



## JOSEPH LISTER



Joseph Lister was a British physician who is deemed the father of modern surgery. In the 19th century, infections of surgical wounds were quite common and often resulted in death of the patient. Using Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory of Disease, which was the idea that microorganisms in the body resulted in infectious disease, Lister postulated that this theory could explain how surgical wounds become infected. As a method to prevent infection during operations, Lister applied a chemical, termed antiseptic, through both washes and sprays that would kill the microorganism, preventing infection of the surgical wound. This practice would soon become standard in surgical procedures and laid the foundation for many of the antiseptic practices adopted in the modern operating room.

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