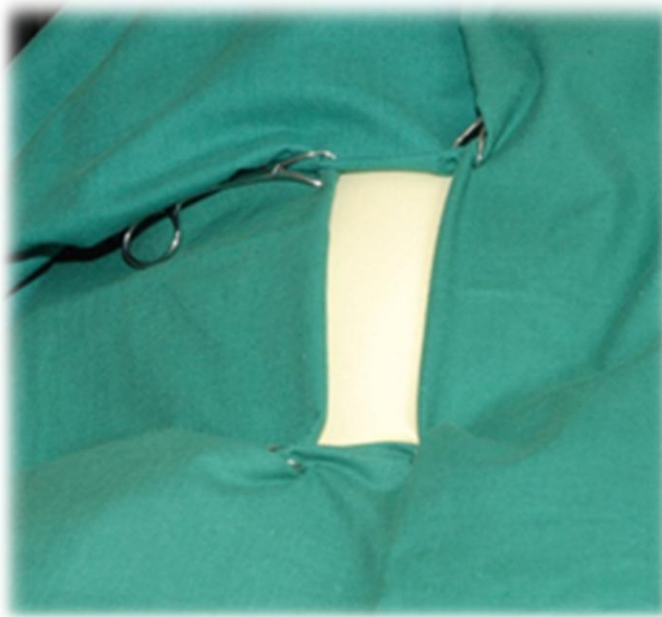


# Four Corner Draping



## Disclaimer

A series of booklets (instructions for skills and flipped classroom materials) has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol, UK.

Please note:

- Each flipped classroom booklet includes ways to prepare for learning a skill in class; it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets, students should check with their university or college to determine whether the approaches illustrated are acceptable in their context or whether an alternative resources should be used.
- The booklets are made available in good faith and may be subject to changes.
- In using these booklets, you must adopt safe working procedures and take your own risk assessments (as and when appropriate), checked by your university, college etc. The University of Bristol will not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from failure to adhere to such practices.

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## Equipment list: Four corner draping

### Equipment for this station:

- Dog model
- Patient cradle (dog in dorsal recumbency)
- Four drapes
- Four towel clips

### Considerations for this station:

- Be careful of your fingers when applying the towel clips

Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the 'CSL\_I01 Induction' and agree to abide by the 'CSL\_I00 House Rules' & 'CSL\_I02 Lab Area Rules'

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.



# Clinical Skills: Four Corner Draping

1



Grasp two corners of the drape letting it fall in front of you. Ensure it does not touch your body (unless you are wearing a sterile gown when this is ok) or any non-sterile surface.

2



Fold the top of the drape over (approximately 10cm) onto the side away from your body. This creates a neat edge.

3



Place your thumbs on the edge of the drape closest to your body and your index fingers on the opposite side of the folded edge, with palms facing downward.

4



Using a smooth 'scooping' motion, turn your hands inward toward the midline of your body. Now rotate your hands until your palms face you. Keep the drape taut throughout this movement to maintain control. This will ensure your hands are covered by the drape, maintaining their sterility.

5



6



The drape can now be placed on the patient a suitable distance from the intended line of incision, with only the sterile area exposed. If you need to adjust the drape, do so minimally. It should only be moved in a direction AWAY from the sterile surgical area and NEVER towards the sterile area. Your sterile gloves should only touch the drape.



# Clinical Skills: Four Corner Draping

7



Repeat the process (Steps 1–6) with the second drape – place it at right angles (90 degrees) to the first drape.

8



Secure the drapes to the patient using a towel clip, this should be placed at the intersection of the two drapes. In a live patient remember that this is the first painful stimulus so it is wise to inform the anaesthetist that you are about to do attach the clip.

9



Tuck the towel clip under the upper drape. This will keep it out of the way (and prevent suture material being caught around a clip).

10



11



Repeat the process with the third drape – place it at right angles to the first drape, at the opposite end of the sterile area to the second drape.

12



Secure the drapes to the patient using a towel clip (this prevents the drapes moving or becoming dislodged).

# Clinical Skills: Four Corner Draping

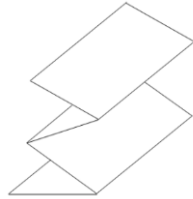


When placing the final drape either walk round to the other side of the table and place the drape or sweep the drape over to the far side (as shown above). Be careful not to contaminate the drape by touching a fitting, member of the team etc.

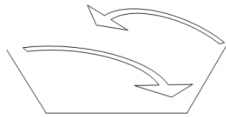
On completion of draping, there will be an appropriately sized surgical site surrounded by sterile drapes secured by towel clips (which have all been neatly tucked away).

# Resetting the Four Corner Draping Station

1. Unclip all the drapes
2. Fold each drape:
  - a) Concertina the drape



- b) Then fold the ends in so the drape is in thirds



3. Clip all 4 towel clips together
4. Place towels in a pile with towel clips on top

*Station ready for the next person:*



Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.



## I wish I'd known:

### Four Corner Draping

- Remember the sequence for placing the drapes: start at the near side (closest to your body), then place the drapes at either end and then at the far side.
- If a drape needs adjustment, only move away from sterile area, not towards or over it.
- When placing the clip grasp sufficient, but not an excessive amount, of skin – be mindful of the patient.