Surgical Pharmacology: Drug Cards

WebQuest Description: The purpose of this assignment is to equip you with a handy and portable resource that provides easy access and quick reference to many of the drugs that are commonly used in the surgical environment.

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Introduction

Pharmacology is the branch of medicine and biology concerned with the study of drug action. More specifically, it is the study of the interactions that occur between a living organism and chemicals that affect normal or abnormal biochemical function. There are many different drugs used in surgical practice depending on the type of surgical specialty. As a surgical technologist, you are expected to know the name, classification, action, route of administration, administration and handling considerations, and drug interactions of each pharmacologic agent both on your sterile field and within your operating room department. A solid working knowledge of pharmacology is critical to the success of each surgical technologist. As a first step in building this knowledge, you will put together a set of drug flashcards that will help you learn and memorize 104 of the most commonly used drugs in the OR. Once completed, you may find it useful to keep this project and add to it throughout your practice.

Tasks

You will use the tools and resources contained in this WebQuest, as well as others you may find, to construct your own drug flash cards to assist you in learning and memorizing various common pharmacologic agents. At the completion of this project, you will have a valuable tool to help you begin working with drugs in the lab, in your clinical rotations, and in your practice as a Certified Surgical Technologist. The document linked below contains a list of 104 drugs commonly used in operative intervention. Your cards will contain the generic name, brand names, classification, action/usage, route of administration, special administration and storage instructions, and antagonists of each of these drugs.

Process

In order to construct your drug cards, you will need to follow the steps outlined here. If you have any questions or concerns as you complete your project, please email your instructor.

Access the link below (Resource #1) for the list of required drug cards. The list contains 104 commonly used agents. You will be required to make a card for each of the items on the list.

Set up a template. You may choose to create your own template in Microsoft Word or another program. Or you may download the template already created for you below. Your template must include the following information for each drug: generic name, brand names, classification/category, drug action and usage, route of administration, special administration and storage instructions, and antagonists. See below (Resource #2) for more information about specific requirements.

Access the websites listed under "Resources" below to locate information related to each drug. You may also search for additional resources other than those provided.

Once you have located all the necessary information, transfer the information you have found to your cards. Be sure to paraphrase and don't plagiarize. Copying word for word is cheating and will handled according to the campus catalog. Print your drug cards on 5"x8" index cards. You may find it easiest to print onto pre-perforated card pages. These are available at any office supply store.

Bind your cards or place them in a file box. You may use whichever method you find best suites your study habits. Be sure to turn in your drug cards in the same order (alphabetical) as they appear on the list! Failure to alphabetize will lead to a point deduction of up to 10%. Note: Once you have completed a few cards, I would be happy to look at them and provide you with feedback to help you in completing the remainder of the project.

Evaluation

Evaluation and grading of the project will be based on the following criteria.
Now that you have completed the project, these drug cards will be a valuable resource for you as you progress through your surgical technology education, prepare for your national certification board examination, and begin your professional career. You may want to add to these cards throughout your clinical rotations and career in the operating room.

Focus: This WebQuest was designed to familiarize surgical technology students with some of the commonly used pharmacologic agents found in the operating room. It is intended to help them build a working knowledge of drugs, their usage and functions, and classifications prior to entering the clinical setting. As students progress through this project, they will learn to use the internet to obtain relevant and current information from the World Wide Web.

Objectives/Goals: At the end of this project, surgical technology students will have completed study aids to assist them in the memorization and recall of over 100 different pharmacologic agents, their generic and brand names, actions and uses, classifications, routes of administration, administration and storage instructions, and antagonists.

Additional Information: Each student is required to create and submit their own drug cards. Students may work together to gather information, but the work they submit must be original. Reserve computer lab time in the library as necessary for those students lacking access to a computer and the internet at home. Printed materials such as textbooks may also be useful and are located in the library. Each student has access to an approved Physician Desk Reference (PDR) in the Health Science Library or Learning Resource Center (LRC).

Standards

Credits

Other