

Current practice and Swedish OT nurses' perioperative routines regarding saphenous vein harvesting for coronary artery bypass surgery

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Background

Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) is the most common operation in cardiac surgery. Leg wound surgical site infection (SSI) remain one of the most common complications after CABG surgery.

Perioperative hygiene routines play an important role to prevent SSI.

Aim

To determine the Swedish current practice and perioperative routines regarding saphenous vein harvesting for CABG

Material and method

A prospective cross-sectional survey was carried out among the 119 operating theatre (OT) nurses currently working at the eight departments of Cardiothoracic surgery in Sweden.

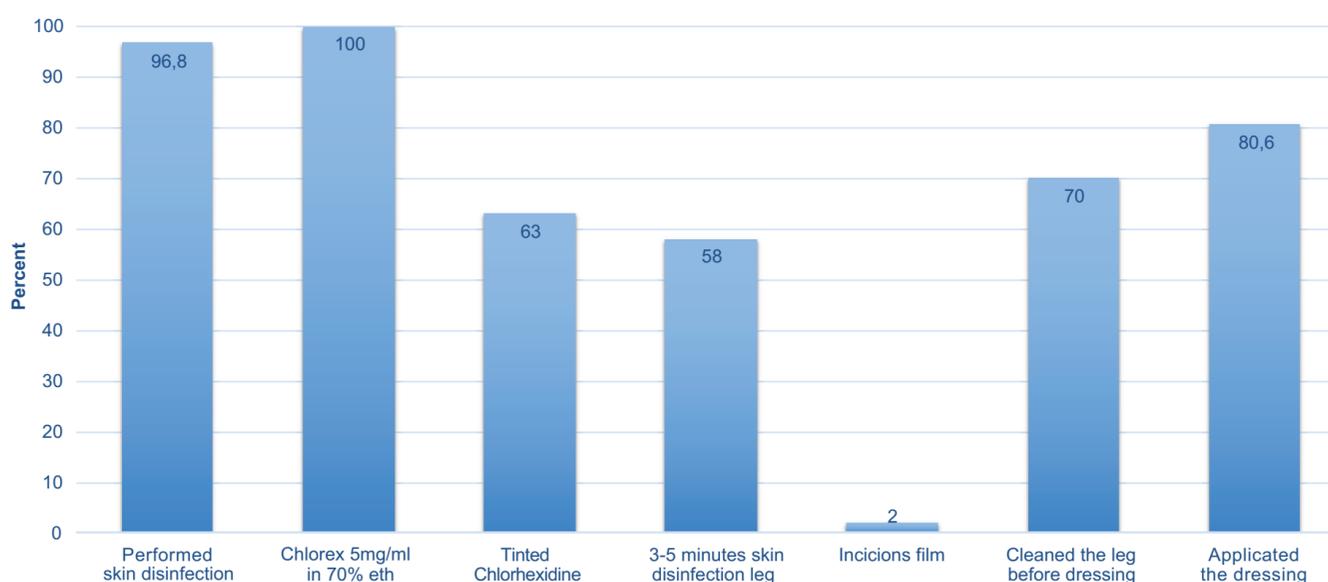
Results

Responses from all hospitals were received and the total response rate was 62/119 (52%). The preoperative skin disinfection was almost always (96.8%) performed by the OT nurse. Chlorhexidine 5mg/mL in 70% ethanol was used by all of them. Sixty-three percent of the participants used tinted Chlorhexidine.

The skin disinfection was mostly performed for three to five minutes on the leg. Incisions film was rarely used. Seventy percent of the OT nurses disinfected the leg with Chlorhexidine once again before the dressing was applied. Most often an OT nurse applied the dressing.

Regarding the incidence of SSI in the leg wound, forty-five percent of the OT-nurses reported that they never received feed-back, 37% sometimes and 18% received feed-back on regular basis.

OT nurses' perioperative hygiene routines



Conclusion

The clinical routines for skin preparation in Swedish Cardiothoracic Surgery centres are similar. In Sweden OT nurses are responsible for the perioperative hygiene approaches.

The routines for feed-back and follow up on the infection incidence should be improved.