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Paediatric Surgical Preparation Recovery and Wound Care

Practical 01 / Skills laboratory

Aim

Prepare a child and caregiver for surgery and complete structured model recovery and dressing checks.

Principle

Verified consent and identity, age-appropriate communication and early recovery observations protect children around surgery.

Articles and Materials

- Child model, caregiver scenario and perioperative checklist
- Dressing and suture trainer, pain scales and observation record

Procedure

1. Verify identity, procedure, side, consent and fasting or medicine instructions. Review age, weight, allergy, baseline vital signs and access needs.
2. Explain the workflow in age-appropriate words and identify preferred caregiver involvement and comfort measures. Obtain appropriate assent when possible.
3. Check readiness and approved record, equipment and safe transfer. Handover changes, current observations and any pending verification.
4. At recovery review the procedure, medicines and restrictions. Assess airway, breathing, perfusion, alertness, pain and temperature.
5. Inspect dressing, wound and drains and compare output with prior observations. Use the ordered method, analgesia and aseptic checks for the model dressing or removal.
6. Monitor ordered feeding and mobility, fluid balance and return of the child’s usual behaviour. Ask the caregiver to describe concerns.
7. Escalate new respiratory distress, abnormal bleeding, pain or deterioration and give exact timing and observations.
8. Document perioperative checks, care, response, caregiver advice and follow-up ownership.

Precautions

- Use age-appropriate pain assessment and monitoring.
- Get senior review for any early significant deterioration.

Observations and Record

Paediatric Surgical Preparation Recovery and Wound Care

Documentation

Item	What to record	Why it matters
Preparation	Identity, consent and readiness	Supports safe transfer
Recovery	Observations, pain and wound	Detects complications
Plan	Teaching, restrictions and review	Supports family care

Worked Example

The child becomes difficult to rouse after model surgery. The learner immediately checks airway and breathing and alerts the recovery team.

Result and Evaluation

Demonstrate safe paediatric preparation and recovery and an accurate caregiver handover.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why involve the caregiver?

They support comfort and can report changes from the child's usual behaviour.

What takes priority in recovery?

Airway, breathing, circulation and alertness.

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