

# Is your Caesarean section patient at risk?

30% of women in Australia and New Zealand have a BMI  $\geq 30$ <sup>1,2</sup>

Around 15% of patients develop a wound complication following caesarean delivery<sup>3</sup>

The risk of developing a post-operative wound complication depends on the type of surgery and patient risk factors<sup>4</sup>

The presence of just **1 major risk factor** or **2 or more moderate risk factors**, places patients at high risk of surgical site complications (SSCs) and means you should consider PICO<sup>◇</sup> Single-Use Negative Pressure Wound Therapy.<sup>4</sup>

Category	Patient-related risk factor	Procedural-related risk factor
<b>Major risk factor</b>  Presence of 1 = high risk of surgical site complication	! BMI $\geq 40\text{kg/m}^2$ or $\leq 18\text{kg/m}^2$	! Extended duration of surgery*
	! Uncontrolled insulin dependent diabetes mellitus	! Emergency surgery
	! Renal dialysis	! Hypothermia
<b>Moderate risk factor</b>  Presence of $\geq 2$ high risk of surgical site complication	! ASA physical status $> \text{II}$	! Anaemia / blood transfusion
	! BMI $30\text{--}39.9\text{kg/m}^2$	! Dual antiplatelet treatment
	! Immunosuppression	! Suboptimal timing or omission of prophylactic antibiotics
	! Smoking (current)	! Tissue trauma / large area of dissection / large area of undermining

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This material is intended for healthcare professionals. For detailed product information, including indications for use, contraindications, precautions and warnings, please consult the product's applicable Instructions for Use (IFU) prior to use. Table adapted from World Union of Wound Healing Societies Consensus, 2016. The risk factors represented in this table are examples only and not an exhaustive list<sup>1,3</sup> \*Defined as  $> \text{T}$  (hours) which is dependent on the type of surgical procedure, and is the 75th centile of duration of surgery for a particular procedure, e.g. coronary artery bypass graft has a T of 5 hours and caesarean section has a T of one hour. **References:** **1.** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) Overweight and obesity, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 27 May 2024. **2.** <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/obesity-statistics> (Last accessed June 2024). **3.** Gillespie B, Ellwood D, Thalib L, et al. Incidence and risk factors for surgical wound complications in women with body mass index  $> 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$  following cesarean delivery: a secondary analysis. *Am J Obstet Gynecol Glob Rep* 2022;2:100069. **4.** Sugrue M, Ciprandi G, Djohan R, et al. World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) Consensus Document. Closed surgical incision management: Understanding the role of NPWT. *Wounds Int* [Internet]. 2016. <https://www.woundsinternational.com/consensus-documents/consensus-document-closed-surgical-incision-management-understanding-the-role-of-npwt-wme> (Last accessed June 2024).