Surgery Causation Model Answer

Explain why there was rapid change in surgical treatments in the period 1700-1900. [12 marks]

|  |
| --- |
| You may use the following in your answer:* GIVEN REASON 1 Chloroform
* GIVEN REASON 2 Joseph Lister

You must also use information of your own. |

One major reason that there was rapid change in surgical treatments between 1700 and 1900 was the discoveries of Joseph Lister. Joseph Lister made a huge impact on surgery with the discovery of antiseptics. This significantly reduced the risk of infection because he discovered Carbolic Acid kills germs which were causing infection during surgery resulting in the deaths of many patients. This resulted in the death rate dropping from 46% of patients to 15% following major surgery. Infection was more understood which made rapid change possible because doctors and surgeons would take necessary steps to reduce the chance of infection such as washing their hands and sterilising equipment. This had an immediate impact and enabled rapid change.

Another individual James Simpson made an important contribution to the rapid change in surgical understanding. Simpson discovered that chloroform could be a reliable and safe anesthetic compared to ether and laughing gas. By ensuring patients remained unconscious throughout the duration of the operation he was able to prevent the deaths caused by shock. In addition, this was important because it gave surgeons longer to work on the patients and in the long term led to greater understanding of how to use surgery to address complex anatomical problems. As the knowledge of surgeons improved so too did the effectiveness of surgical treatments. Initial reluctance to trust Simpson’s discovery was overcome by Queen Victoria opting to use chloroform in childbirth. This guaranteed widespread acceptance of chloroform and proved a catalyst for rapid change in surgical understanding.

 Finally, Louis Pasteur’s germ theory made the improvements to surgery that were pioneered by Lister possible. General health improved in general as more people were aware of the importance of hygiene and less surgical procedures were necessary for avoidable conditions. Acceptance of germ theory by the medical establishment made it possible to prove the effectiveness of Lister’s methods.



|  |
| --- |
| Strengths of this answer that are shown in my answer: |
| Strengths of this answer which would improve my answer: |