

Chapter 5.1

Operation Theatre Cleaning

Theatre cleaning can be divided into daily cleaning, weekly cleaning and monthly cleaning.

Daily cleaning consists of sweeping the floor, collection and disposal of waste, wiping the OT table and the microscopes with a damp cloth and washing the floor with a disinfectant like chlorhexidine or Lysol (7%). The floor is first swept and waste collected to be disposed off properly. The OT furniture is damp dusted and the floor washed with water and mopped with a disinfectant. Dry dusting should never be undertaken for operation theatre. Two bucket method is preferred i.e. one bucket is used for wringing and the other has fresh water. This way the unclean water does not get mixed with clean water. The hand towels, theatre table covers, trolley covers all need to be changed. The patient head support, needs to be washed or wiped with a disinfectant. The block room, changing room and toilets need to be cleaned daily. The scrub area should be cleaned thoroughly as it is a potential source of infection.

Weekly cleaning includes removal of all the articles from the shelves and dusting the cupboards and shelves. The walls of the room are also washed. The whole room is first washed with ample water and then mopped with soap water. The walls are thoroughly scrubbed as they are potential source of infection. The instrument trolleys are disinfected and the wheels lubricated. The ceiling fans and air conditioners are cleaned. Formalin fumigation is also undertaken.

Monthly cleaning includes scrubbing the floors, walls and the ancillary rooms with disinfectant. It also includes removal of all the furniture of operation room. All the articles are checked for the expiry dates and the stock replenished. All the furniture like the IV stand, trolley, doctor's stools/chairs, etc. are washed thoroughly and the wheels and hinges are lubricated where necessary.

It is important to note while cleaning to start with the operation room first and then proceed outwards towards the scrub area, pre operative and post operative room and sterilising room in this order.