Bowel Isolation Technique
Objectives

Upon completion of this module the learner will be able to:

• Define the rationale for use of the Bowel Isolation Technique during a gastrointestinal anastomosis.

• Describe how to prepare the surgical field for bowel isolation.

• Describe how to isolate clean and dirty items during and after anastomosis has been completed.
Bowel Isolation

Rationale

• Instruments, suture, and equipment used during the open gastrointestinal tract contain peritoneal microorganisms that can lead to surgical site infections.

• Isolation of instruments and supplies used during bowel anastomosis can reduce the chance of a post operative infection.
Bowel Isolation Technique

All supplies and instruments needed for the Bowel Isolation Technique should be placed in a large basin. Items may include the following:

- Towels x 2
- Needle Counter
- GIA Stapler
- New Suction Tip
- Needle Driver x 2
- Debakey Forceps x 2
- Curved Mayo
- Allis x 3
- Sponge Stick
Bowel Isolation Technique

Before opening bowel:

- Drape towels around surgical site and any place where there is potential exposure to open bowel contents.
- Clear off mayo stand and drape with additional towels before adding items for the anastomosis:
  - New needle counter
  - Needle drivers
  - Debakey forceps
  - Suture
- Identify a neutral zone for contaminated sharps.
Bowel Isolation Technique

During Anastomosis:

- Have a large basin available for grossly contaminated instrument, stapler and specimen. *Do not return contaminated instruments or supplies to the back table.*

- If additional instruments are needed, use a sponge stick to retrieve clean instruments from the back table.
Once bowel is closed and anastomosis is complete:

• Return all instruments and supplies, (sponges, suction tip, staplers and towels) that were used during the anastomosis, back into the blue basin.

• Close isolation needle counter and place inside of basin.

• Basin with dirty instruments, supplies and needle counter are handed off of the surgical field.
Bowel Isolation Technique

• The Surgical Technologist changes gloves and assists other team members with changing both gowns and gloves.
  - Attending surgeon
  - Resident surgeon
  - Students

• Once each team member has changed, they may return to surgical field and continue with the procedure.