
What is a Hibiclens bath?

A Hibiclens bath uses a soap called chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG). CHG is a special skin cleaner. It removes more germs from the skin than regular soap and water. This means that there is less chance of infection during and after surgery.

Do not use CHG soap if your child:

- Is allergic or sensitive to CHG.
- Is younger than 2 months of age.
- Has a bandage that you cannot remove.
- Has skin problems, such as:
 - Burns
 - Rashes
 - Eczema
 - Open wounds

How do I use CHG soap?

CHG soap comes in a liquid form and can be purchased at most pharmacies or drugstores. The common name is Hibiclens. You will only need to buy a small bottle, which is about 4 to 6 ounces.

You will use CHG soap to wash your child's skin the night before you come to the hospital. This is to help prevent infection and prepare your child's skin for surgery. Please follow these steps:

1. Wash your child's hair with regular shampoo. Then, rinse your child's hair and body well to remove any extra shampoo.
2. Wash your child's face with regular soap and water.
3. Wash your child's private parts (genital area) with regular soap and water.
4. Rinse your child's body in the shower. Use warm water, and rinse from the neck down.
5. Wet a clean washcloth. Turn off the water.
6. Put some CHG soap on the washcloth. Use just enough to cover the skin.
7. Gently wash your child's body for 5 minutes. Pay special attention to the area where the surgery or procedure will be done. **Do not use CHG soap on your child's face, ears, eyes, nose, mouth or private parts.**
8. Turn the shower back on, and rinse your child's body well with water.
9. Pat your child dry with a clean, soft towel.

Do not use any lotions, moisturizers or makeup on your child's skin after their shower or bath. These products may attract germs to the skin.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Hibiclens bath, continued

Make sure your child does not shave any body hair before surgery. This can also increase the chance of infection.

After using the CHG soap:

1. Dress your child in clean, washed pajamas.
2. Make sure your child has newly cleaned bed linens before putting them to bed.
3. Wash any comfort items, such as a blanket or stuffed toy, that you may bring to the hospital.
4. Do not allow your child to take a bath or shower the morning of surgery.
5. A member of your child's care team will give your child a clean hospital gown and surgical hat to wear the day of surgery.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor if your child has any of these skin problems that do not go away after rinsing with warm water:

- Allergic reactions like skin irritation or rash, redness, burning, itching or hives, increased sensitivity to the sun, or swelling of the face, lips or tongue
- Breathing problems
- Cough

Also call your child's doctor if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.