

Preventing Surgical Site Infections

Narrator

While in the hospital, you're more vulnerable to developing an infection, especially if you've had an operation.

Dr. Michael Bell

Surgery is a situation where we are literally cutting through a lot of the protective barriers of the human body in order to fix a problem or save a life.

Narrator

To reduce the chances of an infection, the surgical team cleans their hands by performing a detailed scrubbing process to help make the operation as sterile as possible.

Dr. William Schaffner

They use little devices that go under their fingernails to clean them off. It's all very elaborate. It's all very timed. They dry off their hands with sterile towels and then, of course, they get into their sterile gowns, gloves, and masks before they begin the procedure.

Narrator

Even with the precautions, bacteria can get into the incision and an infection can still occur.