Take 3 steps to make your surgical patient safe by preventing wound infections!

1. Pre-operative
   - Patient bathing
     Make sure the patient takes a shower or bath and washes with soap on the day of the operation, or the evening before. This helps remove bacteria from the skin and reduces the risk of wound infection.
   - Avoid hair removal
     Avoid hair removal or use clippers and change or disinfect blades after each patient. Razors damage the skin, which can lead to infection.

2. Peri-operative
   - Good surgical hand preparation
     Follow all the steps of a good hand preparation technique before operating. Scrub with soap and water for 3-5 min or rub with an alcohol-based solution for 2-3 min.
   - Appropriate antibiotic prophylaxis needs to be:
     - Right antibiotic for the operation
     - Right dose
     - Right time = a single dose within 60 min
     - Appropriate discontinuation = stop after surgery.

3. Intra-operative
   - Appropriate skin preparation
     Clean incision site with soap and water and then use antiseptic preparation (chlorhexidine/alcohol or iodophor/alcohol). Allow to dry before incision.
   - Discipline in the OR*
     1. Make sure that all the equipment needed is in the OR before starting.
     2. Only essential staff should be in the OR.
     3. Keep doors and windows closed during the operation.

*Operating Room