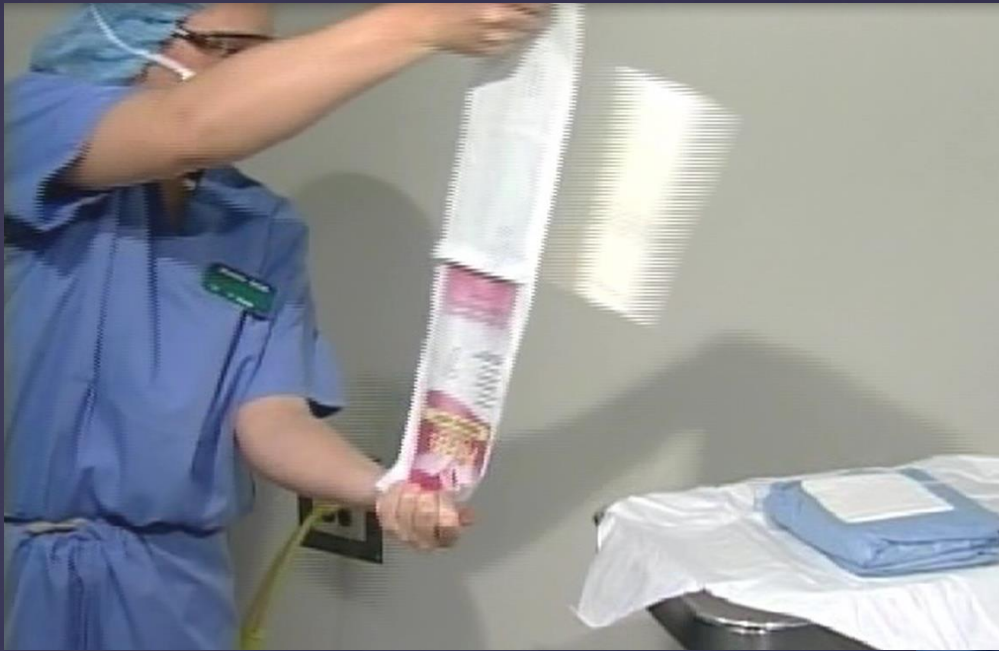
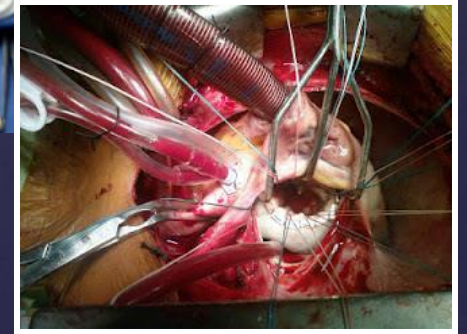


Surgical Technology: The Profession, Its Advancement, and the Case for Certification

**Oregon State Assembly of the
Association of Surgical Technologists**

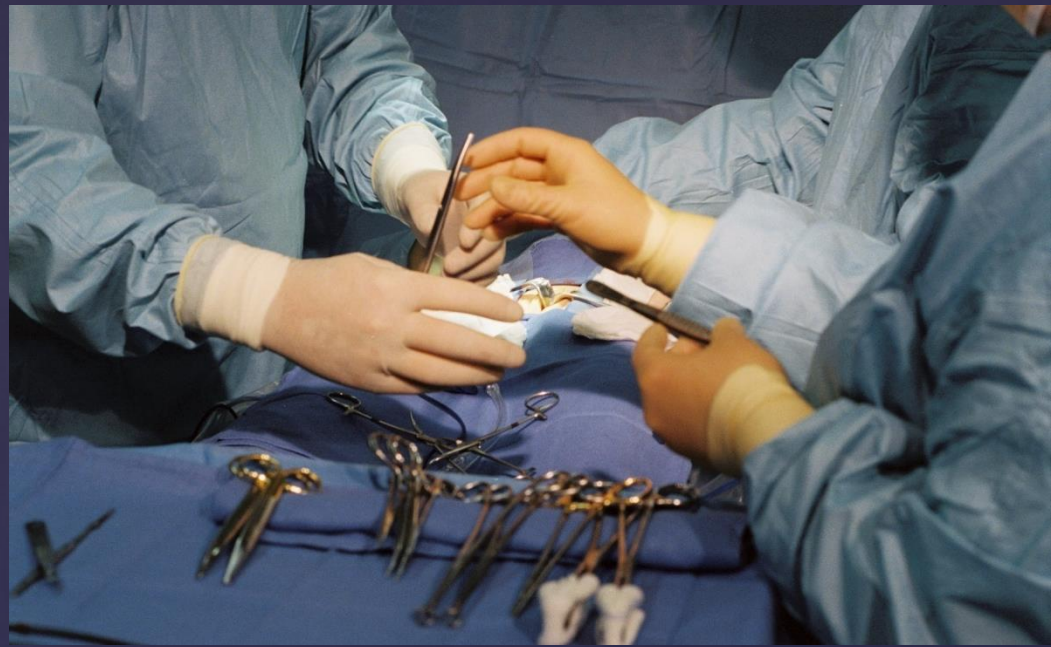








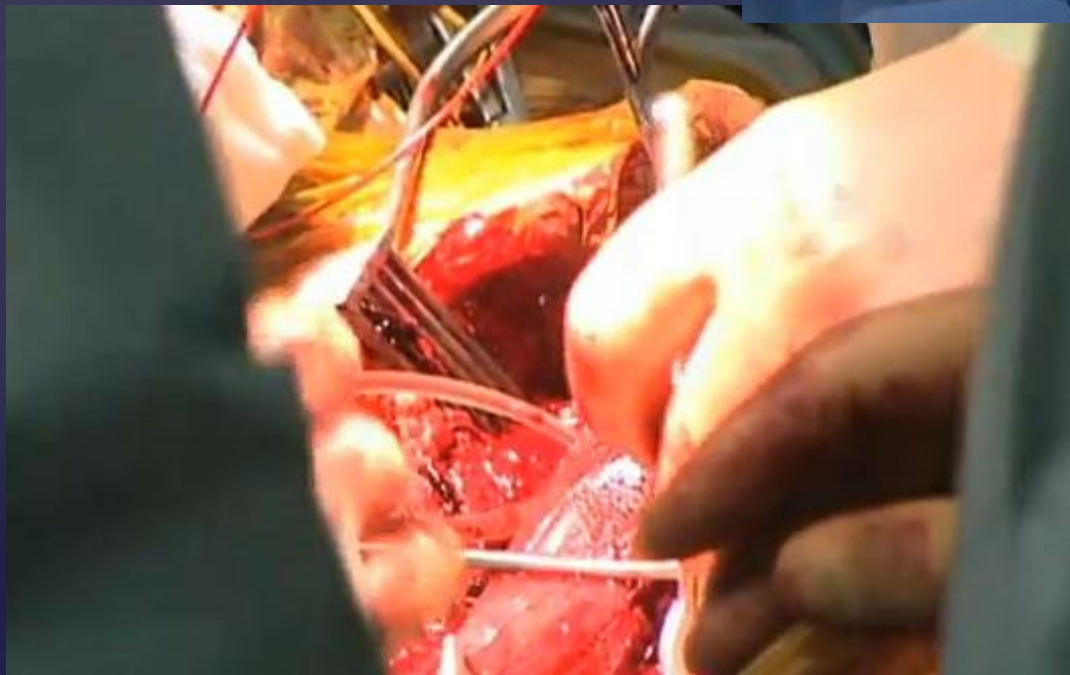
Surgical Technologist Tasks During Surgery



Surgical
technologists
are deeply
involved in the
procedure



Dr. Meade's Biceps Tendon Repair performed by Dr. Jim Bradley



Robotic surgery





**Performing counts to
prevent foreign
retained objects**



Oregon Surgical Technologist Public Policy and Legislative Overview: HB 2876

A. A person may not practice surgical technology in a health care facility unless the person meets one of the following:

1. Graduation from an accredited program and certification;
2. Completed a US military training program;
3. Is Grandfathered; or
4. Is in the service of the federal government.

Particulars of the Legislation

- Grace Period for Recent Surgical Technology Graduates
- Continuing Education
- Waiver
- Does Not Modify Supervision
- Exemption for Licensed Practitioners

Examples of Patient Harm Caused by Under-qualified Surgical Technologists

- External and internal 3rd-degree burns
- Injury due to malfunctioning equipment such as drills.
- Mishandled or lost specimens.
- Newborn mishandling and improper equipment set-up for emergency c-sections.
- Patients being injected with the wrong fluid or medication

Examples of Patient Harm Caused by Under-qualified Surgical Technologists

- Internal organ and tissue perforations caused by retractor mishandling.
- Slow surgeries.
- Fires, especially trachea fires.
- Lack of ability to prepare for emergency surgeries causing delayed treatment.
- Foreign retained objects

Surgical Technologists are Responsible for Preventing Surgical Site Infections

- Surgical site infections are the leading cause of hospital readmissions
- Nearly 20% of all readmissions are attributed to surgical site infections
 - Journal of the American Medical Association, February 2015

Medicare and the PPACA are incentivizing hospitals to reduce rates of post-operative sepsis



Data show facilities using *Certified Surgical Technologists* have lower costs associated with surgical site infections

Data reveal that facilities utilizing only credentialed personnel as surgical technologists reduced by 11% the costs associated with extended stays due to surgical site infection.

Source: vapricepoint.org

Fewer surgical adverse events in hospitals with CSTs

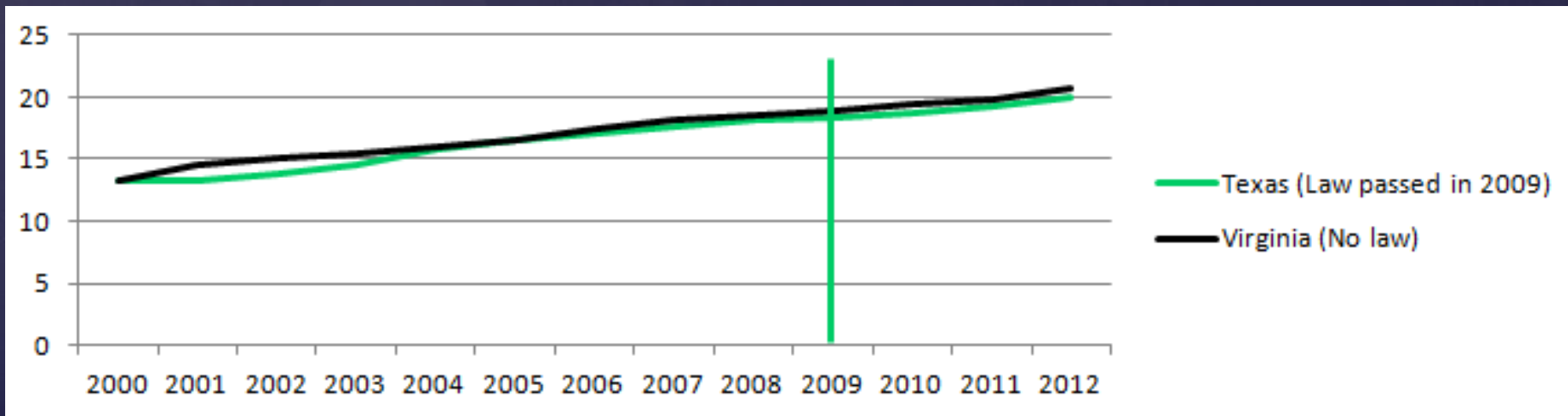
Analysis of Minnesota data from 2009-2013, by facility, reveals that reported adverse surgical events (wrong body part, wrong procedure, wrong patient, foreign retained objects) occurred 40% less often in hospitals that require education and certification for surgical technologists compared to hospitals that do not require education or certification for surgical technologists.

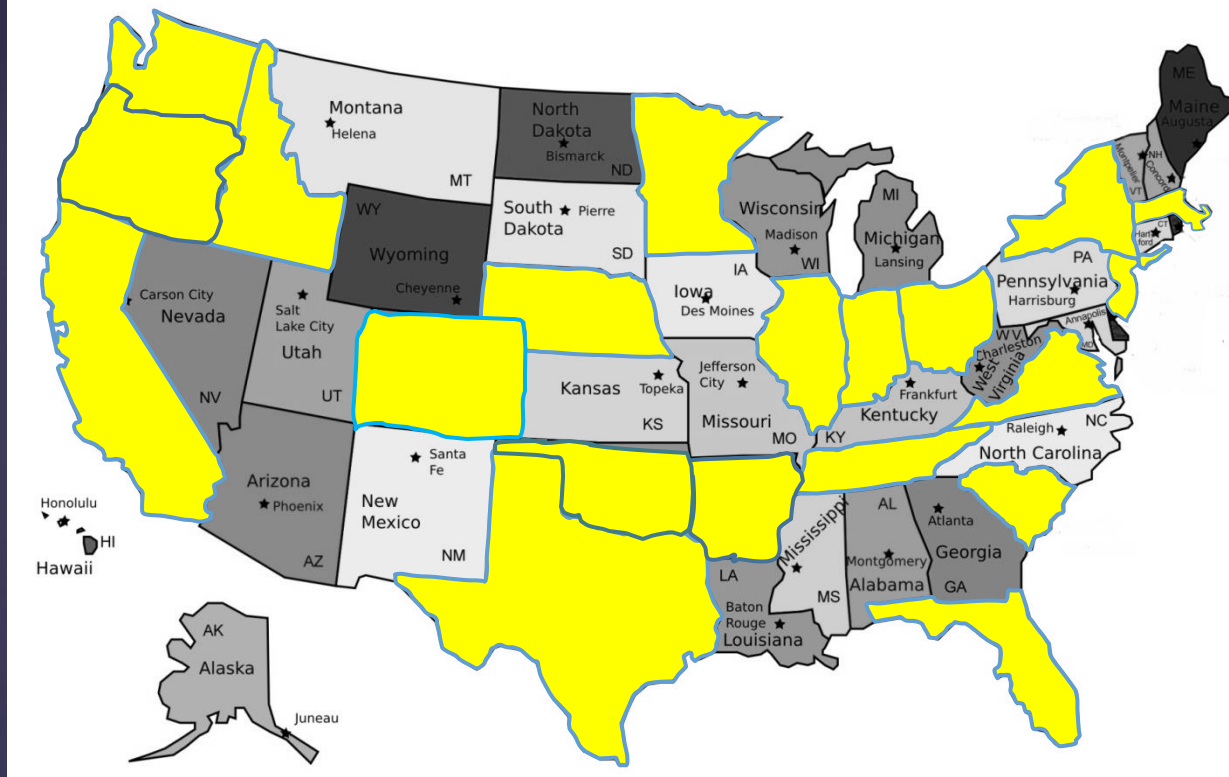
The surgical technologist is the professional near the patient responsible for counting supplies and instruments to prevent foreign retained objects. Foreign retained objects analyzed separately occurred 55% less in hospitals that require surgical technologist education and certification compared to hospitals that do not.

Data source: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/patientsafety/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data Show This Legislation Does Not Increase Wages

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data from show passage of this legislation in other states has not increased wages.





Other States that Regulate Surgical Technologists:

- Colorado
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington

Surgical Technologist States with Legislation

- Oregon
- California
- Florida
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Ohio
- Oklahoma

Accredited Programs



Two CAAHEP-accredited programs produce surgical technology graduates every year in Oregon: Concord Career College in Portland, and Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. Accredited distance and online programs are also available for those who qualify.

Surgical Technology Certification

- Surgical technologist certification is conferred by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, the NBSTSA.
- The NBSTSA is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to determine, through examination, if an individual has acquired both the entry-level theoretical and practical knowledge of surgical technology to enter the profession
- AST supports the Certified Surgical Technologist Credential as the clearest indication of competency of members of the profession

Competent and Qualified Surgical Technologists:

- Protect patients from life-threatening surgical site infections, malfunctioning equipment and unneeded delays during surgical procedures
- Anticipate and meet the needs of the surgeon and surgical team members, and respond swiftly and appropriately to the complexity of the procedure
- Assure that the integrity of the surgical procedure allows patients the optimal outcomes they deserve and expect

IN CONCLUSION:

Surgical Technology Education and Certification Supports Optimal Patient Outcomes

- The unregulated practice surgical technology creates risk to the patient
- Patients are at an obvious disadvantage during surgery- they are unconscious and unaware of all members of the surgical team
- Oregon has no current regulations to ensure minimum competency
- AST's core value is the phrase, "*aeger primo*" - *the patient first*