VOLUME 19, NUMBER 7 JULY 1998

An Official Journal of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY BY SLACK INCORPORATED

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY™

EDITORIAL

Is a Tuberculosis Exposure a Tuberculosis Exposure If No One Is Infected?
EDWARD A. NARDELL, MD 484

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Evaluating the Control of Tuberculosis Among Healthcare Workers: Adherence to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines of Three Urban Hospitals in California
PATRICE M. SUTTON, MPH; MARK NICAS, PHD, MPH, CIH; FLORENCE REINISCH, MPH; ROBERT J. HARRISON, MD, MPH 487

A Randomized Crossover Study of Disposable Thermometers for Prevention of *Clostridium difficile* and Other Nosocomial Infections
JOHN A. JERNIGAN, MD, MS; YARDENA SIEGMAN-IGRA, MD, MPH; RICHARD C. GUERRANT, MD; BARRY M. FARR, MD, MSC 494

Cross-Contamination With *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: An Epidemiological and Laboratory Investigation
BETH NIVIN, MPH; PAULA I. FUJIWARA, MD, MPH; JOHN HANNIFIN, BA; BARRY N. KREISWIRTH, PHD 500

CONCISE COMMUNICATIONS

Frequency of Percutaneous Injuries Requiring Postexposure Prophylaxis for Occupational Exposure to Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MARIA GILSON SISTROM, RN, MSN; BETTY JOE COYNER, RN, MSN; JACK M. GWALTNEY, JR, MD; BARRY M. FARR, MD, MSC 504

Postexposure Prophylaxis for Human Immunodeficiency Virus: Frequency of Initiation and Completion of Newly Recommended Regimen
KENT A. SEPKOWITZ, MD; PEDRO RIVERA, RN; JOYCE LOUTHER, RN; SUZANNE LIM, MD; BETTY PRYOR, MD 506

Hepatitis B and Hemodialysis: The Impact of Universal Precautions in Preventing the Transmission of Bloodborne Viruses
ALOYS C.M. KROES, MD, PHD; ERIC F.H. VAN BOMMEL, MD, PHD; JAN A.J.W. KLUYTMANS, MD, PHD; WILLEM WEIMAR, MD, PHD 508

Handwashing Quality: Impact of a Special Program
BRUNO COIGNARD, MD; BRUNO GRANDBASTIEN, MD; YASMINA BERROUANE, MD; CHRISTIANE KREMBEL, MD; MARTINE QUEVERUE, RN; JEAN-LOUIS SALOMEZ, MD; GUY MARTIN, MD 510

Identification and Voluntary Reduction of Vancomycin Use for Perioperative Antibiotic Prophylaxis During Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery
SUZANNE M. PEAR, RN, MS; DEBORAH L. GOLDSMITH, MD; THERESA H. WILLIAMSON, RN, BSN; DAVID MANDEL; GULSHAN K. SETHI, MD; DAVID A. ARZOUMAN, MD; NEIL M. AMPEL, MD 513

Environmental Contamination With Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci in an Outpatient Setting
THERESA L. SMITH, MD; PETER C. IWEN, MS; SUSAN B. OLSON, BSMT (ASCP); MARK E. RUPP, MD 515

Improving Influenza Immunization Among Healthcare Workers
RODOLFO E. BEGUE, MD; SHEILAH Q. GEE, RN, CIC 518

Continued inside.

https://doi.org/10.1086/647844 Published online by Cambridge University Press

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

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
George W. Reed, 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
Iowa City, Iowa

Issues in Surgery
James T. Lee, MD, PhD
Minneapolis, 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
Reno, Nevada

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

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	Ann Arbor, Michigan
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	Portland, 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	Atlanta, Georgia
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	Franklin, Tennessee
Professor Leonid P. Titov	Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Timothy R. Townsend, MD	Baltimore, Maryland
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
Kim Callan

Assistant Editor
Tony Manero

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
Kathy Huntley

https://doi.org/10.1086/647844 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Vol. 19 No. 7 July 1998

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY™

CONTENTS

Continued from cover

SHEA POSITION PAPER

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci in Long-Term–Care Facilities
KENT CROSSLEY, MD; THE LONG-TERM–CARE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA 521

THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

High Rates of Discitis Following Surgery for Prolapsed Intervertebral Discs at a Hospital in Pakistan
AMNA R. SIDDIQUI, MBBS, MPH; STEPHEN P. LUBY, MD 526

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

***Serratia marcescens* Outbreak Associated With Extrinsic Contamination of 1% Chloroxylenol Soap (with reply)**
STEPHEN SPAINHOUR, BA; LENNOX K. ARCHIBALD, MD; BHAVESH SHAH, MD; ANN CORL, RN; MYRNA SCHULTE, RN; DONNA J. FISHER, MD; BARBARA W. STECHENBERG, MD; WILLIAM R. JARVIS, MD 476

A Cluster of Drug-Resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Among Nursing Home Patients
DAVID F. MCNEELEY, MD; JANET LYONS, RN; SALVATORE CONTE, MD; ANNE LABOWITZ; MARCELLE LAYTON, MD 476

The Stethoscope and Potential Nosocomial Infection (with reply)
MARK A. MARINELLA, MD; ITZHAK BROOK, MD 477

Prevention of Nosocomial Cross-Infections
JACK W. SHIELDS, MD, MS 478

CORRECTIONS 479, 493

MEDICAL NEWS
GINA PUGLIESE, RN, MS; MARTIN S. FAVERO, PHD 530

SHEA NEWS
MURRAY D. BATT, MD 532

To view abstracts of these articles, visit us on the Internet at http://www.slackinc.com/general/iche

THE PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY GUARANTEE OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE 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-0899-823X, Canadian GST#129780466) is published exclusively by SLACK Incorporated 12 times a year. Address: 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. Telephone: (609) 848-1000.

SHEA: 19 Mantua Rd., Mt. Royal, NJ 08061; telephone, 609-423-0087; fax, 609-423-3420; e-mail address, sheahq@tmg.smarthub.com.

COPYRIGHT 1998 The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, Inc., and SLACK Incorporated. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Printed in the USA.

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-$98.00; Two years-$136.00; Three years-$169.00; Institutional: One year-$120.00; Two years-$170.00; Three years-$220.00. Fellows: $49 per year with proof of training status. Canada: $19.00 additional each year plus 7% for Canadian Goods & Services tax; all other countries: $38.00 additional each year. Overseas surface, $84.00 each year overseas air mail. Single copies of current issues may be obtained for $15.00, United States and possessions; $20.00 all other countries.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Authors may submit manuscripts prepared in accordance with the 1997 revision of the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals." The Uniform Requirements has been published in several journals, including *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 1997;18:457-464 and *Ann Intern Med* 1997;126:36-47. A digital version is available on our web site (http://www.slackinc.com/general/iche/ichehome.htm). Submit to ICHE Editorial Offices, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, A-1131 Medical Center North, Nashville, TN 37232-2637, USA. All submissions must be accompanied by copyright form(s) signed by all authors (see January issue or our web site).

REPRINTS: All requests to reprint or use material published herein should be addressed to Jennifer McGovern, SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. For reprint orders and prices, contact Jennifer McGovern at (609) 848-1000. 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. Periodicals postage paid at Thorofare, New Jersey 08086-9447 and at additional mailing offices. 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, Laboratory Performance Information Exchange System, and RNdex Top 100.

https://doi.org/10.1086/647844 Published online by Cambridge University Press