

Clinical Guideline

CESAREAN SECTION: PROPHYLACTIC ANTIBIOTICS

By Dr. CJ Tseng

1. Do not remove hair preoperatively unless the hair at or around the incision site will interfere with the operation. (Category 1A)

2. If hair is removed, remove immediately before the operation, preferably with electric clippers. (Category 1A) Electric clippers are now available on L&D, and should be utilized for preoperative hair removal.

3. Antibiotic prophylaxis should be used for both elective and non-elective cesarean sections. Extrapolating from the data on prophylactic antibiotics for surgeries other than cesarean sections, it appears clear that optimal efficacy is achieved when prophylactic antibiotics are administered prior to surgery. For this reason, the following recommendations for prophylactic antibiotics are made. Note that this represents a change from the traditional practice of administering antibiotics after cord clamping.

a. Elective Cesarean Section: Administer 1 gram of Cefazolin (Ancef) ½ hour prior to elective cesarean section.

b. Non-elective Cesarean Section: Administer 1 gram of Ancef ½ hour prior to the anticipated time of the cesarean section. In urgent or emergent cases, administer 1 gram of Ancef when the decision is made to perform cesarean section.

References

1. Antibiotic prophylaxis for cesarean section. The Cochrane Library, Issue 1, 2003.
2. Antibiotic prophylaxis regimens and drugs for cesarean section. The Cochrane Library, Issue 1, 2003
3. . Guideline for Prevention of Surgical Site Infection. CDC, 1999.

