

Worksheet: What is Surgery?

Surgery is a physical intervention to repair or change the human body. A surgeon or other medical professional normally carries it out.

What is the difference between emergency and elective surgery?

Surgery is categorised by specialism and by priority. The three different levels of priority are emergency, semi-elective and elective

In a modern hospital, surgery is discussed according to priority. **Emergency** surgery must be carried out immediately to avoid death or serious long-term damage. Elective surgery is non-urgent. Semi-elective surgery should not be delayed for more than a short period..

Sometimes **exploratory** surgery is needed to suggest or confirm a **diagnosis**. Exploratory surgery to investigate the extent of a cancer, for example may be more urgent than an elective operation where quality of life is the primary issues.

Cosmetic surgery corrects physical deformities or can be used to alter some aspect of appearance. It may involve several operations over a period of time.

What is an operating theatre?

An operating theatre is a room dedicated to surgery. It contains heart monitors and other specialist equipment.

The operating theatre needs to be a **sterile** environment. Keeping wounds clean is essential for both elective and emergency surgery. Surgeons wear special hats (caps) shoes, gowns, gloves and masks. Surgical instruments must be sterilised.

Quick Check: True or false?

1. Only surgeons carry out surgery.
2. Elective surgery must be carried out immediately.
3. Exploratory surgery attempts aims is a form of examination.
4. Cosmetic surgery may not be medically necessary.
5. Surgery should be carried out in an operating theatre.
6. Surgeons wear special clothes.

Vocabulary

Complete these sentences using the words below

1. A surgeon needs - and ----- knowledge
2. After a serious accident ---- surgery may be needed.
3. A ---- surgical environment is essential to reduce risk.
4. Major surgery should be carried out in an -----
5. Surgeons need to assess --- every time they operate.

Cardiac * anatomical * operating theatre * risk * emergency * sterile