

FAQ for Preoperative Skin Preparation



The fight against infection begins at home.
View Skin Prep Video at bch.org/skinprep

I am hesitant to put Hibiclens® (or a generic chlorhexadine gluconate 4% solution) on my face.

It is okay to avoid applying Hibiclens to your face.

Why can't I use regular soap, lotion, cream, powder or deodorant after washing with Hibiclens?

These products may interfere with Hibiclens binding to your skin and decrease the effectiveness of Hibiclens.

Why do I have to use Hibiclens on my entire body when I am only getting surgery on small area of my body?

Our microbiome lives everywhere on our skin, and we want to decrease overall bacterial presence.

What if I get a rash or skin irritation?

Please call your doctor or pre-operative team. They may instruct you to use a different soap or only use the Hibiclens on targeted areas.

Is leaving Hibiclens on longer better?

No, do not leave any longer than 3 minutes. Leaving Hibiclens on your skin for 2 minutes is adequate. Also remember - **do not** use abrasive washcloths or sponges to apply Hibiclens.

What if my doctor tells me something different about skin prep than the instructions from the pre-operative team at BCH?

The infectious diseases physicians along with the surgical teams at BCH have developed the most up-to-date protocol for skin preparation prior to surgery based on standard of care guidelines. Please adhere to the recommendations of your BCH pre-operative care team.

