Surgical site infection prevention: quick guide

NICE Guideline [NG125]

This hospital endorses the NICE 2019 surgical site infection prevention recommendations.

1. Alcohol-based solution of chlorhexidine
   - Alternative if the surgical site is next to a mucous membrane
   - Do not use on mucous membranes

2. Aqueous solution of chlorhexidine
   - Alternative if the surgical site is next to a mucous membrane
   - Do not use on ear, can cause deafness

3. Alcohol-based solution of povidone-iodine
   - For use if chlorhexidine is contraindicated
   - Do not use on eye, can cause corneal damage

4. Aqueous solution of povidone-iodine
   - For use if both an alcohol-based solution and chlorhexidine are unsuitable
   - Do not use on eye, can cause corneal damage
   - Do not use on ear, can cause deafness
   - Do not use on mucous membranes

Extra information

1. At the time of publication (April 2019), 0.5% chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol solution (Hydrex; Prevase) was licensed for 'preoperative skin disinfection prior to minor surgical procedures' and 2.0% chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol applicators (ChloraPrep) was licensed for 'disinfection of the skin prior to invasive medical procedures'.
2. At the time of publication (April 2019), 4.0% aqueous chlorhexidine (Hibiscrub) was licensed for 'preoperative and postoperative skin antisepsis for patients undergoing elective surgery'; however, relevant instructions were limited to use as a body wash to be used before the person enters the operating theatre.
3. At the time of publication (April 2019), 7.5% povidone-iodine surgical scrub solution (Videne) was licensed for disinfecting the site of incision prior to elective surgery and 7.5% povidone-iodine (Betadine surgical scrub) was licensed for 'preoperative preparation of patients' skin'. 10% iodine antiseptic solution (Videne) was licensed for 'disinfection of intact external skin' or as a mucosal antiseptic and 10% povidone-iodine solution (Standardised Betadine antiseptic solution) was licensed for 'preoperative and postoperative antiseptic skin cleanser for major and minor surgical procedures'.
4. At the time of publication (April 2019), 7.5% povidone-iodine surgical scrub solution (Videne) was licensed for disinfecting the site of incision prior to elective surgery and 7.5% povidone-iodine (Betadine surgical scrub) was licensed for 'preoperative preparation of patients' skin'. 10% iodine antiseptic solution (Videne) was licensed for 'disinfection of intact external skin' or as a mucosal antiseptic and 10% povidone-iodine solution (Standardised Betadine antiseptic solution) was licensed for 'preoperative and postoperative antiseptic skin cleanser for major and minor surgical procedures'.

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Do not use on mucous membranes
Do not use on ear, can cause deafness
Do not use on eye, can cause corneal damage
Risk of splashes and drips

Extra information