

□ Skin Cleaning

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Skin cleaning refers to the mechanical and/or chemical process of removing dirt, debris, sweat, sebum, and transient microorganisms from the skin **before antiseptic application** in surgical settings.

□ Objectives

- Remove gross [contamination](#)
- Reduce microbial load
- Optimize effectiveness of antiseptic agents

□ Procedure

1. Use **mild soap and water** or designated pre-op cleaning solution
2. Gently scrub the area using **gauze or sterile sponge**
3. Rinse thoroughly with **sterile or clean water**
4. Dry the area with **sterile towels** before applying antiseptic
5. Avoid aggressive rubbing to prevent microabrasions

□ When to Perform

- In cases of **visible soiling**
- When patient presents with **excess sweat, ointments or blood**
- Before antiseptic application in elective surgeries (especially in contaminated sites)

⚠ Do Not Replace Antisepsis

Skin cleaning is **not a substitute** for proper **antiseptic application**. It is a preparatory step to:

- Enhance penetration of antiseptics

- Reduce risk of surgical site infection

▢ Tips for Best Practice

- Use **chlorhexidine-based wipes** in pre-op showers if recommended
- Document any pre-existing **skin lesions or infections**
- Educate patients on **home hygiene** before scheduled surgery

Preoperative Skin Antisepsis

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