

IV The Sections of Surgery

The surgical service in General Hospital #12 is made up of six sections:

1. general and abdominal
2. orthopedic
3. septic
4. eye, ear, nose, and throat
5. genito-urinary
6. neurological and vascular

Rooms and equipment especially designed for each of these sections are furnished, but they are not definitely assigned to any one particular section, since an accumulation of a large number of certain types of surgical cases will necessitate shifting the equipment to where it is most needed. Furthermore, because of the limited number of nurses assigned to surgery it will be impossible to assign certain nurses to certain surgical sections, though whenever possible the same nurses and enlisted personnel will work on any one section with the same group of medical officers.

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The following instrument lists for the various sections of surgery are designed to act as a guide to the operating room personnel insofar as they furnish a basic instrument set for the various types of operations done in any one section. They are not intended to be complete lists. Special or additional equipment can be furnished on short notice when the need for such equipment is made known just before or during the operation. The medical officers working in surgery are asked to cooperate to their best ability in not asking for unusual supplies, disproportionate help in the operating room, and in scheduling their cases at least 12 hours ahead of operation whenever that is possible.

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1. General Surgery

1. Abdominal Surgery

Whenever possible, and this will be altered by site of entrance and exit of missile and by x-ray localization, we will use a midline incision, either above or below the umbilicus, and often with the umbilicus as a center.

Skin knife, to be discarded after incision is made

4 towels

8 towel clips

4 moist lap pads

00 and 000 catgut

Black silk

12 small Kelly forceps

1 groove director

3 sizes of scissors

2 dull retractors

2 sharp retractors

2 tissue forceps with teeth

2 tissue forceps without teeth

1 Pitkin syringe or 5 cc and 10 cc glass syringes

After the abdomen has been opened:

Aspirator tip and tubing
12 Kocher forceps
12 mosquito forceps
1 mechanical bell retractor

Now, depending upon the type of case at hand, the following additional lists:

a. Gunshot wounds of the abdomen:

2 or 3 Jackson retractors of different sizes
3 Peyer clamps
Long tissue forceps with teeth
Enterostomy clamps with rubber tubing
Several rubber catheters, both straight and mushroom
Small curved needles
Swaged catgut or silk with non-traumatic needles
2-prong dull retractors
3 flexible retractors
10 Allis clamps
Ring forceps, long and short
Fine silk
00 or 000 plain and chromic catgut

b. Subdiaphragmatic abscess:

1 scalpel
2 2-pronged sharp retractors
1 periosteal elevator
Rib cutter
Cigarette drains of various sizes

c. Pelvic abscess

To be opened through rectum:

Add to above listed instruments: 1 dull curved 8 inch forceps

d. Acute appendicitis

Minimal amount of instruments
10 hemostats
Several scalpels
Several scissors
Fine catgut and/or silk
Several goiter type or flexible retractors

e. Splenectomy

Usual set up, with
6 straight 8 inch forceps
6 curved 8 inch forceps

f. Gall Bladder

Usual set up, with

Gall bladder spoons and common duct probes of various sizes
Duct dilators of various sizes
Iodoform or plain gauze for packing of gall bladder bed bleeding

g. Enterostomy

Usual set up, plus
Mushroom and plain catheters
Syringe and needle for bowel aspiration
Fine silk and catgut
Rubber covered enterostomy clamps

For operations of stomach, if gastric resection is necessary the set up always included the Peyer clamps.
For colon resections, Peyer clamps or 8 inch curved and straight forceps may be used, including a basic set up for abdominal section.

h. Hernia

Several scalpels
12 Kocher forceps
Dull and 2 pronged retractors, several
Grooved director
Hernia tape
Several scissors
Fine 00 or 000 catgut or fine silk