TABLE 3
EFFECT OF PROGRAMS TO LIMIT USE OF VANCOMYCIN

Program	Intervention	No. of Vancomycin Orders	Decrease in Grams Used	Annualized Savings on Vancomycin	Decrease in Incidence of VRE
This study	Infectious diseases-pharmacy team, 72-h ASO	675	Yes	Yes	NR
Morgan, 1997[11]	96-h ASO	333	Yes	Yes	No
Anglim, 1997[12]	Pharmacy monitoring	54	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adachi, 1997[4]	Order sheet	37	Yes	NR	No
Burke, 1997[5]	Order sheet, ASO	NR	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belliveau, 1996[13]	Infectious diseases-pharmacy team, ASOs	386	Yes	NR	NR
Montecalvo, 1995[9]	Infectious diseases consult	NR	Yes	Yes	NR
Morris, 1995[14]	Infectious diseases-pharmacy team	462	Yes	NR	No

Abbreviations: ASO, automatic stop order; NR, not reported; VRE, vancomycin-resistant enterococci.

a concomitant decrease in colonization or infection of patients by VRE, and three reported no change. This probably reflects the multifactorial nature of antibiotic resistance[6] and the need to control variables in addition to antibiotic use.

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Maintenance of Ice Machines

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The CDC recently published an advisory on sanitary care and maintenance of ice storage chests and ice-making machines in healthcare facilities. The advisory points out the risks and sources of contamination and includes recommendations for education of workers (hand washing, proper use of the ice scoop, and caution against handling ice with hands). Guidelines are included on the maintenance of the ice scoop and machines, including daily cleaning of scoop and ice tray with soap and water or in a dishwasher, cleaning of open ice storage chests on a preset schedule with a final rinse of 100 ppm chlorine solution, and regularly scheduled disassembly and cleaning of ice-making machines. Routine microbiological sampling of ice or ice-making machines is not recommended.

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