YIELD
AND TAKE TIME TO
RECONCILE AN INCORRECT COUNT

USE THIS INCORRECT COUNT CHECKLIST

SURGEONS

☐ STOP CLOSING THE WOUND!
   Remove fascial sutures and place retractor

☐ Repeat the methodical wound examination, in a heart case check behind heart in the posterior mediastinum

☐ Actively look and feel for missing sponge

ADDITIONAL HELP

☐ Consider getting “another set of hands” to feel

☐ Cover the wound with towel or plastic drape

☑ Call for Xrays: get 2 views. An AP and an oblique or lateral view

☐ Tell radiologist what type of sponge is missing and in a heart case, to look in the posterior mediastinum

☐ A radiologist should review the film before it is called negative especially if sponge not found

NURSES

☐ Tell surgeon what type of sponge is missing

☐ Ask surgeon to repeat methodical wound exam

☐ Repeat count
   ☐ Check holders to make sure only one sponge per pocket
   ☐ Search trash, linens

☐ Call for personnel to search, call nurse manager

☐ Scrub person search field and drapes

☐ Call for Xrays, include call back info on requisition

☐ Check sponge “departure” opportunities (e.g. went with newborn, around a specimen, anesthesia trash, morgue, around GI scope)

☐ Contact visitors who may have left the room

IF SPONGE NOT FOUND:
   • RECORD COUNT AS INCORRECT
   • TELL THE SURGEON
   • REPORT TO ADMINISTRATION
   • DISCLOSE TO THE PATIENT

Sponge ACCOUNTing System