

Contents

List of Contributors	xi
Foreword	xiii
Preface	xv
Acknowledgements	xvii
PART I Essential Concepts of Surgical First Assistant Practice	1
CHAPTER 1 The Historical Context of the Surgical First Assistant	3
<i>Julie Quick and Mark Owen</i>	
The Role of the Non-Medical Surgical Assistant During Conflict	3
Lewin's Report	4
Certification	5
National Accreditation	5
National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice	6
Call for Clarity Over Names	7
A National SFA Toolkit	8
Accredited University Courses	8
The Responsibilities of the SFA	9
References	10
CHAPTER 2 Ethical, Legal and Professional Considerations of the SFA Role	13
<i>Mark Owen and Julie Quick</i>	
Autonomy	14
Beneficence	14
Nonmaleficence	14
Justice	14
Case Studies	14
Scenario 1	14
Signpost	16
Scenario 2	16
Signpost	17

Scenario 3	17
Signpost	18
Scenario 4	18
Signpost	19
References	19

PART II The Perioperative Role of the SFA 21

CHAPTER 3	Preoperative Assessment	23
	<i>Jenny Abraham</i>	
	Preoperative Assessment	24
	Patient Education	26
	Venous Thromboembolism Risk Assessment	29
	Tissue Viability	30
	Patient Mobility	31
	Ward Preparation – Patient Fasting	31
	Fasting Instructions for Adult Elective Surgery Patient	31
	Fasting Instructions for Adult Emergency Surgery Patient	31
	Fasting Instruction for Children	32
	Surgical Site Marking	32
	Decision-Making and Informed Consent	33
	References	35
CHAPTER 4	Pre-operative Preparation of the Patient Within the Operating Theatre	41
	<i>Dave Lawson</i>	
	Introduction	41
	Team Brief	42
	Timeout	43
	Patient Positioning	43
	Skin Preparation	45
	Chlorhexidine Gluconate	45
	Povidone-Iodine	45
	Draping the Patient	46
	Conclusion	47
	References	47
CHAPTER 5	Assisting with Surgical Incisions and Wound Closure	49
	<i>Carolina Britton</i>	
	Surgical Incisions	49
	Before Knife-to-Skin	49
	Site and Length of Incision	51
	Choice of Instruments for Surgical Incision	52
	Minimally Invasive Surgery	53
	Skin Marking	53

	Common Types of Surgical Incisions	54
	Assisting with the Surgical Incision	55
	Wound Closure	55
	Types of Surgical Wounds	56
	Wound Healing	56
	Wound Closure	57
	Techniques for Skin Closure	58
	Suturing	58
	Other Closing Devices	58
	Assisting with Wound Closure	58
	Closing a Surgical Wound	59
	Wound Drainage	60
	References	61
CHAPTER 6	Assisting with Haemostasis During Surgery	65
	Georgina Lewis	
	Introduction	65
	Pressure	66
	Suction and Visual Access	67
	Sutures	67
	Clips and Ties (Arterial Clamps)	67
	Single Use Clips	69
	Surgical Stapling Devices	69
	Diathermy	69
	Ultrasonic Devices	71
	Laparoscopic and Haemostasis	72
	Pharmacological Methods And Haemostatic Agents	72
	Conclusion	73
	References	73
CHAPTER 7	Tissue Handling and Retraction	77
	Lee Rollason and Julie Quick	
	Introduction	77
	Tissue Viability Assessment	78
	Tissue Types	78
	Skin	78
	Adipose Tissue	78
	Muscle	79
	Organs	79
	Vasculature and Nerves	79
	Bone	79
	The Responsibilities of The Sfa	80
	Handling of Tissue	80
	Types of Retractor	81
	Retraction by Hand	81
	Hand-Held Retractors	82
	Self-Retaining Retractors	82

	Implications of Tissue Handling And Retraction	83
	References	83
CHAPTER 8	Instrument Handling for the Surgical First Assistant	87
	<i>Susan Hall and Mark Robertshaw</i>	
	Introduction	87
	The Use of Handheld Retractors	88
	Retracting Away from Oneself	90
	Retracting Towards Oneself	90
	Tissue Forceps	90
	Skin Hooks	91
	Handling Artery Forceps	91
	Suture Scissors	92
	Minimal Access Surgery	95
	Other Instruments Requiring Consideration	96
	The Practitioner with Extended Skills	97
	Toothed Dissecting Forceps	97
	Needle Holders	98
	References	98
CHAPTER 9	Wound Management	99
	<i>Julie Quick and Mark Owen</i>	
	Introduction	99
	Acute and Chronic Wounds	100
	Wound Healing	100
	Phase 1	101
	Phase 2	101
	Phase 3	101
	Phase 4	101
	Haemostasis	101
	Inflammation	101
	Proliferation	102
	Remodelling/Maturation	102
	Local Factors	103
	Systemic Factors	103
	Biopsychosocial Factors	104
	Wound Care	104
	Patient Education	105
	Wound Assessment	105
	Anatomic Location and Type of Wound	105
	Degree of Tissue Damage	106
	Wound Bed and Edges	106
	Wound Size and Peri-wound	106
	Signs of Infection	106
	Pain	107
	Dressings	107

	Self-Adhesive Absorbent Dressings	107
	Soft Paraffin Gauze	107
	Alginates	108
	Negative Pressure Wound Therapy	108
	Conclusion	108
	References	108
CHAPTER 10	Pain Management	111
	<i>Felicia Cox and Nisha Bhudia</i>	
	Introduction	111
	Defining Pain	111
	Classifying Pain	112
	Assessing Pain	114
	Tools	115
	Pain Assessment Questions Using PQRST	115
	Example of a Functional Activity Scale	116
	Managing Pain	116
	Approaches to Analgesia	117
	Unrelieved Pain	117
	Role of the Inpatient Pain Management Service	117
	Patient Education	118
	Analgesic Medicines	118
	Multimodal Analgesia	118
	Paracetamol	118
	Opioids	119
	Gabapentinoids	120
	Alpha-2 Agonists: Clonidine and Dexmedetomidine	121
	Ketamine	121
	Local Anaesthetics	121
	Nerve Blocks	122
	Neuraxial Analgesia	122
	Fascial Plane Blocks	122
	Conclusion	123
	References	123
PART III	Human Factors and Non-technical Skills	127
CHAPTER 11	Human Factors	129
	<i>Ally Ackbarally</i>	
	Introduction	129
	Implications of Human Factors	130
	Patient Safety In Surgery	133
	Human Error	134
	Patient Safety Incident Response Framework	136

	SFA's well-being	136
	Conclusion	137
	References	137
CHAPTER 12	Non-technical Skills	141
	<i>Mandy Mangham and Julie Quick</i>	
	Introduction	141
	Classification of Non-technical Skills	142
	Situation Awareness	142
	<i>Communication and Teamwork</i>	143
	<i>Task Management</i>	145
	<i>Leadership and Decision-Making</i>	145
	Managing Stress and Fatigue	146
	References	146
	Index	151