TITLE: Assessment of Bacterial Bioburden in Wound Dressings After Cesarean Delivery

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Cesarean delivery is the most common surgical procedure performed in the United States, occurring in approximately one-third of all deliveries. A recent prevalence study found that surgical site infections (SSIs) were the most common healthcare-associated infection (HAI), accounting for 31% of all HAIs among hospitalized patients. Post-cesarean infectious morbidity which includes wound infections and endometritis is reported to occur in 3-20% of women with higher rates reported in women with increased risks such as obesity, diabetes and when performed in the setting of intrapartum infection.

A bactericidal sterile dressing called BioGuard® has been developed at the University of Florida. We aim to measure the bacterial load in BioGuard® compared to a standard non-bactericidal sterile dressing in our post-cesarean patients. Our hypothesis is that there will be a significant reduction in bacterial load measured in the bactericidal dressing.

The medical student involved in this project would be assisting with the collection of dressing pads in our post-cesarean patients and measurement of bacterial load in the lab. We are in the process of seeking funding support from Derma Sciences which is the company that produces Bioguard®.