

Allergic reactions

There have been reports of allergic reactions in patients who have used products containing chlorhexidine. In rare cases these have been severe requiring urgent medical assistance. Please seek medical advice if you notice any signs of allergy after using chlorhexidine skin cleanser such as:

- A rash
- Breathing difficulties
- Swelling of the lips, tongue and throat.

Advice can be sought from your GP or NHS 111.
In an emergency please contact the Emergency Services Tel: 999.

Contact information

If you have any queries about these instructions please contact the pre-assessment clinic.



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Preparing your skin before surgery

HibiScrub Plus®/Octenisan



Welcome to exceptional healthcare



PART OF ASPEN HEALTHCARE

Introduction

This leaflet explains why we ask you to use liquid skin cleanser (effectively an anti-bacterial shower gel) and how to use it for the best effect before surgery. It also tells you about the risks involved with using the skin cleanser that you should be aware of.

Why do I need to use chlorhexidine skin cleanser?

It is important to prepare your skin before surgery to make sure that your skin is as clean as it can be and to reduce the amount of bacteria that is normally found on the skin. Cleaning your skin with this cleanser may help reduce the risk of you having a wound infection after surgery.

Please follow the instructions for using the solution carefully.

Further advice can be found on the inside of the peel away label on the bottle.

Step 1	The evening before your operation	Wash your face, hair and body in the usual way – preferably in the shower. Then use the solution to shower your whole body again. Pay particular attention to the area to be operated on. Put on clean night clothes and sleep in clean sheets.
Step 2	The morning of your operation	Use the solution to shower and wash your whole body again (leave your hair if you wish). Again, pay particular attention to the area being operated on. Put on clean clothes.

How to use the skin cleanser

You can use the solution while taking a shower. Please follow these steps:

1. Wash your face with undiluted (full strength) solution especially around the nose, avoiding your eyes and ears
2. Using a clean cloth, wash using undiluted solution, working downwards from your neck, paying attention to the operation site, armpits, groin and buttocks, and any skin folds in the stomach. Be careful not to use on genitals, ears, eyes or mouth (known as mucous membranes) as chlorhexidine can cause irritation to these more sensitive areas.
3. Try to leave the solution on the skin for 3 minutes
4. After washing all of these important areas rinse off with clean water
5. Repeat the process but this time start with your hair if you are able to. If you are not able to wash your hair, please use the solution around your hairline
6. After a final rinse, dry thoroughly with a clean towel.

Do not use the solution on any wounds or areas of broken skin.

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