
What is a Hibiclens bath?

A Hibiclens bath uses a soap called chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG). CHG is a special skin cleaner. It helps decrease germs on the skin that can cause infections.

Do not use CHG soap if your child:

- Has an allergy to CHG.
- Has skin problems, such as burns, rash, eczema, open wound or sore.
- Is less than 2 months of age.
- Has a bandage that you cannot remove.

Why does my child need to use CHG soap?

CHG removes more germs from the skin than soap and water. This means that there is less chance of infection during and after surgery.

How do I use CHG soap?

CHG soap comes as a liquid. You can buy it at a pharmacy or drug store. 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:

- Wash your child's hair with regular shampoo. Rinse your child's hair and body well to remove any extra shampoo.
- Wash your child's face with regular soap and water.
- Wash your child's private parts (genital area) with regular soap and water.
- Rinse your child's body in the shower. Use warm water. Rinse from the neck down.
- Wet a clean washcloth. Turn off the water.
- Put some CHG soap on the washcloth. Use just enough to cover the skin.
- 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.**
- Turn the shower back on. Rinse your child's body well with water.
- Pat the skin dry with a clean, soft towel.

What should I do after using CHG soap?

- Do not use any moisturizers, lotions or makeup on your child's skin. They 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 increase the chance of infection.**
- Dress your child in clean, washed pajamas.
- Make sure your child has newly cleaned bed linens before putting them to bed.
- Wash any comfort items, such as a blanket or stuffed toy, that you may bring to the hospital.
- Do not allow your child to take a bath or shower the morning of surgery.
- 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:

- Redness
- Burning
- Itching or hives
- Irritation or rash
- Sensitivity to the sun

Call the doctor right away or call 911 for urgent concerns if your child has:

- Swelling of the face, lips or tongue
- Breathing problems or cough

Also call the 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.

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