

PREVENTING SURGICAL SITE INFECTION

Usage of Hibiclens® Antiseptic Skin Cleanser

Preventing infection before orthopedic surgery is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure a safe and successful recovery. Surgical site infections can lead to serious complications, including delayed healing, additional surgeries, longer hospital stays, and increased medical costs. Fortunately, you can help reduce your risk by properly preparing your skin before surgery.

Why Hibiclens® Antiseptic Skin Cleanser?

Hibiclens® Antiseptic Skin Cleanser (Chlorhexidine Gluconate solution) is an antiseptic product that kills bacteria on your skin. Using this cleanser (or CHG wipes) before surgery significantly lowers the chance of infection at the surgical site. These products are safe, effective, and recommended by healthcare professionals as part of your pre-operative routine.

What Happen If You Don't Use This Product?

Skipping this important step can increase your risk of developing a surgical site infection. Infections can cause pain, swelling, and discharge at the incision site, and may require antibiotics or additional procedures to treat. In severe cases, infections can compromise the success of your joint replacement and lead to long-term health issues.

How to Use Hibiclens® Antiseptic Skin Cleanser or CHG Wipes

1. Shower or bathe with Hibiclens® the morning of or night before your surgery. Do **not** shave the area of your body where your surgery will be performed. If you are showering the night before your surgery, please change your bed linens.
2. With each shower or bath, wash your hair as usual with your normal shampoo.
3. Rinse your hair and body thoroughly after you shampoo your hair to remove any shampoo residue.
4. Apply the Hibiclens® soap to your entire body **ONLY FROM THE NECK DOWN**. **Do not use near your eyes, ears, or genitals to avoid permanent injury to those areas.** Wash thoroughly, paying special attention to the area where your surgery will be performed.
5. Turn off water to prevent rinsing the soap off too soon. Wash your body gently for five (5) minutes. Do not scrub your skin too hard. Do not wash with your regular soap afterward.
6. Turn the water back on and rinse your body thoroughly.
7. Pat yourself dry with a clean, soft towel.

Your Role in Safe Surgery

By following these simple steps, you're playing a vital role in protecting your health and ensuring the best possible outcome from your orthopedic surgery.

If you have any questions, please email us at AskOrtho@stelizabeth.com or contact the Orthopaedic Coordinator at 859-301-0405.