

Wound Class Definitions

Class I: Clean

- No breaks in sterile technique
- No inflammation is encountered
- An uninfected operative wound in which respiratory, alimentary, genital or uninfected urinary tract is not entered

Examples: Spinal fusion, thyroidectomy, ganglion incision, hernia repair

Class II: Clean Contaminated

- No breaks in sterile technique
- No inflammation is encountered
- An operative wound in which the respiratory, alimentary, genital or urinary tracts are entered under controlled conditions and without unusual contamination

Examples: Cholecystectomy, colon resection, tracheostomy, Malone/mitrofanoff, appendectomy (incidental, not inflamed)

Class III: Contaminated

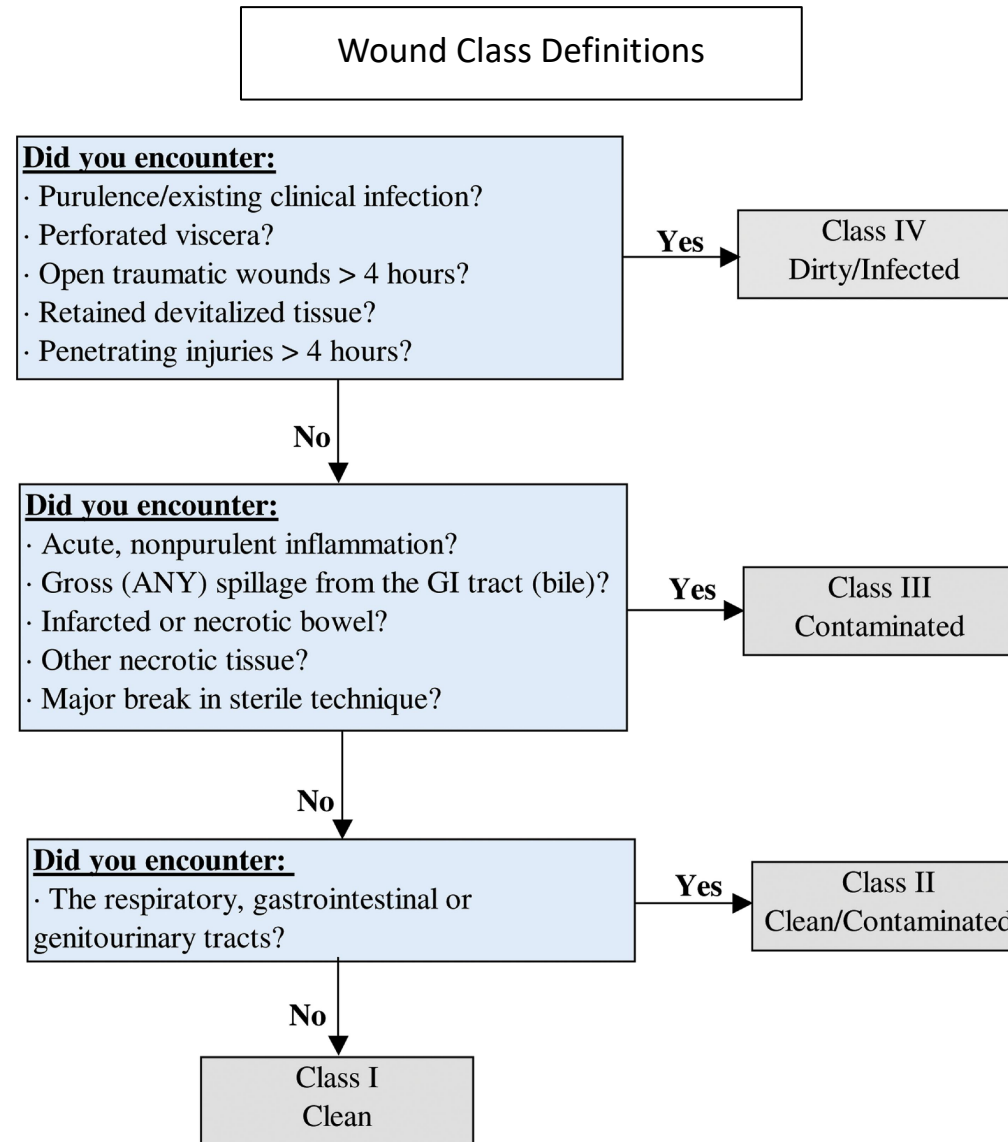
- Major break in sterile technique
- Incisions with acute, non-purulent inflammation
- Open, fresh, or accidental wounds less than four hours old
 - Gross spillage from gastrointestinal tract

Examples: Non-perforated appendicitis, inflamed gallbladder (bile spillage), open fracture (fresh, no gross contamination), penetrating wound (fresh)

Class IV: Dirty

- Old traumatic wounds over four hours
- Trauma from a contaminated source or gross spillage of infected source
- Organisms causing post-operative infection were present in the operative field before the operation

Examples: Perforated appendicitis, open fracture (old, contaminated trauma), drainage of intra-abdominal abscess



NOTE:

- Chronic inflammation only does not change the classification.
- Gross spillage is any spillage you can see with the naked eye.