

Staff Huddle: What is a surgical site infection? Symptoms of a Surgical Site infection.- Week #1

A surgical site infection is an infection that occurs after surgery in the part of the body where the surgery took place.⁴

- Symptoms include: Redness and pain around the area where you had surgery, drainage that is cloudy or foul smelling, or fever.



Staff Huddle: Reservoirs for these organisms that can cause SSI's: - Week #2

- The skin reservoir
 - The skin, nose, and hair of patients and surgical team members.
- Dry surfaces
 - This includes a contaminated environment- for example improper cleaning and disinfecting pre or postoperatively.
- Devices and blood
 - Contaminated instruments and equipment spread germs when not properly cleaned or disinfected.
- GI system or gut
 - Germs can spread when bowel contamination occurs.



Staff Huddle: Patient Education help prevent surgical site infections. - Week #3

- Wash with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer:
 - Before and after changing dressing either inpatient or at home.
 - Inform family members to clean hands when visiting.
- If you have any symptoms of an infection, such as redness and pain at the surgical site, drainage, or fever, call your doctor immediately.



Staff Huddle: Steps qualified frontline staff can take to prevent SSI's- Week #4 - (consult with physician regarding these steps.)

- Blood sugar control
 - Blood glucose less than 200 mg/dl to help wound healing, and to keep tissue healthy.
 - Educate patients on monitoring blood sugars preoperatively and postoperatively.
- Maintain a normal body temperature- which is 97.7–99.5 °F

- Helps tissue heal and creates less blood loss.
- Help patient maintain body temperature by providing warm blankets, or warmed IV fluids
- Pre-surgery antibiotics
 - Helps prevent infections, used within an hour of surgery.
 - Typically, no further doses are given after-this is to prevent antibiotic resistance.
- Alcohol-based skin antiseptic agent
 - Use skin prep containing alcohol, chlorhexidine gluconate, or a povidone iodine solution.
 - This is to lower to bacteria growth on skin or surgical area.
- Supplemental oxygen
 - Administered in operating room and in post-anesthesia.
 - Helps maintain normal body temperature and replace the oxygen loss in tissues.

Some other actions that all staff can perform include:

- Staying home when sick.
- Clean your hands.
- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Clean and disinfect devices and patient spaces.