

Wounds-At-Risk (W.A.R.) Scoring System

The W.A.R. score is based on a clinically oriented risk assessment using specific patient circumstances. It is a tool to optimize the wound treatment regime. The indication for the use of antibiotics results from the addition of differently weighted risk factors, for which points are assigned. Antibacterial treatment is justified if there are 3 or more points.

How to calculate the W.A.R. Score

Score every risk definition below (only if it applies to the patient) with 0, 1 or 2 risk points, as shown. (multiple responses are possible). Then add all the risk factor points to obtain the total W.A.R. Score.

1 risk points each

- Acquired immunosuppressive disease (e.g. diabetes mellitus)
- Systemic haematological disease
- Solid tumour disease
- Acquired immune defect due to medical therapy such as cyclosporine, methotrexate, glucocorticoids or antibodies
- Pharmacological wound healing disorder, which results in impaired secondary healing
- Profoundly hygienic conditions related to social or occupational environment (e.g. agriculture, farm living)
- Potentially heavily contaminated wounds (e.g. pressure, pressure)
- Patient age >80 years
- Young age of patient (premature infants, babies, infants)
- Wounds persisting for >1 year
- Wound dimensions of >10 cm²
- Chronic wounds of any aetiology having a depth of >1.5 cm
- Extended inpatient status >2 weeks

2 risk points each

- Severe acquired immune defects (e.g. HIV infection)
- Heavily contaminated acute wounds
- Bite, stab and gunshot wounds penetrating 1.5-3.5 cm

3 risk points each

- Open wounds with involvement of >10% body surface area (BSA)
- Severe congenital immune defects such as agammaglobulinemia, severe combined immune defects
- Wounds that have a direct connection to organs or structural structures (e.g. including joints) in which certain foreign material (like, steel and gunshot wounds) penetrating >3.5 cm

W.A.R. Score
(add up the two points)

Patient details:

Name _____

Initials _____

Year of birth _____

Gender _____

Expert details:

Name _____

Function _____

Address _____

Date _____

Interpreting the results:

A score of 3 points indicates the presence of a wound clinically at risk of infection and consequently represents a clinical indication for the antimicrobial treatment (e.g. with PPSB).

Antibacterial treatment is obligatory when:

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

Treatment Recommendations:

- ☐ antimicrobial treatment with e.g. PPSB (more than equal to 3 risk points)
- ☐ no antimicrobial treatment necessary (less than 3 risk points)