

**Cynthia Rawlins**  
**Urology ST5 Registrar (in theatre)**

“I am a urology ST5 and started working in the unit 6 weeks ago. That day was usually my afternoon off, but they had put this extra case on Mr Black so I was asked to go and help out. I think the patient had been cancelled before and was about to breach or something.

I hadn't worked with Mr Black before, but I had heard he can be a bit difficult, so I was feeling a bit nervous. I remember he was late to come to theatre again and the anaesthetist was getting annoyed as he had already put the patient to sleep. I was only trying to be helpful by positioning the patient, but I suppose the whole mistake is my fault.

I had not consented the patient because I'd been in clinic. Ros, the other registrar, did it before he went home after night shift.

I think I was just feeling stressed and under pressure from the rest of the team. I only had the student nurse to help me, as the scrub nurse was preparing the instruments, and the runner was literally running in and out.

I think they were doing the time out as I was draping, but I can't really remember as I was just anxious to drape correctly.

I didn't even get to put the ports in for this operation, but it seemed to go pretty well. We had minimal blood loss, and Mr Black seemed pretty happy with my camera work. It was only when the patient went to recovery, and the duty anaesthetist was asked to review the patient's wound pain that someone realised the extraction site wound was on the left, instead of the right.”

Notes:

- An **ST5 Urology Registrar** in the NHS is a specialty trainee in their fifth year of urology training. They are experienced doctors working towards becoming consultants, focusing on diagnosing and treating urological conditions.
- A **breach** is a failure to meet NHS targets. The Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011 establishes the treatment time guarantee.
- 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.
- **Consenting** prior to surgery involves patients giving informed consent before a procedure. It includes explaining the procedure, discussing risks, benefits, and alternatives, ensuring patient understanding, and documenting the process.
- **Draping** in surgery refers to the process of covering a patient with sterile surgical drapes to create a sterile field around the surgical site.

