

## **9. THEATRE EQUIPMENT**

### **a. OPERATING TABLES**

#### **1. Purpose of Equipment**

To support the patient undergoing surgery in an appropriate position for the particular operation being carried out.

#### **2. How the Equipment Works**

An operating table has several features which allow the surgical team to position the patient as required (Figure 35).

As there are many models, the following information is presented as a general guide only.

##### **i. Height (P and D)**

The table is raised by slowly pumping the pump pedal (P) and lowered by using the release pedal (D) until the required height is reached.

##### **ii. Brake (B)**

The table runs on small wheels or castors. They must be securely locked while the operation is being carried out.

##### **To lock the wheels or castors:**

- turn the small brake lever (B) through 90° (a right-angle)
- check that the table does not move when pushed

##### **To unlock the wheels or castors:**

- reverse the action, turning the brake lever (B) back to its original position

##### **iii. Lateral rotation (L and R)**

To rotate the table:

- release the locking lever (L) by turning it anticlockwise
- turn the rotation arm (R) clockwise
- return the locking lever to original position

To return the table to the normal position:

- release the locking lever (L)
- turn the rotation arm (R) anticlockwise
- return the locking lever to original position

##### **iv. Back rest (E)**

To put up the back rest:

- slowly turn the elevation arm (E) clockwise until it reaches the required position

To lower the back rest:

- slowly turn the elevation arm (E) anticlockwise



#### **v. Leg rest (H)**

To lower the leg rest:

- release the retention catch and the hinged leg rest position of the table will drop

To raise the leg rest:

- lift hinged portion of table back to normal position. It should lock automatically

#### **vi. Accessories**

Other accessories such as arm rests, leg and chest supports either screw or clip into position, according to the manufacturer's design.

### **3. Routines and safety**

Looked after carefully, an operating table may be used for many years without any maintenance problem.

IT MUST BE CAREFULLY CLEANED AND WELL DRIED AFTER USE.

If it is not dried properly, the facilities described above in Section 2 will corrode and it will not be possible to position the patient correctly. It may even mean that some operations cannot be performed.

#### **a. After each operation:**

- thoroughly clean the table with a mixture of water, detergent and disinfectant, removing all traces of blood and debris to prevent cross infection
- dry quickly and thoroughly

#### **b. Daily:**

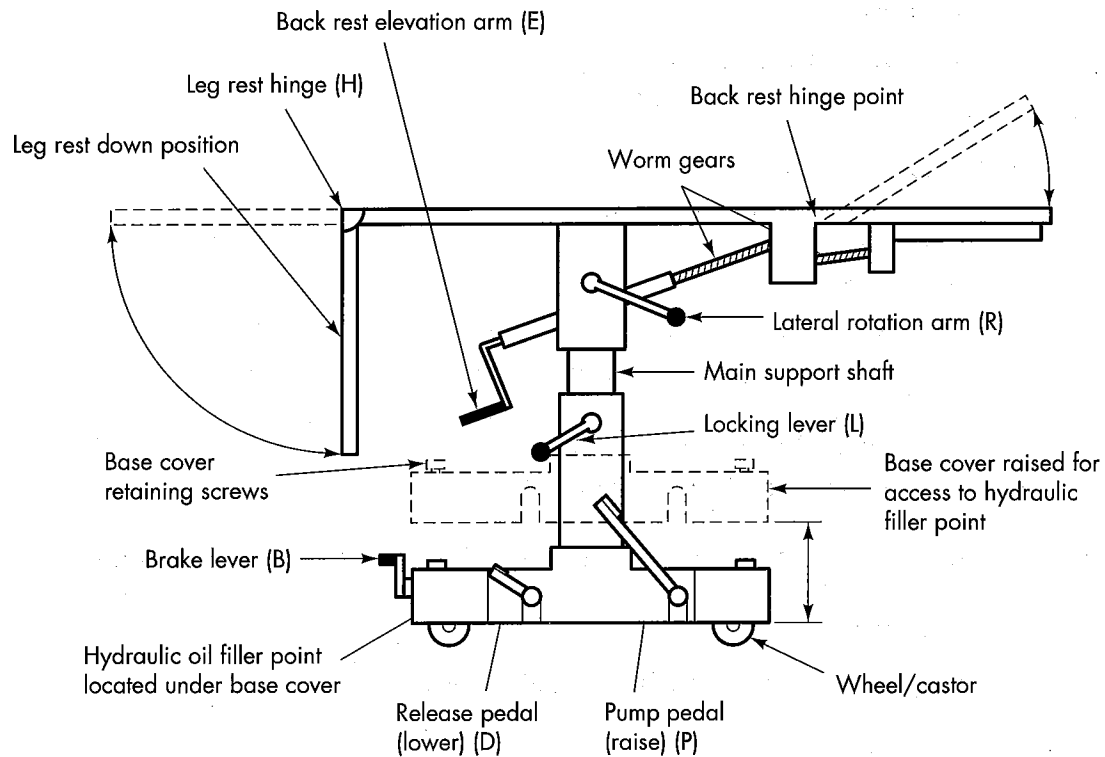
- clean and dry the whole table
- inspect mattress for tears or other damage (repairs may be done locally but only antistatic, waterproof material should be used)
- check that all facilities are working easily and safely
- check that the wheel brake works well and that the table moves easily when the brake is released
- check that accessories (arm rest and leg supports) fit correctly and are undamaged

#### **c. Weekly:**

- check the hydraulic fluid level (Figure 35) and fill if necessary. The filler point is usually beneath the base cover. Remove the four corner screws, lift the table support column, unscrew the filler cap and check that the oil level is near the top. If not, fill up with the specified hydraulic oil or (if not available) car brake fluid.  
DO NOT use any other oil. Other oils will destroy the pump seals and the height facility
- with a colleague acting as the 'patient', check that the hydraulic lift and other facilities are functioning. Wear theatre dress for this



- extend worm gears and main support shaft (Figure 35)
- apply a light smear of grease to the worm gears and also to the main support shaft
- check wheels and castors for signs of damage or wear
- check all accessories for damage or wear



**Figure 35:** Hydraulic operating table

#### d. Safety:

The following safety points are of vital importance:

- check that the table functions well daily, weekly and BEFORE EACH OPERATION
- check daily that all accessories are available and in good working order
- clean and dry table thoroughly AFTER EACH OPERATION

#### 4. How to use the equipment

Correct use of the equipment is described above. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific advice on the equipment you are using. The guidelines given here are general only.



## 5. Simple fault finding and maintenance

### *Example a:*

Table cannot be raised:

- check hydraulic oil level

if oil level is satisfactory:

- call a qualified technician

### *Example b:*

Table will not rotate:

- check worm gears are greased

if table still does not rotate:

- call a qualified technician

### *Example c:*

Back rest cannot be raised:

- check worm gears are greased

if back rest still cannot be raised:

- call a qualified technician

All other poor functioning or faults will need the skills of a qualified technician.

## 6. Spares

Always have a second table available for emergency use.

Hydraulic oil

Lubricating grease or vaseline

Set of pump seals



## **7. User Checklist (to be displayed near the equipment)**

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions

To keep this equipment in good working order for as long as possible:

### **Before using the table check:**

- it has been thoroughly cleaned and dried since the last operation
- height control pedals
- brake and mobility of the table
- lateral rotation function
- back raising function
- leg rest is free and can be locked in position
- all accessories, such as arm rests, and leg and chest supports, are available and in good working order

### **Report to the Maintenance Officer:**

- any visible damage to table or mattress
- any fault in the functioning of the table

Follow these SAFETY points:

Do check that all functions are working well – weekly, daily and immediately before use.

Do check that all accessories are available in good condition and fit securely.

Do clean and dry the table after each operation.

Do ensure that the pumping mechanism is regularly exercised if the table is not going to be used daily.