

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

References: 1. Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet, England (2020) NHS choices. Available at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet/england-2020/part-3-adult-obesity-copy> (Accessed: August 2023).

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-wme/> (Last accessed August 2023)