

Lucy Jones

ROLE

Surgical Technician

LOCATION

San Francisco, USA

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 certified surgical technologist 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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Scrub Techs are also known as Surgical Technicians or Operating Room Technicians. They typically work 40 hours a week but need to be flexible to work around OR schedules. There are a few mandatory professional requirements, and in the US scrub techs are unlicensed assistive personnel who work under the supervision of a surgeon, registered nurse or other surgical personnel. There are around 100,000 scrub techs in the US, with 70% of them based in hospital operating and delivery rooms. The professional organization for surgical technologists is the Association of Surgical Technologists. Scrub techs graduate from surgical technology programs accredited through the Commission in Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

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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 sterilization.
- Assist other members of team with terminal cleaning of room.
- Working with company representatives to ensure that products are prepared properly for the surgeon.

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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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Common **Questions**



Anticipating the surgeon's needs



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Anticipating the surgeons needs

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

How I overcome it today

I always try to prepare what I can in advance to free up time during the procedure. I have learned through experience the likely path of a procedure. If a new medical device or equipment is being introduced, I will always take the time to familiarize myself in advance and arrange for the sales rep to train me.

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

How can Biocomposites help?

- Provide mixing guidance and video demonstrations on the company's website and in brochures.

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Common **Questions**



① The surgeon

② The OR Director / Theater Manager

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Common **Questions**



- 1 Surgeon and OR Director feedback.
- 2 Peer to peer conversations.
- 3 Distributor reps.
- 4 Professional body – Association of Surgical Technicians.

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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?