

Surgical Wound Classification

Wound Class	Definition	Examples	Reminders
Class I Clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Operative wound clean ▶ Non-traumatic, with no inflammation encountered ▶ No break in technique ▶ Respiratory, gastrointestinal and genitor-urinary tracts not entered ▶ Caesarean Section, elective, no pre-rupture of membranes or trial of labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vascular Procedures ▶ Neurological procedures (inflamed II, infected III) ▶ Endocrine procedures ▶ Eye surgery (inflamed II, foreign body III, infected III) ▶ Orthopedic procedures (unless: trauma III, old wound IV, amputation II) ▶ Penile prosthesis ▶ Skin (mastectomy, lumpectomy, lesions, lipoma, cosmetic, I&D IV, old wounds III, inflamed III, infected IV) ▶ Exploratory Lap (no bowel involvement II) Miscellaneous procedures (lymph node excision/Bx unless inflamed III or infected IV, splenectomy, tenckhoff cath unless replacement II) 	
Class II Clean - contaminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Operative wound clean-contaminated ▶ Non-traumatic wound with minor break in technique ▶ Gastrointestinal, respiratory or genitor-urinary tracts entered without significant spillage Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transection of appendix or cholecystic duct in the absence of infected bile or urine ○ Hysterectomy ○ Caesarean Section, emergency involving pre-rupture of membranes and / or trial of labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Thoracic procedures (except mediastinoscopy I, inflammation III, infected IV, foreign body III) ▶ GI procedures (including: laparoscopy, colonoscopy, gastroscopy) (gross spillage III, acute inflammation III, fresh accidental wound III) (itis III, Lithiasis II) ▶ GU procedures (infected III) ▶ Ear surgery (infected III) ▶ Nose/Oropharynx procedures (infected IV) ▶ GYN procedures (Oophorectomy I, inflamed III, infected IV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Any wound open for drainage II (except total hip / knee) ▶ Removing old implants (wires, pins, etc...) ▶ Re-operation at the same site
Class III contaminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Operative wound contaminated ▶ Fresh traumatic wound from clean source ▶ Operative wound with a major break in technique ▶ Gross spillage from the gastrointestinal tract ▶ Entrance into the genito-urinary or biliary tracts ▶ When infected urine or bile is present ▶ Incision encountering acute non-purulent inflammation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Inflammation ▶ Gross spillage ▶ Fresh accidental wound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Foreign bodies in a wound (bullets, etc...)
Class IV Dirty - infected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Operative wound dirty ▶ Traumatic wound from dirty source ▶ Traumatic wound with delayed treatment ▶ Fecal contamination ▶ Foreign body ▶ Retained devitalized tissue ▶ Operative wound w/ acute bacterial inflammation or perforated viscus ▶ Operative wound where clean tissue is transected to gain access to a collection of pus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Infected ▶ I&D abscess ▶ Wound debridement 	
Unclassified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ When unable to classify accurately an operative wound 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Communicable disease (aids, hepatitis, TB) is not classified the surgical wound is what is being classified