

Cesarean Section Surgical Site Infection Prevention

What is a surgical site infection?

A surgical site infection can happen in any part of the body where you have surgery.

If a surgical site infection occurs, it will need to be treated with antibiotics.

What are signs of a surgical site infection?

Report to your doctor any:

- Redness
- Pain
- Drainage
- Odor
- Fever of 100⁰ degrees or more

How do I prevent a surgical site infection?

Before your surgery:

- Tell your doctor about all of your health problems.
- Stop smoking before you have surgery. Smoking increases your risk of getting an infection. Your doctor can help you quit smoking.
- Do not shave or wax your perineal or genital area after your 34th week of pregnancy. This can irritate your skin and make it easier to get an infection.
- Take a shower the night before surgery **and** before you come to the hospital the next morning. Use Hibiclens Antimicrobial and Antiseptic Skin Cleanser to clean your abdomen. Make sure to clean very well between the folds of your skin. You can buy Hibiclens at a drugstore. Do not use Hibiclens near your eyes or ears.



After your surgery:

- All healthcare providers, family and friends **should clean their hands** with soap and water or hand gel before and after visiting you. If you do not see them clean their hands, ask them to clean their hands.
- Your family and friends **should not touch your incision** or the dressing covering your incision.
- Wash your hands before and after caring for your incision and also after using the bathroom.
- Clean your incision with soap and water or you may use the Hibiclens cleaner. Do not scrub the incision with a washcloth.
- Lightly dry your incision. Do not put any alcohol or hydrogen peroxide on the incision.
- If you have steri-strips covering the incision, do not remove them. They will peel off in 1-2 weeks.
- If you have staples, go to your doctor's office in 1-2 days to have them removed.

Call your doctor right away for any redness, pain, drainage, odor or fever.

Please explain these instructions back to your healthcare provider so we know you understand. We want you to ask us any questions!