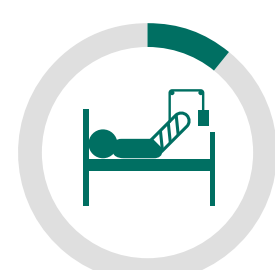


STOP INFECTIONS AFTER SURGERY

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Patients develop infections when **bacteria get into incisions made during surgery**. These affect patients in both...

LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



More than **1 in 10 people** who have surgery in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) get surgical site infections (SSIs)

People's risk of SSI in LMICs is **3 TO 5 TIMES HIGHER** than in high-income countries



Up to **1 in 5 women** in Africa who deliver their baby by caesarean section get a **wound infection**

HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES

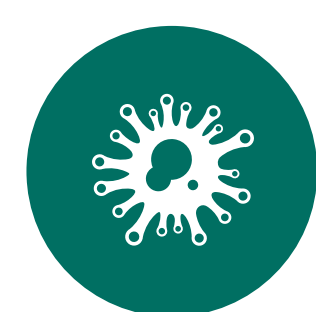


In Europe, SSIs affect more than **500 000 PEOPLE** per year costing up to **€ 19 BILLION**

Around **1%** of people who have surgery in the **USA** get an SSI



In the USA, SSIs contribute to patients spending more than **400 000 extra days** in hospital, costing **US\$ 10 BILLION** per year



SSIs can be caused by bacteria that are **resistant to commonly-used antibiotics**



SSIs threaten the lives of **millions** of surgical patients **each year** and contribute to the spread of **antibiotic resistance**

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

A range of precautions - **before, during and after surgery** - reduces the risk of infection



BEFORE SURGERY



Ensure patients bathe or shower



Do not shave patients



Only use antibiotics when recommended

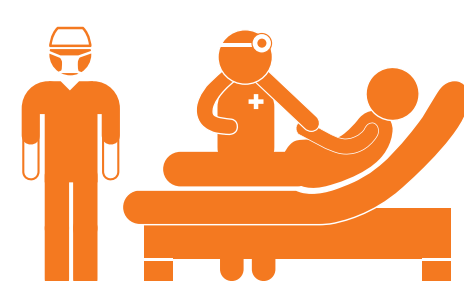


Use chlorhexidine alcohol-based antiseptic solutions to prepare skin



Surgical scrub technique: hand wash or alcohol-based handrub

DURING SURGERY



Limit the number of people and doors being opened



Ensure all surgical equipment is sterile and maintain asepsis throughout surgery



AFTER SURGERY



Do not continue antibiotics to prevent infection - **this is unnecessary and contributes to the spread of antibiotic resistance**



Check wounds for infection and use standard dressings on primary wounds



Correct use of antibiotics and surgical techniques help **stop the spread of antibiotic resistance**



Preventative measures can **reduce SSIs by 39%** (as shown in a pilot study in 4 African countries)

SSI surveillance needs to be an integral part of programmes to prevent infections



Team work, good communication and staff engagement support SSI prevention



WHO's Global Guidelines for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infections provide recommendations for the care of patients before, during and after surgery. For more information visit www.who.int/gpsc/en



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