Disposable Surgical Face Masks for Preventing Surgical Wound Infection in Clean Surgery

Ann Roselle

Phoenix College
Abstract

Surgical face masks were originally developed to contain and filter droplets containing microorganisms expelled from the mouth and nasopharynx of healthcare workers during surgery, thereby providing protection for the patient. However, there are several ways in which surgical face masks could potentially contribute to contamination of the surgical wound, such as by incorrect wear or by leaking air from the side of the mask due to poor string tension. The purpose of this paper is to determine whether disposable surgical face masks worn by the surgical team during clean surgery prevent postoperative surgical wound infection. The literature review includes an analysis of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-randomized controlled trials comparing the use of disposable surgical masks with the use of no masks. The research in this area found no clear evidence that wearing disposable face masks increases or reduces the number of surgical wound infections in clean surgery. More research is needed in this area.
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References


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(Webster et al., 2010) or Webster et al. (2010) found that . . .