

Is your C-section patient at risk?

29% of women in the UK have a BMI ≥ 30 ¹

Women with a BMI >30 are 2.4 times more likely to develop a surgical site infection^{*2}

*when compared to a normal BMI (18.5–25 kg/m²), (95% CI 1.7–3.4)

The risk of developing a post-operative wound complication depends on the type of surgery and patient risk factors³

The presence of just **1 major risk factor or 2 or more moderate risk factors**, places patients at risk of surgical site complications (SSCs)³ and the use of PICO[◇] sNPWT may be considered^{**}.

Category	Patient-related risk factor	Procedural-related risk factor
Major risk factor 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
Moderate risk factor Presence of ≥ 2 high risk of surgical site complication	❗ ASA physical status $>II$	❗ Anaemia / blood transfusion
	❗ BMI 30–39.9kg/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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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 list³

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^{**}as part of a comprehensive clinical protocol. [†]Defined as $>T$ (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

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2. Wloch C, Wilson J, Lamagni T, Harrington P, Charlett A, Sheridan E. Risk factors for surgical site infection following caesarean section in England: results from a multicentre cohort study. BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. 2012 Oct;119(11):1324–33. 3. 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://woundsinternational.com/consensus-documents/consensus-document-closed-surgical-incision-management-understanding-the-role-of-npwt-wrme/> (Last accessed August 2023)