUNT

USE THIS INCORRECT COUNT CHECKLIST

NURSES

SURGEONS

- STOP CLOSING THE WOUND!**
Remove fascial sutures and place retractor
- Repeat the methodical wound examination, in a heart case check behind heart in the posterior mediastinum
- Actively look and feel for missing sponge

ADDITIONAL HELP

- Consider getting "another set of hands" to feel

- Cover the wound with towel or plastic drape

XRAY

- Call for Xrays: get 2 views. An AP and an oblique or lateral view

- Tell radiologist what type of sponge is missing and in a heart case, to look in the posterior mediastinum

- A radiologist should review the film before it is called negative especially if sponge not found

- Tell surgeon what type of sponge is missing

- Ask surgeon to repeat methodical wound exam

- Repeat count
- Check holders to make sure only one sponge per pocket
- Search trash, linens

- Call for personnel to search, call nurse manager

- Scrubperson search field and drapes

- Call for Xrays, include call back info on requisition

- Check sponge "departure" opportunities (e.g. went with newborn, around a specimen, anesthesia trash, morgue, around GI scope)

- Contact visitors who may have left the room

IF SPONGE NOT FOUND:

- RECORD COUNT AS INCORRECT
- TELL THE SURGEON
- REPORT TO ADMINISTRATION
- DISCLOSE TO THE PATIENT

Sponge **ACCOUNTING** System



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