

INFECTION CONTROL



EDITORIAL

Pseudobacteremia

Joseph F. John, Jr., MD; Edward R. Bannister, PhD

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Three Clusters of Bacillus Pseudobacteremia Related to a Radiometric Blood Culture Analyzer

Inge Gurevich, RN, MA; Patricia Tafuro, RN, BSN; Sharon P. Krystofiak, MT(ASCP), MS; Robert D. Kalter, MD; Burke A. Cunha, MD

Pseudobacteremia Traced to Cross-Contamination by an Automated Blood Culture Analyzer

Donald E. Craven, MD; Deborah A. Lichtenberg, RN; Kathleen F. Browne; Donna M. Coffey; Thomas L. Treadwell, MD; William R. McCabe, MD

An Outbreak of Gentamicin-Resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: Analysis of Control Measures

Louis D. Saravolatz, MD; Lucille Arking, BSN; Donald Pohlod, MS; Evelyn J. Fisher, MD; Robert Borer, MD

Recommendations for the Care of Automated Peritoneal Dialysis Machines: Can the Risk of Peritonitis Be Reduced?

Ruth L. Berkelman, MD; Jeffery D. Band, MD; Norman J. Petersen

Longitudinal Analysis of Endemic Gentamicin- and Tobramycin-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacilli in a Community Hospital

C. Richard Magnussen, MD; Maria T. Jacobson, RN

Readers' Forum: Legal Aspects of Antibiotic Audit

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Clinical Pharmacology of Antibiotics: Pharmacokinetics of Antimicrobial Agents

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Employee Health and Infection Control: Employee Health and the Infection Control Practitioner—Why Bother?

William M. Valenti, MD

THE LAST THING YOUR HOSPITAL NEEDS

The threat of nosocomial infection

Between 4% and 8% of all hospitalized patients develop an infection at some time during their stay,¹ and such infections usually add to the length and cost of hospitalization.

Protecting patients and staff from nosocomial infection is becoming more difficult due to changing patterns of bacterial infection and the emergence of resistant bacteria, most notably methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.^{2,3}

The key to management

Pathogenic bacteria are easily transmitted by the hands of physicians, nurses, technicians, and other hospital personnel.⁴

Both the Center for Disease Control and the American Hospital Association consider handwashing the single most important procedure in preventing nosocomial infection and recommend handwashing after every patient contact.⁴ An increase in nosocomial infection that is transmitted by serial direct contact indicates suboptimal handwashing practices and antiseptic technique.⁵



A program for prevention

Because proper hand-washing techniques are so important in the prevention of nosocomial infection, Winthrop has developed a comprehensive program of educational materials for every member of the hospital staff. The in-service program includes two films on handwashing, a slide/tape presentation, hand-washing instruction wall charts, and dispenser maintenance instructions.

If you would like more information, please write to Professional Services Department, Winthrop Laboratories,

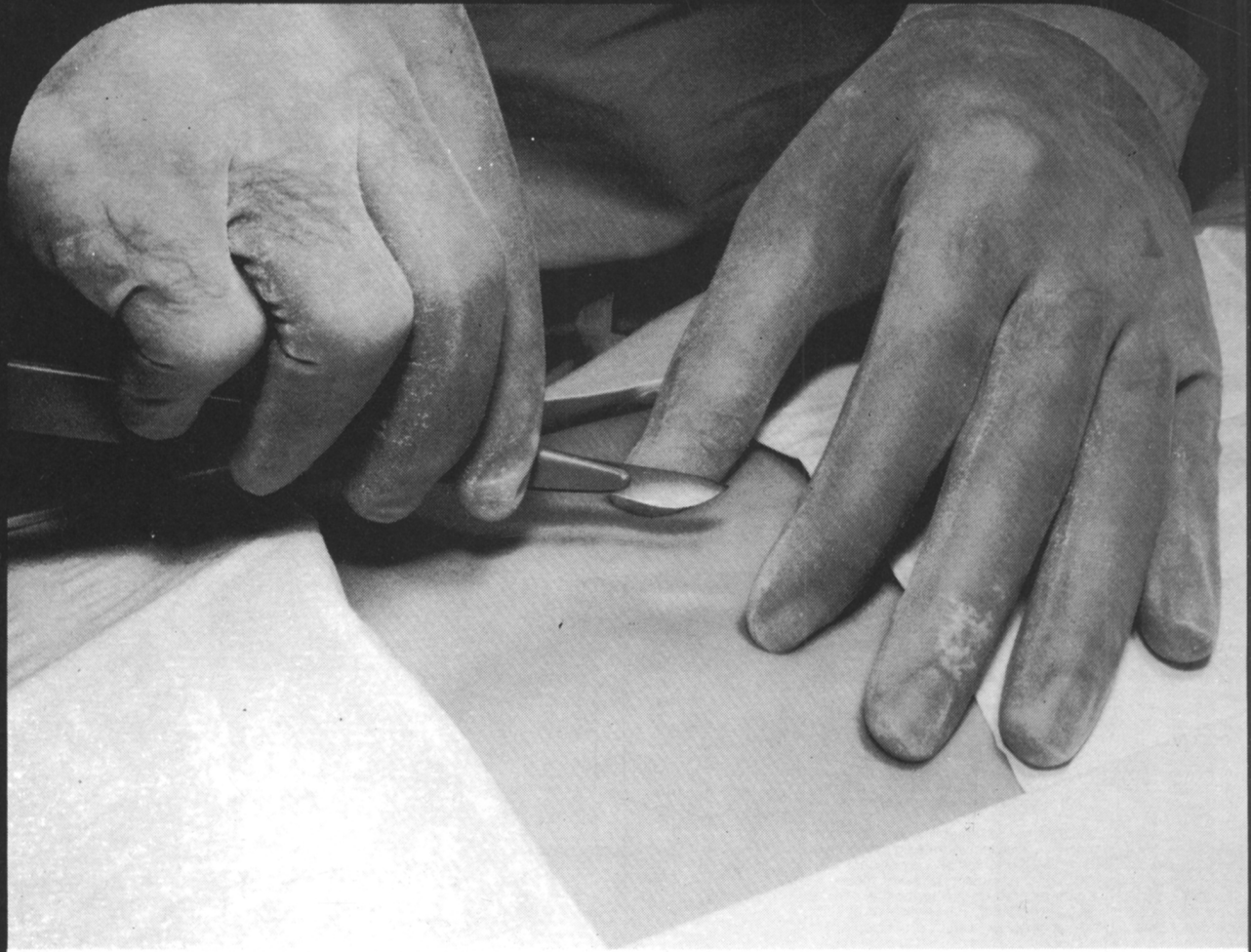
90 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016,
or contact your Winthrop representative.

References: 1. Infection control for the obstetric patient and the newborn infant. *NAACOG Tech Bull* 1981; March. 2. Kraybill EN: Needs of the term infant. in Avery GB (ed): *Neonatology*, ed 2. Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1981, p 226. 3. Haley RW, Hightower AW, Khabbaz RF, et al: The emergence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in United States hospitals: Possible role of the house staff-patient transfer circuit. *Ann Intern Med* 1982; 97:297-308. 4. Albert RK, Condie F: Hand-washing patterns in medical intensive-care units. *N Engl J Med* 1981; 24:1465-1466. 5. Wenzel RP: The emergence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Ann Intern Med* 1982; 97:440-442.

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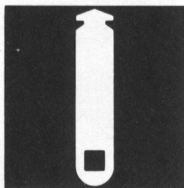


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*Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA
(Guidelines . . . revised August 1982)*

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*Journal of Dental Research, Vol. 60, March 1981
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Infection Control, 1(2): 90-93, 1980



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The ideas and opinions expressed by contributing authors do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publisher.

Publisher: Infection Control is published monthly by SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, New Jersey 08086. Telephone: Thorofare (609) 848-1000.

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Subscriptions: Subscription requests should be addressed to the publisher (except Japan). In Japan, contact Woodbell Scope Incorporated, 11-11, Shoto 2-chrome, Shibuya-ku Tokyo 150, Japan. Annual subscription price is: Individual: One year—\$35.00; Two years—\$50.00; Three years—\$65.00. Institutional: One year—\$50.00; Two years—\$65.00; Three years—\$80.00. All subscriptions, without exception, will start with the first issue published after the order is received. Back copies are available, but must be purchased separately. Cost per individual copy is \$5.00. Foreign subscribers add \$15.00 to regular rate: foreign orders, \$6.00.

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. Second-class postage is paid at Thorofare, New Jersey 08086. Publisher requests Form 3547 for address correction changes.

As of Volume 1, Number 1, INFECTION CONTROL is listed in *Index Medicus*, *Current Contents—Clinical Practice*, *Hospital Literature Index*, and *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature*.