VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1993

An Official Journal of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY™

EDITORIALS

An Interregnum, Not! 11
THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

Our Journal -- A New Era 12
RICHARD P. WENZEL, MD, MSC

Change and Constancy 14
MICHAEL D. DECKER, MD, MPH

Greek Philosophy, Medical Ethics, and the Influenza Vaccine 15
LOREEN A. HERWALDT, MD

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Attitude of Healthcare Personnel Regarding Influenza Immunization 17
CHATRCHAI WATANAKUNAKORN, MD, FACP, FCCP; GEORGE ELLIS, MD, DAVID GEMMEL, MA

Electronic Surveillance of Antibiotic Exposure and Coded Discharge Diagnoses as Indicators of Postoperative Infection and Other Quality Assurance Measures 21
LISA R. HIRSCHHORN, MD; JUDITH S. CURRIER, MD; RICHARD PLATT, MD

Restriction Endonuclease Analysis of Plasmid DNA From Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus: Clinical Application Over a Three-Year Period 29
ANTONI TRILLA, MD, PHD; MARY D. NETTLEMAN, MD; RICHARD J. HOLLIS; MARY FREDRICKSON, RN; RICHARD P. WENZEL, MD, MSC; MICHAEL A. PFALLER, MD

BRIEF REPORT

Inactivation of Clostridium difficile Spores by Disinfectants 36
WILLIAM A. RUTALA, PHD, MPH; MARIA F. GERGEN, MT (ASCP); DAVID J. WEBER, MD, MPH

TOPICS IN LONG-TERM CARE

Infection Control in Long-Term Care Facilities: The Hospital-Based Practitioner's Role 40
NANCY SATTERFIELD, RN, MPH, CIC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Utility of Epidemiologic Training in Long-Term Care Settings 7
NICHOLAS L. OWEN, MD

Medical Waste (and Reply) 7
DAVID BIRNBAUM, PHD, MPH; STEPHEN A. STREED, MS, CIC
LOUISE P. JETTE, BSC; STEPHEN LAPIERRE BSC

https://doi.org/10.1086/646617 Published online by Cambridge University Press



Techni-Care™ Surgical Scrub

99.99% Bacterial Reduction in only 30 seconds

Techni-Care...A new technology in a surgical scrub exhibits outstanding antimicrobial efficacy *without* dermal irritation.

Fully substantiated by independent testing in vivo and in vitro, Techni-Care Surgical Scrub both disinfects and conditions *in less time than any prior technology available to healthcare personnel.*

Results of Time Kill tests demonstrate that Techni-Care eliminates gram negative and gram positive bacteria at 99.99% in 30 second contact.

Outstanding Bactericidal Activity without skin irritation

Techni-Care's active ingredient, chloroxylenol (PCMX) at 3%, eliminates bacteria, while a host of skin conditioning agents work synergistically to condition and soften the skin. Exceptionally mild, Techni-Care's dermal conditioning ingredients, include cocamidopropyl PG-Dimonium Chloride Phosphate, Aloe Vera Gel, Collagen and Propylene Glycol.

Techni-Care has rated a "minimal irritation" in the Draize Dermal irritation test. Specially blended formulation for dermal conditioning, as well as for bacterial reduction. Techni-Care Surgical Scrub is soothing to dermal tissue while phospolipids promote natural turgor.

CARE-TECH® LABORATORIES

Advanced Skin Care Technology

1-800-325-9681

https://doi.org/10.1086/646617 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Vol. 14 No. 1 January 1993

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY™

CONTENTS

EDITORIALS

An Interregnum, Not! 11

THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

Our Journal -- A New Era 12

RICHARD P. WENZEL, MD, MSC

Change and Constancy 14

MICHAEL D. DECKER, MD, MPH

Greek Philosophy, Medical Ethics, and the Influenza Vaccine 15

LOREEN A. HERWALDT, MD

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Attitude of Healthcare Personnel Regarding Influenza Immunization 17

CHATRCHAI WATANAKUNAKORN, MD, FACP, FCCP; GEORGE ELLIS, MD; DAVID GEMMEL, MA

Electronic Surveillance of Antibiotic Exposure and Coded Discharge Diagnoses as Indicators of Postoperative Infection and Other Quality Assurance Measures 21

LISA R. HIRSCHHORN, MD; JUDITH S. CURRIER, MD; RICHARD PLATT, MD

Restriction Endonuclease Analysis of Plasmid DNA From Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus:* Clinical Application Over a Three-Year Period 29

ANTONI TRILLA, MD, PHD; MARY D. NETTLEMAN, MD; RICHARD J. HOLLIS; MARY FREDRICKSON, RN; RICHARD P. WENZEL, MD, MSC; MICHAEL A. PFALLER, MD

BRIEF REPORT

Inactivation of *Clostridium difficile* Spores by Disinfectants 36

WILLIAM A. RUTALA, PHD, MPH; MARIA F. GERGEN, MT(ASCP); DAVID J. WEBER, MD, MPH

TOPICS IN LONG-TERM CARE

Infection Control in Long-Term Care Facilities: The Hospital-Based Practitioner's Role 40

NANCY SATTERFIELD, RN, MPH, CIC

DEPARTMENTS

Information for Authors 4

Calendar of Events 6

Letters to the Editor 7

SHEA News 49

Medical News 51

Classified Marketplace 56

THE PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY GUARANTEE OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA OR SLACK INCORPORATED OF THE ADVERTISED PRODUCT OR SERVICE OR OF CLAIMS MADE BY THE ADVERTISER. THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES AND OTHER EDITORIAL MATERIAL IN THE JOURNAL DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE SOCIETY.

PUBLISHER: Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (ISSN-0899823X. Canadian GST#129780466) is published exclusively by SLACK Incorporated 12 times a year. Address: 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. Telephone: (609) 848-1000.

COPYRIGHT **1993** The Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America, Inc. and SLACK Incorporated. All rights reserved. No pat of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Requests should be addressed to the publisher (except Japan). In Japan, contact Woodbell Incorporated, 4-22-11, Kitakasai, Edogawaku, Tokyo 134, Japan. Subscription rates in the United States and possessions: Individual: One year-$80.00; Two yearsS115.00; Three years-$145.00: Institutional: One year—$90.00; Two years—$130.00; Three years—$170.00. Fellows: $20 per year with proof of training status. Canada: $18.00 additional each year plus 7% for Canadian Goods & Services tax; all other countries: $36.00 additional each year Single copies of current issues may be obtained for $15.00. United States and possessions; $20.00 all other countries.

REPRINTS: All requests to reprint or use material published herein should be addressed to Lester J. Robeson, SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. For reprint orders and prices. contact Lester T. Robeson at (609) 8481000. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use. or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by SLACK Incorporated. provided that the base fee of $1.00 per copy, plus $.15 per page is paid directly to Copyright Clearance Center. 27 Congress St., Salem, MA 01970. This consent does not extend to other kinds of copying, such as for general distribution, resale, advertising and promotional purposes, or for creating new collective works.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notice should be sent to the publisher six weeks in advance of effective date. Include old and new addresses with zip codes. The publisher cannot accept responsibility for undelivered copies. Secondclass postage is paid at Thorofare, New Jersey 08086. and additional entry paints. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086.

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY is listed in Index Medicus, Current Contents—Clinical Practice, Hospital Literature Index, Cumulative Index to Nursing &Allied Health Literature, Nursing Abstracts, and laboratory Performance Information Exchange System.

https://doi.org/10.1086/646617 Published online by Cambridge University Press

EDITORIAL OFFICES
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
A-1131 Medical Center North
Nashville, TN 37232-2637
(615) 343-1095; (615) 343-1882 (FAX)
Email: iche@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu

EDITOR
Michael D. Decker, MD, MPH
MANAGING EDITOR
Susan Cantrell
STATISTICAL EDITOR
Beverly G. Mellen, PhD
SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS
C. Glen Mayhall, MD
Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
William Schaffner, MD
ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Donald A. Goldmann, MD
Didier Pittet, MD, MS
Andreas Widmer, MD, MS
SECTION EDITORS
Beyond Infection Control: The New Hospital Epidemiology
Bryan P. Simmons, MD
Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD
Memphis, Tennessee
Wing Hong Seto, MD
Hong Kong
Disinfection and Sterilization
William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Emerging Infectious Diseases
Larry J. Strausbaugh, MD
Portland, Oregon
Robert W. Pinner, MD
Atlanta, Georgia
From the Laboratory
Marcus Zervos, MD
Royal Oak, Michigan
Fred C. Tenover, PhD
Atlanta, Georgia
Information Management
John A. Sellick, DO
Buffalo, New York
The International Perspective
Mary D. Nettleman, MD, MS
Richmond, Virginia
Issues in Surgery
James T. Lee, MD, PhD
St. Paul, Minnesota
Medical News
Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
Chicago, Illinois
Martin S. Favero, PhD
Irvine, California
Practical Healthcare Epidemiology
Loreen A. Herwaldt, MD
Iowa City, Iowa
SHEA News
Murray D. Batt, MD
Clarksburg, West Virginia
Statistics for Hospital Epidemiology
David Birnbaum, PhD, MPH
Sidney, British Columbia, Canada
Topics in Long-Term Care
Philip W. Smith, MD
Omaha, Nebraska
Topics in Occupational Medicine
David Weber, MD, MPH
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Jacques F. Acar, MD	Paris, France
J. Wesley Alexander, MD	Cincinnati, Ohio
Paul Arnow, MD	Chicago, Illinois
Graham A.J. Ayliffe, MD	Birmingham, United Kingdom
Neil L. Barg, MD	Yakima, Washington
Elizabeth Ann Bolyard, RN, MPH, CIC	Atlanta, Georgia
John M. Boyce, MD	Providence, Rhode Island
Professor Dr. Ilja Braveny	Munich, Federal Republic of Germany
Charles Bryan, MD	Columbia, South Carolina
Christian Brun-Buisson, MD	Creteil, France
Donald E. Craven, MD	Boston, Massachusetts
Sue Crow, MSN, RN, CIC	Shreveport, Louisiana
Franz Daschner, MD	Freiburg, Federal Republic of Germany
Leigh G. Donowitz, MD	Charlottesville, Virginia
Charles E. Edmiston, Jr., PhD	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Theodore C. Eickhoff, MD	Denver, Colorado
Bruce Farber, MD	Manhasset, New York
Victoria J. Fraser, MD	St. Louis, Missouri
Peter C. Fuchs, MD, PhD	Black Butte, Oregon
Richard A. Garibaldi, MD	Farmington, Connecticut
Velvl Greene, PhD, MPH	Beer Sheva, Israel
Robert Gaynes, MD	Atlanta, Georgia
David W. Gregory, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
David K. Henderson, MD	Bethesda, Maryland
Peter N.R. Heseltine, MD	Los Angeles, California
Karen Hoffmann, RN, CIC, MS	Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Marguerite McMillan Jackson, RN, PhD	San Diego, California
Janine Jagger, MPH, PhD	Charlottesville, Virginia
William R. Jarvis, MD	Atlanta, Georgia
Douglas S. Kernodle, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
Robert H. Latham, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
Lewis B. Lefkowitz, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
Hsieh-Shong Leu, MD, MSc	Taipei, Taiwan
Jack Levy, MD	Brussels, Belgium
Victor Lorian, MD	Bronx, New York
Dennis G. Maki, MD	Madison, Wisconsin
Professor Dr. Walter Marget	Munich, Federal Republic of Germany
William J. Martone, MD	Bethesda, Maryland
Allison McGeer, MD	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
John E. McGowan, Jr., MD	Atlanta, Georgia
Jonathan L. Meakins, MD, DSc	Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Raf Mertens, MD	Brussels, Belgium
Robert R. Muder, MD	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Joseph M. Mylotte, MD, CIC	Buffalo, New York
Lindsay Nicolle, MD	Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada
Juhani Ojajärvi, MD	Helsinki, Finland
Michael T. Osterholm, PhD, MPH	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jan Evans Patterson, MD	San Antonio, Texas
Sindy M. Paul, MD	Trenton, New Jersey
Michael A. Pfaller, MD	Iowa City, Iowa
Samuel Ponce de Leon, MD, MSc	Mexico City, Mexico
Isaam Raad, MD	Houston, Texas
Manfred L. Rotter, MD, DipBact	Vienna, Austria
Theodore Sacks, MD	Jerusalem, Israel
William E. Scheckler, MD	Madison, Wisconsin
Kent Sepkowitz, MD	New York City, New York
Denis Spelman, MD	Prahran Victoria, Australia
Michael L. Tapper, MD	New York, New York
Clyde Thornsberry, PhD	Brentwood, Tennessee
Professor Leonid P. Titov	Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Timothy R. Townsend, MD	Millwood, Virginia
Antoni Trilla, MD, PhD	Barcelona, Spain
Professor Wang Shu-Qun	Beijing, People's Republic of China
J. John Weems, Jr., MD	Greenville, South Carolina
Robert A. Weinstein, MD	Chicago, Illinois
Professor Dr. W. Weuffen	Greifswald, Federal Republic of Germany
Sergio B. Wey, MD	São Paulo, Brazil
Rebecca Wurtz, MD	Evanston, Illinois

SLACK Incorporated
6900 Grove Road
Thorofare, New Jersey 08086
(609) 848-1000

Vice President/Group Publisher
Richard N. Roash

Publisher
John C. Carter

Editorial Director
Jennifer Kilpatrick

Production Editor
Shirley P. Strunk, ELS

Assistant Editor
Eileen C. Anderer

Circulation Manager
Lester J. Robeson, CCCP

Production Director
Christine Malin

Production Coordinator
Joanne Patterson

Publishing Director/ Advertising
Wayne McCourt

Pharmaceutical Group Sales Director
Michael LoPresti

Advertising Sales Representative
Jennine Kane

Classified/Recruitment Sales Manager
Michele Burch

https://doi.org/10.1086/646617 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Protection is our line.



NEUTRALON* Brown Latex Surgical Glove MICRO-TOUCH* Latex Surgical Glove MAXXUS* Orthopaedic Latex Surgical Glove MICRO-TOUCH* XP Latex Medical Glove MICRO-TOUCH* Latex Medical Glove

Protection. The key to our superior glove line.

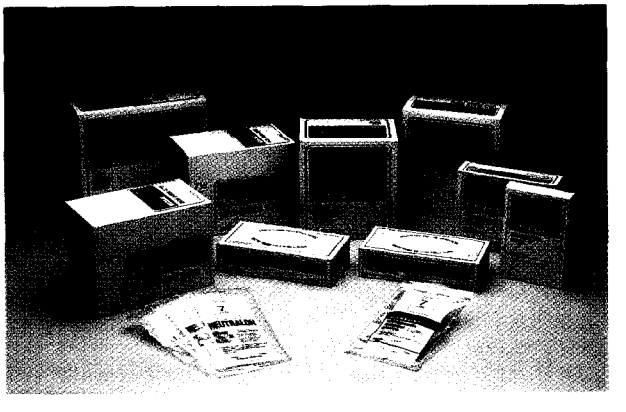
At Johnson &Johnson Medical, Inc. we have a reputation that spans more than 20 years — years dedicated to the research and development of quality gloves that provide maximum protection, optimum fit and excellent touch sensitivity.

We engineer quality into every aspect of our gloves beginning with 100 percent on-line visual inspection of all latex gloves, and quality standards that far exceed those required by the FDA.

Our protective lines include NEUTRALON" Brown Latex Surgical Gloves, MICRO-TOUCH* Latex Surgical Gloves, MAXXUS* Orthopaedic Latex Surgical Gloves, MICRO-TOUCH'" XI' Latex Medical Gloves, MICRO-TOUCH" Latex Medical Gloves, and DISPOS-A-GLOVE" Examination Gloves.

Protection and Johnson &Johnson Medical, Inc. — an unbeatable combination.

For more information, contact your Johnson &Johnson Medical, Inc. sales representative or call l-800-433-5009.



Johnson & Johnson
MEDICAL INC.

*TRADEMARK © JJM,INC 1990

https://doi.org/10.1086/646617 Published online by Cambridge University Press