

5 Minute Flashcards

Card 4: Surgical Site Infection

What is a Surgical Site Infection (SSI)?



True or false?

SSI increases:

- Duration of stay
- Pain
- Hernia formation
- Loss of implants
- Cost of care
- Mortality



What is the average additional cost (£) of an SSI in minor and major surgery?
(Gold star for whoever guesses closest!)
(Source: NICE CG65)



What makes SSI more likely?



How can we reduce the risk of SSI?

Card 4: Surgical Site Infection

What is a surgical site infection?

- Infection of a surgical wound
- Can be from skin bacteria, internally (e.g from the bowel) or externally if the wound is contaminated post-op



True or false?

Yup, you guessed it...
they're all true



How can we reduce the risk of SSI?

- Reduce coming and going in theatre (especially for implants/prosthesis)
- Let skin prep dry completely
- Use anti-microbial sutures when appropriate
- Use a knife (not diathermy!) for skin
- Prophylactic antibiotics *before* incision
- Keep the patient warm



What makes SSI more likely?

Operation

- Clean-contaminated or contaminated surgery
- Increased length of operation

Patient

- Immuno-compromised
- Frailty, diabetes and obesity
- Perioperative hypothermia



What is the average cost (£) of an SSI in minor and major surgery?

Minor surgery: £950
Major surgery: £3858