
Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: OR IMAGES FOR SPONGE COUNT OR FOREIGN OBJECT

PURPOSE: Outline procedure to obtain interpretation for OR images for sponge count or foreign object

DEFINITION: None

POLICY:

All images taken in the OR suite looking for missing instruments or other foreign objects will read by a radiologist prior to the completion of surgery.

PROCEDURE:

1. The OR technologist will be notified of the need to obtain the radiographic images in the OR suite.
2. OR technologist will perform intraoperative x-rays that provides full coverage of the surgical site and include any views deemed necessary by the surgeon and radiologist to maximize the opportunity to identify a missing surgical item. OR technologist will image the missing object in addition to imaging the surgical site.
3. OR Technologist will call the reading room and tell radiologist there is an image for foreign body or missing instruments.
4. During “on-call” times phone call notification will be given to the call resident.
5. These images will be treated as a reading priority 1 and will require immediate interpretation by the staff radiologist with the report called to the OR suite by the faculty or the resident after faculty review. Report will include documentation about who was notified and time of notification.
6. As with all priority 1 images, these studies are to be signed final by a staff radiologist as soon as practical.