

□ Postoperative Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Prevention

Postoperative care plays a crucial role in preventing **surgical site infections (SSIs)**. Early detection, wound management, and patient education are key components of effective SSI prevention after surgery.

□ Objectives

- Promote optimal **wound healing**
- Prevent microbial contamination of the incision site
- Detect early signs of infection

□ Key Postoperative Measures

□ 1. Wound Care

- Keep wound **clean, dry, and covered** for at least 24–48 hours
- Use **aseptic technique** for dressing changes
- Avoid topical antibiotics unless specifically indicated

□ 2. Monitoring for Signs of Infection

- Monitor for:
 1. **Redness, swelling, warmth**
 2. **Purulent discharge**
 3. **Fever** or systemic symptoms
- Use **standardized wound surveillance protocols**

□ 3. Antibiotic Stewardship

- **Do not prolong** prophylactic antibiotics beyond 24 hours post-surgery (unless justified)
- Reserve therapeutic antibiotics for **documented infections**

□ 4. Drain and Catheter Management

- Remove surgical drains and urinary catheters as **early as possible**
- Ensure **closed drainage systems** remain sealed and secure

□ 5. Patient Hygiene and Education

- Instruct patient on:
 1. **Hand hygiene** before touching wound
 2. Signs of infection and when to seek help
- Educate about **avoiding self-removal** of dressings or stitches

□ 6. Special Considerations in Neurosurgery

- Observe for **CSF leakage**, which increases SSI risk
- Avoid tension or manipulation over craniotomy/spinal wounds
- Ensure follow-up for **wound inspection and imaging** (if required)

□ Documentation and Follow-up

- Record wound status in clinical notes
- Schedule dressing changes and suture/staple removal
- Include SSI surveillance in quality control programs

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