

Pre-Op Cleansing Instructions

SKIN PREPARATION BEFORE SURGERY

Preparing the skin before surgery can reduce the risk of infection at the surgical site. To make the process easier, we are providing you with disposable cloths moistened with a rinse-free sterile cleansing cloth with antiseptic solution. The steps below outline the process and should be carefully followed. You may need a family member to assist you.

You should not shave the site or area near the planned surgery site for at least 7 days before surgery.

The day before surgery you should make your bed with clean sheets. The night before surgery, shower using a clean washcloth and towel. Wash and rinse your hair as usual.

Wait 2 hours after your bath, then open the sterile cleansing cloth package as shown. It contains 2 cloth wipes. (Do not dispose of these cloths in the toilet).

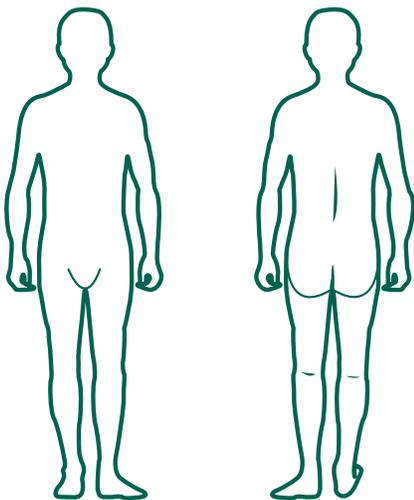
DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE SAGE CLOTHS

Caution: Do not allow contact of this product with your eyes, ears, mouth or genitals.

1. With the first cloth, apply the skin preparation over the site of your surgery by gently rubbing the cloth over the skin in a back and forth motion for 30 seconds. Discard cloth.
2. Repeat the skin application with the second cloth, to the same areas for an additional 30 Seconds, using a gentle back and forth motion. Discard cloth.
3. Allow skin to dry. Then, wear freshly laundered pajamas.
4. For skin burning or itching that lasts more than 15 minutes or development of a rash, rinse the skin with clean water. Notify the nurse of the skin reaction when you arrive at the hospital for your surgery.
5. Do not take another bath once the skin prep is applied.
 - The prepped area(s) may feel tacky or sticky and you may have a tingling sensation. This is normal.
 - Once the skin prep is completed, do not apply lotions, moisturizers, powder or makeup to the prepped areas.



St. Joseph's/Candler is committed to patient safety. The sterile cloth program is provided free of charge to our patients as part of our ongoing efforts to always follow best practices and recommended guidelines to reduce or prevent surgical infections.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I have to wipe down with sterile antiseptic cloths?

A patient's own bacterial flora is the #1 cause for a Surgical Site Infection (SSI). Evidence shows that "early prepping" with a sterile cloth can reduce this bacterial count and lessening a patient's risk for SSI. Early Prepping with a sterile antiseptic cloth is also recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI).

Is the feeling on my skin normal?

Yes. This sterile cloth is a topical antiseptic that has persistent properties. Unlike alcohol (which evaporates), the cloth solution produces a covalent bond to the bacterial layer of your skin. The product will remain "sticky" or "tacky" for 3-5 minutes while it dries. Afterward, patients often experience a residual feeling of the cloth solution on the skin.

What happens if I get a visual rash?

If a visible rash occurs, remove the solution with a cool, damp washcloth. Only about 1% of patients are actually allergic to the antiseptic solution.

Why do I have to wait 1-2 hours after a shower, to use the cloths?

Because a portion of the solution is an active ingredient, it can cause irritation if it gets into the pores of the skin. A hot shower/bath will open skin pores. Therefore it is important to allow the skin to become cool and dry before applying the cloths.

What is "CHG"?

Chlorhexidine Gluconate is the topical antiseptic solution on the cloth similar to alcohol but with persistent properties. It has been widely used in the healthcare industry for decades.

Why can't I take a shower/bath the morning of surgery?

In order to achieve maximum effect of the antiseptic solution, it must not be washed off. The solution also builds upon itself and creates additional protection for the patient.

Should I scrub with the cloths?

No. Friction from scrubbing can create heat and open skin pores which made lead to irritation. Use each cloth as directed in a gentle fashion similar to painting or coating.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact your Pre Admission Testing Office or call:

St. Joseph's Hospital Outpatient Surgery 912-819-2100 or Prescreening 912-819-4599

Candler Hospital Outpatient Surgery 912-819-8100 or Prescreening 912-819-6757

Pooler Outpatient Surgery 912-737-2236 or Prescreening 912-737-2237 and 912-737-2238



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