Sternal examination and performing a median sternotomy

Assessment of competences for a qualified SCP

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please note: SCPs can add DOPS and PBAs as evidence.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **NOT competent** | **Competent** | **Signature and date** |
| Inspection and performing a median sternotomy in the operation theatre | | | | |
| 1 | Introduction   * Confirm patient name and ID * Discuss the patient’s condition * Explain full surgical procedure * Consent (confirm that you explained to the patient that you will be performing median sternotomy under supervision) |  |  |  |
| 2 | Anatomy and position   * Explain anatomy of the sternum * Discuss anatomical variations * Discuss the adjacent vital structures * Discuss the problems associated with median sternotomy * Discuss the plan of action |  |  |  |
| 3 | Comorbidities and generic conditions   * Skin conditions (psoriasis, eczema, dry skin tissues) * Body build   + Thin build   + Moderate build   + Muscular   + Obese * Diabetes   + Well controlled   + Poorly controlled   + Check:     - HbA1c level     - Blood glucose level     - Random glucose level * Discuss the patient’s age and sex   + Discuss the elderly patient’s skin tissue healing   + Discuss the difficulties of sternal thickness and selection of wires for particular type of quality of sternum   + Discuss the female sex and potential plan to avoid any complications |  |  |  |
| 4 | Surgical procedure   * Demonstrate the use of marker pen or thread to make a straight incision * Demonstrate the use of diathermy and use hands to identify/put a marker on the sternal edge equally during dissection * Demonstrate and use sternal saw appropriately * Demonstrate the sternum into two equal distances from the midline * Demonstrate the use of good haemostatic techniques before and after opening the sternum |  |  |  |
| 5 | Communication   * Discuss problems with the multidisciplinary team * Discuss the potential plan with the surgical team in the team briefing |  |  |  |
| 6 | Potential issues   * Complications   + Discuss the potential complications of bleeding and re-exploration   + Discuss the potential complications of sternal infections   + Discuss the potential complications of sternal dehiscence   + Discuss the importance of straight-line sternotomy to avoid parasternal approach/ complications   + Discuss the potential and preventive technique complications of splitting the right ventricle, innominate vein and aorta during sternotomy   + Discuss the importance of preserving thymus   + Discuss the potential benefits and complications of using bone wax on the sternum |  |  |  |
| **Assessor’s comments:** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **The SCP has completed these outcomes to the appropriate standard.**  **Assessor’s name:**  **Signature and date:** | | **SCP’s signature:**  **Date:** | | |

\*Please note that junior SCPs have to do at least 25 competences to develop their portfolio of evidence.