

Implementation of Vaginal Cleansing at Emergency Caesarean Section

What?

- Vaginal swab with aqueous iodine solution
- Use aqueous chlorhexidine if allergic to Iodine / Shellfish
- Similar to preparation for vaginal surgery (eg hysteroscopy)

Why?

- To reduce post-operative endometritis and sepsis

Who?

- **All emergency CS**
- Most benefit to women with ruptured membranes
- Avoid in placenta previa/ face presentation

How?

- Performed by an Obstetrician
- Aim to swab prior to starting CS, but do not delay a Category 1 CS
- Swab after urinary catheterisation or at the 'stop moment' if catheter already in situ
- Can also be done at time of post-op vaginal cleaning if not done at start of procedure.
- Please document in theatre care plan

Evidence? NICE guideline 2021 recommendation Cochrane review 2020 Haas D et al.

Vaginal Cleansing at Emergency Caesarean Section: equipment list

Equipment needed on the urinary catheterisation trolley:

- Sponge holder and 1x small gauze swab ('swab-on-a-stick')
- 20ml 10% Povidone-iodine solution (Videne)
-If allergy, use Chlorhexidine instead (Tisept)
- Sterile pot



Please document procedure on Theatre care plan