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PREVENTION OF INFECTION: ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Skin Preparation: Introduction

Cleaning the skin before surgery is an important first step in reducing the risks of infection after a surgical procedure. Your participation in bathing with a specific cleansing soap prior to surgery is recommended.

Supplies Needed

- 1 bottle of over-the-counter chlorhexidine gluconate (Hibiclens®) solution available at drugstores (Walgreens, Walmart, CVS, Osco)



- A clean washcloth

Instructions

- 2 days prior to surgery, shower normally using usual soap, do not shave below the neck
- Rinse well and then apply the chlorhexidine soap using a clean washcloth to your entire body from the shoulders down (avoid genitals, anus, eyes, and nose/mouth)
- Leave on three (3) minutes and then rinse well
- Pat dry: it is normal for the skin to feel tacky or sticky for several minutes but this is temporary
- Do not apply any lotions or cream after cleaning
- Repeat one (1) additional day prior to surgery, and *again the morning of surgery*