

# Lucy Jones

## ROLE

Surgical Technician

## LOCATION

Oxford, UK

My **Profile**



My **Background**



My **Responsibilities**



My **Motivations**



My **Challenges**



My **Influences**



My **Information Sources**



Common **Questions**



Internal Use Only



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I am 27 years old and have been a registered nurse for the last 3 years. I'm still working at my first hospital and now feel like I'm a real member of the team. Some of the procedures can take up to 10 hours, which can make concentrating very challenging, but I know the surgeon is relying on me to provide the right instruments at the right time.

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In the UK, there are two roles that can perform the scrub techs' duties: a theatre nurse or an operating department practitioner (ODP). The theatre nurse will be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and have undertaken additional specialist training. The ODP will be registered with the Health and Care Professional Council (HCPC) and will have undertaken a 2 year higher education diploma in Operating Room Practice.

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I am responsible for handling the instruments, supplies and equipment that are necessary during a surgical procedure. This requires me to have an understanding of the procedure being performed and to anticipate the needs of the surgeon. I also have to ensure there is quality patient care during the operative procedure and be constantly on vigil for maintenance of the sterile field.

My duties include;

- Check supplies and equipment needed for surgical procedure.
- Scrubs, gowns, and gloves.
- Set up sterile table with instruments, supplies, equipment, and medications/solutions needed for procedure.
- Perform appropriate counts with the circulator surgical technologist prior to the operation and before incision is closed.
- Gown and glove surgeon and assistants.
- Help in draping the sterile field.
- Passing instruments to surgeon during the procedure.
- Maintain highest standard of sterile technique during procedure.
- Prepare sterile dressings.
- Clean and prepare instruments for terminal sterilisation.
- Assist other members of team with terminal cleaning of room.



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- ① To be part of a team that delivers a smooth and successful procedure.
- ② To make the surgeon happy and anticipate his / her needs.
- ③ To be recognized as an expert in my field.

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Anticipating the surgeon's needs



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## Anticipating the surgeon's needs

Surgeons can be very demanding and I'm expected to anticipate what they need, when they need it. They are not always communicators and can often expect several things to be done at the same time.

## How I overcome it today

I always scrub into theatre early so that I can ensure everything is in order. If something can be prepared in advance I will do it, so to free up time later. I have learnt through experience the likely path of a procedure but where a new medical device or equipment is being introduced I will always take the time to familiarise myself with it and if necessary arrange for the sales rep to train me.

Failing all that I rely on the relationship that I have built up with the surgeon to make it through any unforeseen issues.

## How can Biocomposites help?

Stimulan is quick and simple to prepare and can be used in three different bead sizes, or as an injectable paste, to enable optimal packing of the bone void or soft tissue. If you decide to mix Stimulan with antibiotics its hydrophilic properties make it easy to mix, which along with the option of standard and rapid setting times, gives you all the flexibility you need on a case by case basis.

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Common **Questions**



① The surgeon

② The Theatre Manager

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Common **Questions**



① Surgeon and Theatre Manager feedback.

② Peer to peer conversations.

③ Distributor reps.

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- ① How do I mix this?
- ② How far in advance can Stimulan be mixed?
- ③ What are the working and setting times of Stimulan?
- ④ What do I do if it isn't setting?
- ⑤ What volume and size of beads can be prepared using the Stimulan Rapid Cure bead mat?