Lohmann & Rauscher

W.A.R.

Checklist for wounds at risk of infection (W.A.R. score)

The aim of the W.A.R. score is to facilitate a clinically oriented, well-founded risk assessment using concrete patient circumstances. The indication for using local antimicrobial measures is based on consideration of differently weighted risk causes that are calculated using a point system. Multiple entries are possible; the points are added together. With three or more points, local antimicrobial treatment is justified.

Risk point	1
Acquired immunosuppressive disease (e.g., diabetes mellitus)	( )
Acquired immunodeficiency due to pharmacotherapy such as ciclosporin, methotrexate, glucocorticoids, antibodies	( )
Solid tumour disease	( )
Systemic haematological disease	( )
Postsurgical wound healing disorder which results in (unplanned) healing by secondary intention	( )
Wounds exposed to high bacterial loads due to localization (e.g., perineum, genitals)	( )
Difficult hygienic conditions due to social or professional environment (e.g., farmer, truck driver)	( )
Patient age >80 years	( )
Young age of patient (premature infants, babies, young children)	( )
Wound persisting for >1 year	( )
Wound dimensions >10 cm^2	( )
Chronic wounds of any aetiology with a depth >1.5 cm	( )
Extended inpatient status >3 weeks	( )

Risk points	2
Severe acquired immunodeficiency (e.g., HIV infection)	( )
Heavily contaminated acute wounds	( )
Bite, stab or gunshot wounds penetrating 1.5-3.5 cm	( )

Risk points	3
Burn wounds with involvement of >15% body surface area (BSA)	( )
Wounds that have a direct connection to organs or functional structures (e.g., including joints) or which contain foreign material	( )
Severe congenital immunodeficiency such as agammaglobulinaemia, severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)	( )
Bite, stab or gunshot wounds penetrating >3.5 cm	( )

W.A.R. Score
(Please add up all risk points) ( )

How do I calculate the W.A.R. score?

Score every risk definition below with 1, 2 or 3 risk points, as shown (multiple responses are possible). Then add up all the points to obtain the W.A.R. score.

Patient:

Name

Initials

Year of birth

Gender

Expert:

Name

Job title

Address

Date

Interpreting the results:

A score of ≥3 points indicates a wound clinically at risk of infection and consequently represents a clinical indication for local antimicrobial treatment (e.g., with PHMB).

Local antimicrobial treatment is obligatory for: *(Tick if applicable)*

- ☐ Elimination of pathogens when multiple resistant pathogens are present (specified by Robert Koch Institute)
- ☐ Critically colonized wounds

Treatment recommendation: *(Tick if applicable)*

- ☐ local antimicrobial treatment with e.g., PHMB (more than/equal to 3 risk points)
- ☐ no local antimicrobial treatment necessary (fewer than 3 risk points)

Based on Wundmanagement (2011) 5 (2): 76-85; Hygiene & Medizin (2011); 36 (3): 85-93; Skin Pharmacology and Physiology (2011) 24 (5): 245-255