Clean Hands Save Lives

Pre-Surgical Hand Asepsis Protocol

4 Steps: Hygiene, Wash, Disinfect and Care

1 Hygiene

Surgical personnel should always take care of hand hygiene

Have a proper hand hygiene in and outside the surgical theater.



Clean Hands



Short nails



No artificial nails
No nail polish



No jewellery



No wounds

2 Hand Washing

1 minute handwash with Neutral Soap (Baktolin®)

This is a **cleaning procedure**. Before the 1st surgery of the day or when hands are visibly soiled.



Use soap and
a dry sponge.



Gently wash hands and forearms including elbow
without brushing.





Pick and brush fingernails,
rinse with water.



Dry hands and arms
with regular paper.

3 Hand Disinfection

1.5 minute rub with Hydro-Alcoholic Solution (Sterillium®)*

This is the **hand disinfecting step**. Keep solution wet for 1.5 minutes on skin.



Time your 1.5 minute rub!
Apply on hands and forearms.



Rub over hands, forearm and elbow.
Include upper arm in abdominal
procedures (Large animals).



Concentrate on areas often missed.



Allow to dry before gloving!
Don't wave hands!

4 Skin Care

Good Skin Care (Baktolan cream®)

Take care of your hands when leaving the surgical theater.



Apply cream on back of hands, rub hands back to back then rest of hand.

Areas frequently missed during disinfecting step!



* Timing based on the use of Sterillium (Bode-Chemie, Hamburg, Germany). For use with any other products, assure the hydro-alcoholic solution used meets the prEN 12791 requirements for surgical hand asepsis and verify approriate timing according to manufacturers recommendations.

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REFERENCES

» World Health Organisation Hand Hygiene Guidelines: http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/
» Verwilghen D. et al (2011), Vet Surg, 515-521
» Widmer AF (2013): J Hosp Infect, Suppl. 1:S35-9

It's in your hands!

www.veterinaryhandhygiene.eu