# An Official Journal of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY BY SLACK INCORPORATED

# INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

### EDITORIAL

Water As a Reservoir of Nosocomial Pathogens William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH; David J. Weber, MD, MPH	609
DRIGINAL ARTICLES	
Outbreak Among HIV-Infected Patients of Staphylococcus aureus	
<b>Resistant to Cotrimoxazole and Methicillin</b> Roberto Alonso, PhD; Belen Padilla, MD; Carlos Sánchez-Carrillo, PharmD; Patricia Muñoz, MD; Marta Rodríguez-Creixems, MD; Emilio Bouza, PhD	61
Environmental Contamination Due to Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus:</i> Possible Infection Control Implications	
JOHN M. BOYCE, MD; GAIL POTTER-BYNOE, BS; CLAIRE CHENEVERT, BS; THOMAS KING, MD	62
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> -Associated Diarrhea: Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Infection Control	
Kwan Kew Lai, DMD, MD; Zita S. Melvin, RN, BSN, CIC; Mary Jane Menard, RN, MS, ANP, CNS;	
HELEN R. KOTILAINEN, MA, MT (ASCP), CIC; STEPHEN BAKER, PHD	62
Primary Prevention and Rubella Immunity: Overlooked Issues	
in the Outpatient Obstetric Setting Deborah D. Schoenhoff, MD; Timothy W. Lane, MD; Charles J. Hansen, MA	633
Nosocomial Legionellosis Traced to a Contaminated Ice Machine Paul S. Graman, MD; Gail A. Quinlan, BS, RN, CIC; June A. Rank, BS, RN, CIC	63'
Bacterial Killing Ability of 10% Ethylene Oxide Plus	
90% Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Sterilizing Gas Michelle J. Alfa, PhD; Pat DeGagne, RT; Nancy Olson, BSc	64
	04
An Evaluation of the AbTox Plazlyte Sterilization System E.A. Bryce, MD; E. Chia, RT; G. Logelin, RT; J.A. Smith, MD	64
CONCISE COMMUNICATIONS	
When the Biological Indicator Is Positive: Investigating Autoclave Failures	
E.A. Bryce, MD; F.J. Roberts, MD; B. Clements, P.Eng; S. MacLean, CET	654
Exclusion of Noninfectious Medical Waste From the Contaminated Waste Stream Michael C. Francis, MD; Lana A. Metoyer, MD; Alan D. Kaye, MD, PhD	65
RACTICAL HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY	
Basics of Surgical-Site Infection Surveillance	
Marie-Claude Roy, MD, MS; Trish M. Perl, MD, MSc	65

Continued inside.



## CONTENTS

Continued from cover

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

<b>The Stethoscope As a Potential Source of Transmission of Bacteria</b> ITZHAK BROOK, MD, MSC	608
CALENDAR	616
MEDICAL NEWS	
GINA PUGLIESE, RN, MS; MARTIN S. FAVERO, PHD	
Microbiological Factors and Mortality of Septicemia	621
Check Out These Web Sites	632
The HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis Registry	636
Guidelines Issued for Vancomycin-Resistant Staphylococcal Infection	669
Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance	669
HCV Transmission During Home Infusion Therapy	669
HIV Transmission From Deep Kissing?	670
Russia to Open New TB Center	670
SHEA NEWS	
Murray D. Batt, MD	672

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.

COPYRIGHT 1997 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-\$38.00; Two 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 log 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;126:3647. 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."

REPRINTS: All requests to reprint or use material published herein should be addressed to Les Robeson, SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. For reprint orders and prices, contact Les Robeson 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.

**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 Beverly G. Mellen, 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 Richmond, Virginia **Issues in Surgery** James T. Lee, MD, PhD St. Paul, 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 Clarksburg, West Virginia 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

Vice President/Group Publisher Richard N. Roash Publisher John C. Carter Editorial Director Jennifer Kilpatrick Production Editor Shirley P. Strunk, ELS

# INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

#### EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Jacques F. Acar, MD J. Wesley Alexander, MD Paul Arnow, MD 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

Paris, France Cincinnati, Ohio Chicago, Illinois Birmingham, United Kingdom Yakima, Washington Atlanta, Georgia Providence, Rhode Island Munich, Federal Republic of Germany Columbia, South Carolina Creteil, France Boston, Massachusetts Shreveport, Louisiana Freiburg, Federal Republic of Germany Charlottesville, Virginia Milwaukee, Wisconsin Denver, Colorado Manhasset, New York St. Louis, Missouri Black Butte, Oregon Farmington, Connecticut Beer Sheva, Israel Atlanta, Georgia Nashville, Tennessee Bethesda, Maryland Los Angeles, California Chapel Hill, North Carolina San Diego, California Charlottesville, Virginia Atlanta, Georgia Nashville, Tennessee Nashville, Tennessee Nashville, Tennessee Taipei, Taiwan Brussels, Belgium Bronx, New York Madison, Wisconsin Munich, Federal Republic of Germany Bethesda, Maryland Toronto, Ontario, Canada Atlanta, Georgia Montreal, Quebec, Canada Brussels, Belgium Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Buffalo, New York Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada Helsinki, Finland Minneapolis, Minnesota San Antonio, Texas Trenton, New Jersey Iowa City, Iowa Mexico City, Mexico Houston, Texas Vienna, Austria Ierusalem, Israel Madison, Wisconsin New York City, New York Prahran Victoria, Australia New York, New York Brentwood, Tennessee Minsk, Republic of Belarus Millwood, Virginia Barcelona, Spain Beijing, People's Republic of China 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 Eileen C. Anderer 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 Michele Burch

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0195941700092286 Published online by Cambridge University Press