

HUMOR · CULTURA & SAÚDE

A Good Watch for Surgery

An operating-room anecdote about an intern and his 'waterproof' watch

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ABSTRACT

This is a brief humorous anecdote set in the operating room. A surgical intern, on his first day, is assigned to a surgery with the head of the department. Still inexperienced, he calmly scrubs his hands at the sink but does not remove the watch from his wrist. When he arrives to scrub up as well, the resident physician finds the scene odd and asks whether he is not going to take off the watch. The intern naively replies that there is no need because the watch is 'waterproof.' The joke plays on the newcomer's confusion between water resistance and the asepsis requirements of surgical scrubbing and gowning. It is a short, light and good-humored text, signed by a resident physician in obstetrics.

KEYWORDS: *medical humor; operating room; anecdote; intern; asepsis; medical residency*

An intern in surgical training, on his first day in the Operating Room, was assigned to scrub in on a surgery with the head of the department. Still inexperienced, he went to the sink to scrub up. Calm and relaxed, he kept scrubbing, but did not take off his watch. The resident physician then arrives to scrub up as well and join the

surgery, and sees the scene. Astonished and somewhat concerned, he asks the intern:

- Aren't you going to take off your watch?

The intern then replies:

- No need, it's "waterproof"!

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