

Abbie Peat

Scrub Nurse and Team Leader for the Operation (in theatre)

“I was the scrub nurse for the case on the day. I can recall that I was feeling pretty stressed on that afternoon. We were running late again, waiting for Mr Black. I remember worrying that we needed to try and start on time, especially because I needed to pick the kids up from after-school club. Cynthia, one of the registrars, had positioned the patient while we were waiting. And Mr Black eventually appeared. But Cynthia hadn't worked with Mr Black before. So I think that was probably on her mind. But she'd scrubbed up and prepared and draped the patient.

Mr Black went and scrubbed as we were starting the time-out, and Dr Northcote was having a problem with the airway, so the anaesthetic team were a bit distracted I think. We only had one runner and our new student, and David, our runner was away getting the LigaSure, which we had forgotten to put out. I was sure we had checked the correct side during the pause – but of course the patient had been positioned by the registrar.

And the operation seemed to go fine – it was actually quite straightforward for one of Mr Black's operations. We finished pretty quickly and really without too much fuss. It was only when the patient was in recovery and had been there for about 30 minutes that someone realised we had taken out the wrong kidney.”

Notes:

- **LigaSure™** is an advanced surgical instrument that employs a combination of pressure and energy to fuse vessels, tissue bundles, and lymphatics, effectively sealing them to prevent bleeding.
- A **scrub nurse** works within the sterile field directly assisting the surgical team. The scrub nurse ensures the surgery runs smoothly by managing instruments and maintaining sterility.
- A **runner** is a circulating nurse who works outside the sterile field, maintaining overall operating room safety and efficiency. The circulating nurse overseeing the broader operating room environment and ensuring all necessary resources and personnel are available and properly utilised.
- **Draping** in surgery refers to the process of covering a patient with sterile surgical drapes to create a sterile field around the surgical site.