## 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 <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis:</i> 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.

Vol. 19 No. 7 July 1998

### **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

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

Publisher

John C. Carter

**Editorial Director** 

**Production Editor** 

Jennifer Kilpatrick

Topics in Occupational Medicine

Vice President/Group Publisher Richard N. Roash

David Weber, MD, MPH

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

## INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

## EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Paris, France

Birmingham, United Kingdom

Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

Freiburg, Federal Republic of Germany

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Providence, Rhode Island

Columbia, South Carolina

Boston, Massachusetts

Charlottesville, Virginia

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Manhasset, New York

Farmington, Connecticut

Los Angeles, California Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Denver, Colorado

St. Louis, Missouri

Portland, Oregon

Beer Sheva, Israel

Nashville, Tennessee

Bethesda, Maryland

San Diego, California

Nashville, Tennessee Nashville, Tennessee

Nashville, Tennessee

Brussels, Belgium

Bronx, New York

Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia

Brussels, Belgium

Buffalo, New York

Helsinki, Finland

Iowa City, Iowa

Houston, Texas

Vienna, Austria

Ierusalem, Israel

San Antonio, Texas

Trenton, New Jersey

Mexico City, Mexico

Madison, Wisconsin New York City, New York

Prahran Victoria, Australia

Beijing, People's Republic of China

New York, New York

Baltimore, Maryland

Barcelona, Spain

Franklin, Tennessee Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Madison, Wisconsin

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada

Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

Atlanta, Georgia

Taipei, Taiwan

Charlottesville, Virginia

Atlanta, Georgia

Shreveport, Louisiana

Atlanta, Georgia

Creteil, France

Jacques F. Acar, MD

J. Wesley Alexander, MD

Cincinnati, Ohio Paul Arnow, MD Chicago, Illinois

Graham A.J. Ayliffe, MD

Neil L. Barg, MD

Elizabeth Ann Bolyard, RN, MPH, CIC John M. Boyce, MD

Professor Dr. Ilja Braveny

Charles Bryan, MD

Christian Brun-Buisson, MD

Donald E. Craven, MD

Sue Crow, MSN, RN, CIC

Franz Daschner, MD Leigh G. Donowitz, MD

Charles E. Edmiston, Jr., PhD

Theodore C. Eickhoff, MD

Bruce Farber, MD

Victoria J. Fraser, MD

Peter C. Fuchs, MD, PhD

Richard A. Garibaldi, MD

Velvl Greene, PhD, MPH

Robert Gaynes, MD

David W. Gregory, MD

David K. Henderson, MD

Peter N.R. Heseltine, MD

Karen Hoffmann, RN, CIC, MS

Marguerite McMillan Jackson, RN, PhD

Janine Jagger, MPH, PhD William R. Jarvis, MD

Douglas S. Kernodle, MD

Robert H. Latham, MD

Lewis B. Lefkowitz, MD

Hsieh-Shong Leu, MD, MSc

Jack Levy, MD Victor Lorian, MD

Dennis G. Maki, MD Professor Dr. Walter Marget

William J. Martone, MD

Allison McGeer, MD John E. McGowan, Jr., MD

Jonathan L. Meakins, MD, DSc

Raf Mertens, MD

Robert R. Muder, MD Joseph M. Mylotte, MD, CIC

Lindsay Nicolle, MD

Juhani Ojajärvi, MD

Michael T. Osterholm, PhD, MPH Jan Evans Patterson, MD

Sindy M. Paul, MD

Michael A. Pfaller, MD Samuel Ponce de Leon, MD, MSc

Isaam Raad, MD

Manfred L. Rotter, MD, DipBact Theodore Sacks, MD

William E. Scheckler, MD

Kent Sepkowitz, MD

Denis Spelman, MD Michael L. Tapper, MD

Clyde Thornsberry, PhD Professor Leonid P. Titov

Timothy R. Townsend, MD

Antoni Trilla, MD, PhD

Professor Wang Shu-Qun

J. John Weems, Jr., MD

Robert A. Weinstein, MD

Professor Dr. W. Weuffen

Sergio B. Wey, MD

Rebecca Wurtz, MD

Greenville, South Carolina Chicago, Illinois Greifswald, Federal Republic of Germany

São Paulo, Brazil Evanston, Illinois

SLACK Incorporated

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

Assistant Editor Tony Manero Circulation Manager

Lester J. Robeson, ČCCP Production Director Christine Malin

Production Coordinator

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/10.1017/S0195941700087968 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 Gossessions; S20.00 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 SIACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NI 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.