Letters to the Editor

Ciprofloxacin-Resistant Serratia marcescens

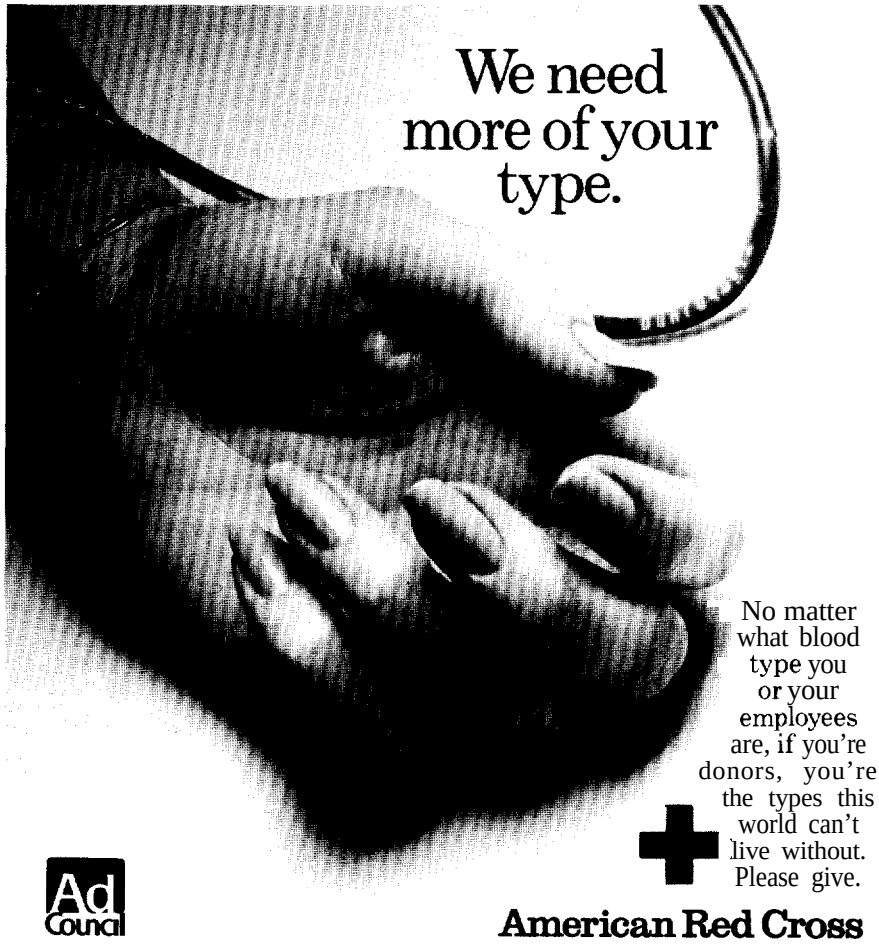
To the Editor:

We are a 305-bed chronic-care and rehabilitation hospital in Massachusetts. Recently we have noticed an increase in the use of ciprofloxacin; an average of 14 patients per month receive a course of therapy. We have discovered that 68% of our isolates of ***Serratia marcescens*** are now resistant to ciprofloxacin, at a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of >2mg/l. The organisms were isolated from: respiratory (65%); urinary (31%); and others (4%).

The number of isolates of S ***marcescens*** showing resistance to ciprofloxacin has been on the rise in the last few months. We have recovered 26 ciprofloxacin-resistant S ***marcescens*** strains among 34 isolates of S *marcescens* cultured in the last four months. We have issued an advisory to our medical staff alerting them of the problem; we also have restricted the use of ciprofloxacin. We hope this will serve as a warning to other institutions whose use of this agent is increasing.

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Letters to the editor should be addressed to INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY Editorial Offices, C41 General Hospital, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA 52242. All letters must be typed, double spaced, and may not exceed four pages nor include more than one ***figure or table. The editors reserve the right to edit for purposes of clarity or brevity.***



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