Surgical site infection prevention: quick guide

NICE Guideline [NG125]









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

Alcohol-based solution of chlorhexidine1









Aqueous solution of chlorhexidine²

Alternative if the surgical site is next to a mucous membrane







Alcohol-based solution of povidone-iodine³

For use if chlorhexidine is contraindicated









Extra information

Aqueous solution of povidoneiodine4



For use if both an alcohol-based solution and chlorhexidine are unsuitable

Extra information







^{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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^{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), 10% povidone-iodine alcoholic solution (Videne alcoholic tincture) was licensed for 'topical application'. 10% povidone-iodine (Betadine Alcoholic solution) was licensed for 'antiseptic skin cleanser for major and minor surgical procedures'.