

## MAJOR AND MINOR OPERATIONS

If we accept the premise that to all patients their operation whether under a general or local anaesthetic - is a MAJOR, why then do we persist in classifying operations into Major and Minor?

Working on assumption, that most Major operations are relatively long procedures and will require a minimum of three nurses in the operating room and minor operations are of shorter duration and will require a maximum of three nurses in the operating room there are several valid reasons for classifying operation into Major and Minor.

The first reason is that it will assist in the assessment of the Medical and Nursing staff requirement in an operating room complex. Another, is that it will assist in identifying areas in the complex where the additional staff are needed.

It was agreed that three criteria were essential to classify operations into Major and Minor:

1. Simplicity: The classification must be brief and easy to apply.
2. Comprehensive: It must be applicable to all branches of surgery.
3. Flexibility: System must permit the inclusion of new techniques without any amendment to the guide.

After consultation with Surgeons and Anaesthetists it was agreed that these three objectives could be achieved, if operations were categorized as follows:

1. Operations of extremities: Nerves & Tendons.
2. Removal of foreign bodies.
3. Treatment of infections.
4. Treatment of bones, joints & bursae.
5. Treatment of dislocations.
6. Treatment of spine.
7. Head operations.
8. Vascular operations: Veins & Arteries.
9. Amputations.
10. Intra-thoracic surgery.
11. Abdominal operations.
12. Operations on Perineum & related structures: Gynaecology, Urology & General Surgery (Anus).
13. Ear, Nose, Throat & Neck operations.
14. Eye operations.
15. Plastic surgery including Burns.
16. Endoscopy.

## MAJOR ENT OPERATIONS

Mastoidectomy  
Decompression of facial nerve  
Labyrinthectomy  
Intranasal dacryocystostomy  
Radical maxillary antrum operation  
Antrostomy  
Tracheotomy  
Repair of laryngo-fissure  
Endo-laryngeal operations  
Stapedectomy  
Elevation of fracture of zygoma  
Plastic procedures for meatal atresia  
Lymph node dissection  
Cervical sympathectomy  
Thyroidectomy  
Operations on the oesophagus and trachea

## MINOR ENT OPERATIONS

Paracentesis  
Treatment of nasal bone fractures  
Proof puncture  
Dental extraction  
Dental clearance  
Tonsillectomy  
Biopsy of lymph node