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**Task-Specific Checklist for Epidural Anesthesia**

| Stages Performed | Not Performed | Performed Poorly | Performed Well |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Ensures patient is positioned comfortably and safely in the middle of the bed | | | |
| 2. Adjusts height of bed appropriately | | | |
| 3. Carefully prepares a sterile work surface | | | |
| 4. Pours antiseptic solution (or has nurse pour it) without contaminating the epidural set | | | |
| 5. Washes hands and puts on gloves in a sterile fashion | | | |
| 6. Optimally positions him/herself for the procedure | | | |
| 7. Prepares the skin at the back widely and aseptically (skin prep _ 3) | | | |
| 8. Allows solution to dry | | | |
| 9. Neatly lays out and prepares all necessary equipment (needles, syringes, local anesthetic) | | | |
| 10. Asks patient to arch her back | | | |
| 11. Places drape over patient's back in a sterile fashion | | | |
| 12. Landmarks site of injection after palpating iliac crests | | | |
| 13. Warns patient of needle insertion | | | |
| 14. Infiltrates subcutaneous layers with local anesthetic | | | |
| 15. Places epidural needle with correct positioning of bevel | | | |
| 16. Inserts epidural needle through skin, subcutaneous tissue, and into ligament before attaching the syringe | | | |
| 17. Attaches air/saline filled syringe to the needle hub with needle well controlled | | | |
| 18. Braces hand/s holding the needle against patient's back in complete control of the needle | | | |
| 19. Slowly advances needle through supraspinous and interspinous ligaments and into ligamentum flavum while applying pressure on the plunger (continuous or intermittent) | | | |
| 20. Identifies LOR and immediately releases pressure on the plunger | | | |
| 21. Notes depth of needle insertion before threading catheter | | | |
| 22. Warns patient about possible paresthesia during catheter threading | | | |
| 23. Detaches the syringe and threads the catheter to a depth of 4-5 cm | | | |
| 24. Pulls the needle out while maintaining correct catheter placement | | | |
| 25. Carefully aspirates from catheter | | | |
| 26. Injects test dose through flushed filter | | | |
| 27. Fixes the epidural catheter securely | | | |