ity, and use of selective decontamination of the digestive tract.

DNA typing of sequential surveillance culture isolates from single patients hospitalized in our ICU suggested that direct contamination of the BP tract was a more frequent route of colonization than ascending endogenous enteric flora via the stomach and oropharynx. In our study, there were no changes between the two periods concerning personnel caring for the patients or processing or manipulating the ventilator support equipment or in policies regarding mechanical ventilation equipment use, re-use, disposal, or disinfection. Mechanical ventilation equipment setups were identical in the old and in the remodeled unit. Although we have no data on environmental microbiological characteristics (water supply or other potential common sources) and conducted no observations of handwashing practice, we hypothesize that improved compliance to handwashing, due to the convenient design of rooms and the availability of sinks, may have been responsible for the lower rate of cross-transmission.

Conversion from open rooms to isolation rooms may help to control nosocomial BP-tract acquisition of *A baumanii* in mechanically ventilated patients hospitalized in an SICU.

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Calendar

September 25, 1997, 1:00-3:30 PM (EST). Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE): Control of an Emerging Pathogen. Presented by the Hospital Infections Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This program is a live, interactive, continuing education-accredited satellite videoconference for physicians, nurses, infection control professionals, pharmacists, laboratorians, hospital administrators, and others involved in the detection, treatment, prevention, and control of VRE. Program content is as follows:

I. Introduction—Overview/Magnitude of the Program, R. Weinstein, MD
- A. Incidence and secular trends
- B. Summary of outbreaks
  - i. Sources
  - ii. Modes of transmission
  - iii. Role of the environment and room disinfection

II. Risk Factors, W. Jarvis, MD
- A. Vancomycin use
- B. Underlying disease
- C. Severity of illness
- D. Mortality

III. Detection and the Role of the Laboratory, F. Tenover, PhD
- A. Screening
- B. Isolation
- C. Identification
- D. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing
- E. Genotyping

IV. Prevention and Control
- A. HIP/CDC-HICPAC recommendations for VRE, D. Lancaster, RN, CIC
  - i. Patient isolation
  - ii. Patient screening
  - iii. Antimicrobial controls
  - iv. Handwashing
  - v. Equipment/environmental disinfection
- B. Barriers and solutions to implementing current recommendations, D. Lancaster, RN, CIC
- C. Efficacy and cost benefit of control measures, W. Jarvis, MD

V. Summary, R. Weinstein, MD

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0195941700091207 Published online by Cambridge University Press