

Preoperative hair removal

Procedure of hair removal with clipper



Critical points

1. Hair interferes with surgery.

Action:

- Only hair interfering with the surgical procedure should be removed.

2. Infection due to skin abrasion after shaving.

Action:

- Hair removal should only be performed the day of surgery in a location outside the operating or procedure room.
- Hair should be clipped using a single-use electric or battery-operated clipper or a clipper with a reusable head that can be disinfected between surgical operations. Shaving with razors is not recommended.

Note

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Only remove hair interfering with the surgical procedure, just before surgery.

Procedure

This is a suggested procedure. Please follow the guidelines and instructions of your hospital.

1. Prepare material:

- Clipper
- Removable head for clipper
- Paper towel
- Tape
- Pair of gloves

Note

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Stroke against direction of hair growth.

Remove clipped hair.

Disinfect hands.

2. Inform the patient (if they are awake) that you will shave the surgical area.
3. Install the anesthetic frame.
4. Disinfect your hands.
5. Put on gloves.
6. Place the paper towel under the area of hair removal.
7. Check the skin condition for injuries.
8. If required, draw an incision line on the skin.
9. Clipping: Use short strokes in the opposite direction of hair growth. Hair stubble will still be present after clipping.
10. Remove all clipped hair with a tape or other adhesive products to prevent contamination of the surgical site.
11. Check the surgical site.
12. Remove all paper tissues carefully. Make sure that no hair contaminates the surroundings.
13. Remove all used material. Disinfect clippers and table or trolley.
 - Discard the disposable clipper head into a sharps container.
14. Remove gloves and disinfect hands.

Reference(s)

- **Center for disease control and prevention [Internet]**. Guideline for Prevention of Surgical Site Infection. 1999. [Accessed November 2013]. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/SSI_1999.pdf.
- **Tanner J, Norrie P, Melen K**. Preoperative hair removal to reduce surgical site infection. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2011. Issue 11. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004122.pub4.