

New full body antimicrobial Hibiwash® cares for skin whilst killing bacteria

Mölnlycke® Health Care UK launches MHRA approved antiseptic full body wash, Hibiwash®, for use in the UK, significantly reducing the risk of healthcare acquired infections and surgical site infection when used by the patient pre- and post-surgery.

United Kingdom 22 April - Mölnlycke Health Care announces the launch of its new MHRA-approved antiseptic wash, Hibiwash®, to pharmacists, the NHS, private healthcare providers and patients in the UK. The 4% w/v chlorohexidine gluconate (CHG) active compound in Hibiwash®, has been clinically proven to reduce the potential of surgical site infections and healthcare acquired infections for patients while in hospital, offering a key tool in the fight against infections.ⁱ

At present, around 300,000 people a year treated on the NHS in England acquire a healthcare-associated infection (HCAI), costing up to £2.8 billion per year.^{i,ii} These avoidable infections cause significant physical or psychological disability to patients, and in some instances are life-threatening.ⁱ They also place a strain on already overstretched nursing and infection prevention teams and the NHS as a whole.

Announcing the launch, Caterina Galani Global Product Manager Antiseptics Mölnlycke® said:

“Hibiwash® when used pre - and post-surgery offers patients vital protection from infections during their stay in hospital, allowing for timely and uncomplicated recovery following surgery. At Mölnlycke®, we are committed to supporting the healthcare systems, the healthcare professionals and patients and relieving strains on healthcare systems globally. Hibiwash® has the same efficacy of Hibiscrub®, but also contains emollients and has no colour, no fragrance and no traces of soya oil. It is very gentle on the skin and supports the skin’s integrity whilst killing microorganisms.”

“Hibiwash® also supports our plans towards sustainability. We have removed unnecessary packaging and moved our production to a new sustainable factory.”

Despite the efforts of healthcare professionals, many types of surgery have a high risk of infection with one in 11 people acquiring an infection while in hospital,ⁱⁱⁱ with surgical related infections extending a patient’s median length of stay in hospital to 11 days.

The proliferation of life-threatening HCAs across the world has placed more impetus on hospitals and healthcare environments to develop a consistent approach to patient hygiene practices, and the UK is no different.

Mölnlycke® is committed to empowering healthcare providers and organisations to effectively prevent infections acquired whilst in hospital, providing them with the most innovative antiseptic products to reduce long-term costs, and promote greater patient satisfaction.^{iv, v, vi, vii}

Reflecting on the announcement, Infection Control Practitioner Lillian Chiwera said:

“Reducing the risk of Surgical site Infections (SSIs) is paramount to ensuring timely recovery following surgery and tackling the burden that healthcare-associated infections can have on a patient and their caregivers. Standardised patient hygiene methods that include antiseptic washes are imperative in UK hospitals to combat infections, keeping patient safety at the heart of care delivery, particularly in high-

risk surgical procedures and should become part of national and regional guidance to ensure patient safety is put first.”

Discussing the impact of healthcare-associated infections, Professor David Leaper said:

“Surgical site infections (SSIs) increase a patient's stay in hospital by almost three times the length they would stay for your average surgical procedure and can significantly impact their quality of life following departure, depending on the infection that occurred. With over 1 in 7 hospital infections accounted for by SSIs, safety for patients who are having serious surgical procedures must be prioritised and best practices like Hibiwash® is our first line of defence.”

For more information on Hibiwash® and Mölnlycke's portfolio of infection prevention solutions, please visit molnlycke.co.uk/products-solutions/

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Notes for editor

About Hibiwash®

Hibiwash® is Mölnlycke's new full body antiseptic wash for pre- and post-operative skin antiseptis for patients undergoing elective surgery. Hibiwash® has the same efficacy of Hibiscrub®, but also contains emollients and has no colour, no fragrance and no traces of soya oil. It is gentle on patients' skin, supports skin's integrity and is effective against a wide range of microbes.

About Mölnlycke®

Mölnlycke Health Care is a world-leading MedTech company that specialises in innovative solutions for wound care and surgical procedures. Mölnlycke products and solutions are used daily by hospitals, health care providers and patients in over 100 countries around the world. Founded in 1849, Mölnlycke is owned by Investor AB and headquartered in Sweden. www.molnlycke.com

ⁱ NICE (2023). Healthcare-associated infections. Available at: <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/healthcare-associated-infections/>

ⁱⁱ Guest, J. F., Keating, T., Gould, D., & Wigglesworth, N. (2020). Modelling the annual NHS costs and outcomes attributable to healthcare-associated infections in England. *BMJ Open*, 10(1), e033367–e033367. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2019-033367>

ⁱⁱⁱ National Audit Office. Improving Patient Care by Reducing The Risk of Hospital Acquired Infection: A Progress Report. 2004.

^{iv}, Wyncoll D, Shankar-Hari M, Beale R; 2015. Daily Bathing with 2% CHG Washcloths Leads to Almost Total Elimination of MRSA Bacteraemia. *King's Health Partners*

^v Edmiston, C., Seabrook, G., Johnson, C., Paulson, D. and Beausoleil, C., 2007. Comparative of a new and innovative 2% chlorhexidine gluconate-impregnated cloth with 4% chlorhexidine gluconate as topical antiseptic for preparation of the skin prior to surgery. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 35(2), pp.89-96.

^{vi} Rbht.nhs.uk. 2022. Available at: <<https://www.rbht.nhs.uk/sites/nhs/files/PILs/Your%20pre-operative%20skin%20wash%20-%20June%202014.pdf>> [Accessed 24 May 2022].

^{vii} Nice.org.uk. 2022. [online] Available at: <<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng125/evidence/intraoperative-antiseptics-and-antibiotics-before-wound-closure-pdf-6727104400>> [Accessed 26 May 2022].