

Bathing Prior to your Child's Surgery

Your child is scheduled for a surgical procedure. Before surgery, you can play an important role in your child's health to reduce infection. You can reduce the number of germs on your child's skin by carefully washing and bathing. Your child will need to bathe or shower the night before using Dial/antimicrobial soap. Depending on the surgery, your child may not be able to take a bath/shower with soap and water for a few days.



Day Before Procedure Bathing Instructions

1. Have your child sleep on freshly washed bed sheets/linens.
2. Wash your child's hair with regular shampoo.
 - a. Use a clean washcloth to scrub the skin. Do not use a loofa or any reusable bath sponge since it can carry germs.
 - b. Do not shave the area of the body where the surgery will be performed.
 - c. Rinse your child well and remove all soap.
 - d. Use a clean, soft towel to pat your child's body dry.
3. Put on clean clothes or pajamas.
4. Please do not put on any lotions, deodorants, perfumes or powders.
5. For children with long hair, put hair in 2 loose braids that will fall over the ears.

Day of Procedure Bathing Instructions

On the day of the scheduled procedure, your child will have a bath with Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) in the surgical admitting area. CHG is a solution that fights bacteria and helps prevent infection related to surgery. If your child has a known CHG allergy, please let the nurse know.

The Surgical Admitting nurse will:

- Wipe your child's skin with CHG wipes.
- Have your child put on a hospital gown before going to the Operating room.



Please contact your child's clinic for any questions or concerns.