Reducing Risk of Surgical Site Infection (SSI) in Colorectal Surgery
Evidence-Based Guide

SSI is the #1 morbidity in Colorectal Surgery, resulting in increased costs, length of stay, and mortality\(^1\)\(^\text{-}^4\)

**Patient Preparation**
- **Administer IV antibiotics** within 1 hour of incision to reduce risk of SSI\(^5\)\(^6\)
- **Allow 2 hours for vancomycin and fluoroquinolones**\(^5\)
- **Use clippers for any necessary hair removal; no shaving**\(^7\)
- **Prepare skin** at surgical site with alcohol or chlorhexidine - not iodine\(^8\)

**Wound Protection**
- **Plastic wound protector** may help to prevent SSI in open abdominal surgery\(^8\)
- **Consider wound irrigation with aqueous PVP-I solution prior to closure**\(^7\)

**Suture Considerations**
- **Use short stitch length** (5-8 mm from wound edge)\(^9\)
- **Triclosan-coated sutures**, such as Ethicon Plus Antibacterial Sutures, may be used on all layers to **inhibit bacterial colonization of suture**\(^10\)\(^13\)
- **Monofilament suture** is associated with fewer infections compared to braided suture\(^14\)
### Wound Closure Technique

- Include **only the aponeurosis** in fascial closure to minimize tissue necrosis\(^9\)
- **Minimize tension and optimize stitch length** to help prevent incisional hernia, as reoperation can increase the risk of infection\(^15,16\)

### Additional Considerations

- A **topical skin adhesive**, such as DERMABOND ADVANCED® Topical Skin Adhesive, provides a microbial barrier\(^17\)

  OR

- Limited evidence suggests wound vacuum therapy over closed incisions may be beneficial\(^8\)

DERMABOND ADVANCED® Topical Skin Adhesive has not been tested or FDA cleared for use in conjunction with closed vacuum therapy.

To learn more, go to www.ethicon.com/ColorectalSSI

For complete indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions, and adverse reactions, please reference full package insert.