

Surgical face masks in modern operating rooms—a costly and unnecessary ritual?

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DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0195-6701\(91\)90148-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/0195-6701(91)90148-2)

 PlumX Metrics

Abstract

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Abstract

Following the commissioning of a new suite of operating rooms air movement studies showed a flow of air away from the operating table towards the periphery of the room. Oral microbial flora dispersed by unmasked male and female volunteers standing one metre from the table failed to contaminate exposed settle plates placed on the table. The wearing of face masks by non-scrubbed staff working in an operating room with forced ventilation seems to be unnecessary.

Keywords

[Face masks](#) • [operating theatre](#) • [bacterial dispersal](#)

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