Table 1

Risk factors for streptococcal infection

Mechanism	Factor
Impaired immune response to infection	● Increasing age ● Peripheral vascular disease ● Chronic venous insufficiency/ulceration ● Diabetes mellitus ● Lymph node dissection ● Cirrhosis ● Immunosuppressive therapy (i.e. chemotherapy, steroids) ● Nutritional status
Impaired physical defence mechanisms	● Coexisting infection ● Traumatic wounds ● Surgical incisions ● Insect bites ● Prosthetic implants (metal, plastic) ● Surgical procedures ● Dental procedures ● Intravenous/arterial cannulation