

# Your Child's Wound Debridement: Before Surgery

Some wounds can be deeper or wider than a cut or scrape.

This kind of wound can have dead or unhealthy tissue that can slow healing or get infected.

Surgery to remove unhealthy tissue from a wound is called debridement.

Debridement helps the area heal faster.

And it can help the skin heal more evenly.

Before the surgery, your child will get medicine so they won't feel anything during the procedure.

The doctor starts by cleaning the wound.

Then the doctor removes the unhealthy tissue.

Next, the wound will be covered with a dressing and wrapped in a gauze bandage.

Your child will wake up with a bandage over the area.

The procedure usually takes about 30 minutes.

Your child may need to stay in the hospital to keep the area very clean, or sterile.

The doctor will let you know when you can bring your child home.

Before the surgery, tell the doctors about all medicines and natural health products your child takes.

Some can raise the risk of bleeding or cause problems with anesthesia.

Your doctor will tell you which medicines your child should take or stop before surgery.

Follow your doctor's directions for preparing your child, including when your child should stop eating and drinking.

Bring your photo ID and any paperwork your hospital asked for.

And ask if you can bring a favorite toy or blanket to help comfort your child.

Surgery may be stressful for you and your child.

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But knowing what to expect and how to prepare can help.

And if you have any questions or concerns, you can always call your doctor.

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