

BASICS OF STERILIZATION POST-TEST

Circle the letter indicating the best correct answer to the multiple-choice questions.

1. Sterilization involves the use of a physical or chemical procedure to:
 - A. remove visible soil from surgical instruments
 - B. destroy non-pathogenic organisms
 - C. destroy all forms of microbial life including highly resistant bacterial spores
 - D. destroy all forms of microbial life except highly resistant bacterial spores
2. If the _____ is too high the established sterilization parameters may not be adequate rendering the sterilization process ineffective:
 - A. temperature
 - B. bioburden
 - C. pH
 - D. vacuum
3. The most widely used, effective, economical and reliable method of sterilization used in the health care setting is:
 - A. gas plasma
 - B. ethylene oxide
 - C. peracetic acid
 - D. steam
4. The essential parameters of steam sterilization are:
 - A. securely wrapped packages
 - B. time, temperature, saturated steam and pressure
 - C. chemical and biological indicators
 - D. both A and C
5. Ethylene Oxide is a highly toxic agent, which destroys microorganisms by a process called _____.
 - A. cavitation
 - B. oxidation
 - C. osmosis
 - D. alkylation

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6. _____ has established permissible exposure limits to EO and requires continuous monitoring of the work area and personnel:
- A. OSHA
 - B. EPA
 - C. JCAHO
 - D. DPH
7. EO sterilized products require _____ hours of aeration at 140°F:
- A. 12
 - B. 10
 - C. 8
 - D. can not be aerated at 140°F
8. Gas plasma is not compatible with:
- A. heat sensitive devices
 - B. items with lumens
 - C. paper products
 - D. Both B & C
9. An advantage of gas plasma sterilization is:
- A. it is less expensive than EO and total cycle times are shorter
 - B. it is free of environmental, occupational and patient safety concerns
 - C. all peel pouches, disposable wraps, and containers can be used
 - D. Both A & B
10. The most frequently used liquid chemical sterilant is:
- A. alcohol
 - B. peracetic acid
 - C. glutaraldehyde
 - D. formaldehyde

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ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. D
6. A
7. C
8. C
9. D
10. B