

Hibiclens Bathing and Antibiotic Ointment Instructions

Preventing Surgical Site Infections

Follow these instructions to help prevent surgical site infections.

What are we doing to prevent surgical site infections?

Seattle Children's Hospital is working hard to prevent infections. During your child's surgery, we will give antibiotics (medicine used to treat infections) as needed, clean the skin and closely watch things like your child's body temperature and blood sugar. All of these can prevent infection.

How can I help prevent surgical site infections?

Your child's skin needs to be as free of germs (bacteria) as possible before their surgery or procedure. Thoroughly washing the skin with Hibiclens (chlorhexidine gluconate) soap can greatly reduce the number of germs and help us prevent infection. Some patients may need to use Bactroban (Mupirocin) antibiotic ointment in the nostrils as well. **We have checked the box next to the instructions you need to follow for your child.**

Low risk for
Staphylococcus aureus infection/
Minor Surgery

- Help your child shower or bathe with Hibiclens soap the evening before the surgery. Follow the bath instructions on the back of this page.

High risk for
Staphylococcus aureus infection/
Major Surgery or
Implant

- Help your child shower or bathe with Hibiclens soap daily for 3 days before the surgery. Follow the instructions on the back of this page.
- Apply Bactroban (Mupirocin) ointment in the nostrils 2 times a day (morning and evening) for 3 days before the surgery and on the morning of the surgery. Follow the instructions on the back of this page.

Start the baths and ointment on _____
(date)

History of
Methicillin-Resistant
Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

- Help your child shower or bathe with Hibiclens soap daily for 7 days before the surgery. Follow the instructions on the back of this page.
- Apply Bactroban (Mupirocin) ointment in the nostrils 2 times a day for 7 days before the surgery and on the morning of the surgery. Follow the instructions on the back of this page.

Start the baths and ointment on _____
(date)

To Learn More

- Surgery Center
206-987-2045
- Outpatient Procedure
Center 206-987-5533
- Bellevue Surgery
Center 206-884-9200
- Ask your child's
healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask
your child's nurse.
- From outside the
hospital, call the
toll-free Family
Interpreting Line
1-866-583-1527. Tell
the interpreter the
name or extension you
need.
- For Deaf and hard of
hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY).

Bathing or showering steps

Hibiclens is a brand name for a soap called chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG). Do not use Hibiclens if your child is allergic to it. If you misplace your packet, you can get Hibiclens soap at most large pharmacies.

Please follow these instructions for cleaning your child's skin using Hibiclens:

1. In the shower or tub, wash the body with regular soap and water first. Wash the hair as usual with your normal shampoo.
2. Rinse the hair and body thoroughly to remove soap and shampoo residue.
3. Apply the Hibiclens soap to your child's entire body only from the neck down. Do not use Hibiclens near the eyes or ears to avoid permanent injury to those areas.
4. Turn water off to prevent rinsing off soap too soon. Wash the body gently for five minutes. Do not scrub the skin too hard. Wash thoroughly with the Hibiclens, paying special attention to the area where the surgery or procedure will be done. Do not wash with regular soap after the Hibiclens is used.
5. Turn the water back on and rinse the body thoroughly.
6. Pat your child dry with a clean, soft towel.
7. Do not put lotions, powders or oils on your child's skin after bathing.

Bactroban (Mupirocin) Ointment Steps

1. Put a small amount of Bactroban (Mupirocin) antibiotic ointment on one end of a cotton-tip swab (Q-tips).
2. Apply the medicine all around the inside of one nostril.
3. Then, put the ointment on the other (unused) end of the cotton-tip swab, and apply the medicine inside the other nostril.