

What is this “Cleanroom?”

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Abstract:

Suppose you have just been told that you need to have a heart bypass. One thing that I am sure that you don't want to worry about is the surgical room. You know that it is possible for contamination, such as bacteria, to be in the operating room and cause problems, like an infection. So you want the room to be “clean,” absent of problem producing contamination. You would want the operating room controlled for temperature and humidity so the environmental conditions (whether hot or cold, wet or dry) do not affect the surgeon's performance. You would want all the necessary utilities supplied to the room to support the operation. You would want the assurance that the power for the lights and surgical equipment would be available and have a back-up system so that, in the unlikely event of a power outage, the surgery could continue to a point that you would survive. By-products from the surgery must be disposed of properly to avoid contamination of others. In other words, you do not want to be concerned about the facility, yet it is a significant part of the operation.