

□ Draping

Draping is the sterile technique of covering the patient and surrounding areas with **sterile drapes** to establish a **sterile surgical field** and prevent contamination during a procedure.

□ Objectives

- Isolate the **surgical site** from non-sterile areas
- Minimize the risk of **surgical site infections (SSIs)**
- Provide a clear, sterile working field for the surgical team

□ Key Features

- Uses **sterile drapes**, made of cloth or disposable materials
- Drapes are **fluid-resistant** or **absorbent**, depending on type
- Applied **after skin antisepsis** and once the area is completely dry

□ Draping Procedure

1. Confirm **skin antiseptic is dry** (especially alcohol-based)
2. Use sterile gloves and instruments
3. Begin draping **from the incision site outward**
4. Cover all adjacent non-sterile surfaces
5. Avoid shifting drapes once placed

□ Draping in Neurosurgery

- Requires precise exposure of cranium or spine
- Specialized fenestrated drapes often used
- Draping must allow for **microscope or neuronavigation access**

⚠ Precautions

- Wet **antiseptic** under drapes can cause **chemical burns**
- A breach in drape integrity = break in sterility
- **Drapes** must not be reused or repositioned once contaminated

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