

Take 3 steps to make your surgical patient safe by preventing wound infections!



1



Pre-operative

Patient bathing

Make sure the patient takes a shower or bath and washes with soap on the day of the operation, or the evening before. This helps remove bacteria from the skin and reduces the risk of wound infection.

Avoid hair removal

Avoid hair removal or use clippers and change or disinfect blades after each patient. Razors damage the skin, which can lead to infection.



2



Peri-operative

Good surgical hand preparation

Follow all the steps of a good hand preparation technique before operating. Scrub with soap and water for 3-5 min or rub with an alcohol-based solution for 2-3 min.

Appropriate antibiotic prophylaxis needs to be:

- Right antibiotic for the operation
- Right dose
- Right time = a single dose within 60 min
- Appropriate discontinuation = stop after surgery.



3



Intra-operative

Appropriate skin preparation

Clean incision site with soap and water and then use antiseptic preparation (chlorhexidine/alcohol or iodophor/alcohol). Allow to dry before incision.

Discipline in the OR*

1. Make sure that all the equipment needed is in the OR before starting.
2. Only essential staff should be in the OR.
3. Keep doors and windows closed during the operation.

*Operating Room



World Health Organization

