

Midwife as Surgical First Assistant Objectives

After studying the book and completing the exam, the learner will have gained knowledge to:

1. Describe the core skills and activities that define the first assistant role.
2. Describe the CNM and CM scope of practice related to the first assistant role.
3. Describe the purpose of an orientation to the operating room for the first assistant.
4. Describe the purpose of the clinical case log.
5. Identify techniques for maintaining hemostasis during surgery.
6. Identify 5 benefits of the midwife as first assistant for cesarean.
7. Describe the midwife's role in preoperative assessment, including anesthetic assessment.
8. Identify the key components of surgical aseptic technique.
9. Identify what is "exposure" and how does the first assistant ensure that it occurs?
10. Identify the key anatomic structures and landmarks that are encountered during abdominal wall dissection for cesarean.
11. Identify the instruments in each category that are most commonly used during cesarean.
12. Identify two uses for electrosurgery.
13. Describe the difference between blunt dissection and sharp dissection
14. Identify three common knot tying techniques used during cesarean, along with the primary benefit of each knot.
15. Describe the types of suture, needle characteristics, and their significance related to cesarean.
16. Provide a brief description of the main type of stitches used and identify indications for their use.
17. Describe the continuous suturing technique used for repair of the fascia, using the "rule of ones".
18. Describe abdominal wall closure, including the role of the midwife, the sutures for each layer, and the first assistant's and surgeon's actions.
19. Describe the value of capturing one's experience in a learning journal, reading operative notes, and reflective thinking after each case.
20. What the purpose is of having a uniform policy to support expanded practice privileges for midwives as first assistants?