Figure 1. Surgical Wound Classification Decision Tree

Is there a wound?

- NO
  - No Wound Classification

- YES
  - Is the wound
    - clean (ie, not infected or inflamed), or
    - the result of a non-penetrating, blunt trauma?
  - Was the procedure free from entry into respiratory, alimentary, or genitourinary tract?
  - Was the wound primarily closed or drained with closed drainage (eg, bulb drain)?

  - NO
    - Was the respiratory, alimentary, or genitourinary tract entered under controlled conditions without
      - evidence of infection or contamination or
      - major break in technique (eg, spillage from gastrointestinal tract)?

    - NO
      - Is the wound
        - fresh, open, or accidental; or
        - is there gross (ie, visible) spillage from the gastrointestinal tract; or
        - is there acute non-purulent inflammation present?
      - Was there a major break in sterile technique (eg, unsterile instruments used) during the procedure?

    - YES
      - Class III Contaminated

  - YES
    - Class I Clean

  - YES
    - Class II Clean - Contaminated

- YES
  - Is this an old wound with
    - retained devitalized tissue (eg, gangrene, necrosis), or
    - existing clinical infection (eg, purulence), or
    - perforated viscera?

  - YES
    - Class IV Dirty, Infected

  - NO
    - Class II Clean - Contaminated

REFERENCES

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