

# What are PostOp Infections?

LORRIN

Today we're going to talk about postoperative infections.

DANIEL

What the heck are postum infractions?

LORRIN

Postoperative infections...

LORRIN

...or post-surgical infections are problems with infections that can happen after someone has an operation, a surgery.

DANIEL

Oh, like after you have your appendix out or maybe your tonsils?

LORRIN

Right.

LORRIN

Germs are everywhere, and always looking for a chance to attack.

LORRIN

There are 4 major types of germs...

DANIEL

Oh...I remember this! Bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa.

LORRIN

Germs are always around. And, they're always looking for a chance to cause an infection.

LORRIN

Whenever you have a break in your skin, like if you fall and scrape your knee or if the doctor has to make an opening in your belly to take out your appendix, germs will try to use that opening as a way to get in and cause an infection.

DANIEL

So that's why mom always cleans so hard if I fall and get a cut! I take it germs don't like CLEAN.

# What are PostOp Infections?

LORRIN

They sure don't. That's why moms clean kids' cuts and scrapes and why doctors and nurses work so hard to keep surgery areas so clean.

LORRIN

That's why sometimes before and after surgery your doctor will give you an antibiotic in a pill or through your vein in an IV.

DANIEL

Is there anything you should do to help make sure no germs mess you up if you've had a surgery?

LORRIN

Absolutely! First and most importantly, do exactly as your doctors and nurses tell you. Don't do stuff that might get your surgery site dirty and do do stuff that will help you keep it clean like always washing your hands really well with soap and water before you care for your surgery site. The docs and nurses will help you know exactly what they need you to do to take care of the site.

LORRIN

If the doctor gives you medicine to take when you go home, be sure to take it just like they tell you.

LORRIN

And, it's very important that if you have any signs of infection, you let your doctor know right away.

DANIEL

You recite 'em and I'll write 'em!

LORRIN

Redness...Swelling...More pain...Fever...Pus...

DANIEL

Ewww...pus! That's a thick whitish, yellow, or greenish kind of yucky fluid that your body produces when there is an infection.

LORRIN

If you have these, or any other concerns, you definitely want to let your doctor know right away.

# What are PostOp Infections?

DANIEL

Keep it clean!

LORRIN

That's right! Keep the surgery area clean and follow all your doctor's instructions to keep those nasty germs away!

Daniel

I'm going to go wash my hands right now! Germs...prepare to die!

LORRIN

You are so weird.