Fire in The Operating Room, a Case Report

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Introduction: Fires in the operating room have been historically caused by volitile anesthetic agents. Since the days of the ether dome, the hazards to patients and staff alike have been reduced by the advent of volitile agents with minimal conbustability. This however, has been off-set by the addition of many surgical devices that produce a great deal of heat energy. We discuss a case in which a potential fire was narrowly averted.

Conclusion: Many of the devices used in the operative theater are aimed at prevention of fire hazards, such as draps used for surgical sterility. Objects underneith may not be fire retardent, and special care must be taken by individuals in using equipment that may ignite these.

References:

MA Eggen, et al. Fiberoptic Illumination Systems can serve as a source of smoldering fires, J. of Clinical Monitoring, vol 10, 4, 1994

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