YIELD
AND TAKE TIME TO
RECONCILE AN INCORRECT COUNT
@ CLOSING COUNT TAKE A

SURGEONS
☑ STOP CLOSING THE WOUND!
    Remove fascial sutures and
    place retractor
☐ Repeat the methodical wound
    examination
☐ Actively look and feel for
    missing sponge

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
☐ Scrub person search field and drapes
☑ Call for Xrays, get an AP and oblique view
☑ Call for Xrays, include call back info on requisition
☐ Check sponge “departure” opportunities (e.g. went with
    newborn, around a specimen, anesthesia trash)
☐ Contact visitors who may
    have left the room

ADDITIONAL HELP
☑ Consider getting “another set of hands” to feel
☐ Cover the wound with
towel or plastic drape
☑ Call for Xrays, get an AP and oblique view
☐ Tell radiologist what type of
    sponge is missing
☐ A radiologist should review the
    film before it is called negative
    especially if sponge not found

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

SPONGE ACCOUNTING
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