

Who is more important in the history of medicine: James Simpson or Joseph Lister?

Used carbolic acid to stop infection

Showed complete faith in his discovery despite heavy criticism

Allowed surgeons to operate for longer, take more risks and become more skilled

Relieved the problem of patients squirming and moving during operations

Death rates from infection during operation quickly fell

Got royal approval for his discovery

Found a chemical that was less problematic than others in relieving pain. Ether caused irritation for example

Increased time under the knife as a result of his discoveries resulted in greater chances of infection. Death rates rose as a result of his discovery

Faced fierce criticism. People thought pain was good and natural

Use of his discovery quickly spread

Blamed other doctors and not his chemical when people died as a result of excessive dosage

Developed methods of applying his discovery when he invented a pump

Used chloroform on patients immediately after he discovered it

Developed anti-septic surgery. This meant killing germs whilst operating

Nurses and doctors moaned that his discovery caused real irritation

Inspired others to develop aseptic surgery where the environment, equipment and people are sterile (germ free)

Helped to improve the effectiveness of chloroform by destroying germs so that surgeons could operate for longer without fear of infection