

surgical care bundles for the reduction of surgical site infection: it all starts in the operating room

Wisconsin November 2015

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**Professor of Clinical Sciences
University of Huddersfield**



and by exposing his microbes to non-lethal quantities of the drug make them resistant.... .the time may come when penicillin may be bought by anyone in the shops. Then there is a danger that the ignorant man may easily underdose himself

Alexander Fleming



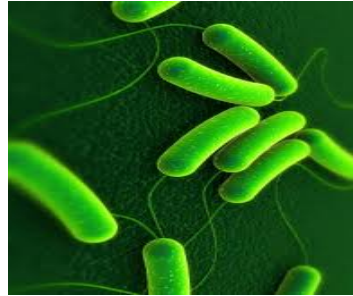
**the
antibiotics**



Healthcare Associated Infections

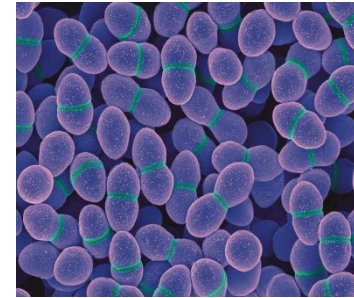
resistant/emergent
organisms
("superbugs")

urinary tract infection
CAUTI



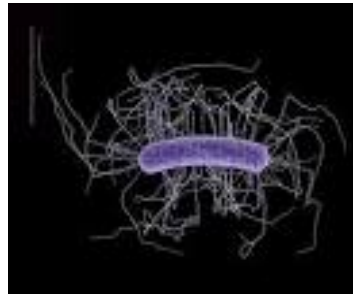
ESBLs, NDM

respiratory tract infection
VAP HAP

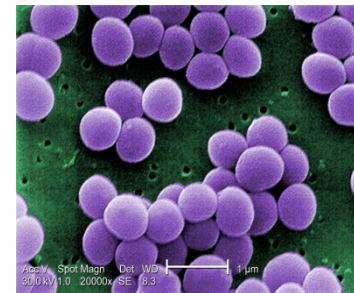


GRE

Clostridium difficile
infection **CDI**



surgical site (and prosthetic) infection
bacteraemias, cSSTIs, CLABSIs



MRSA
MRCNS

what are the costs of HCAIs?

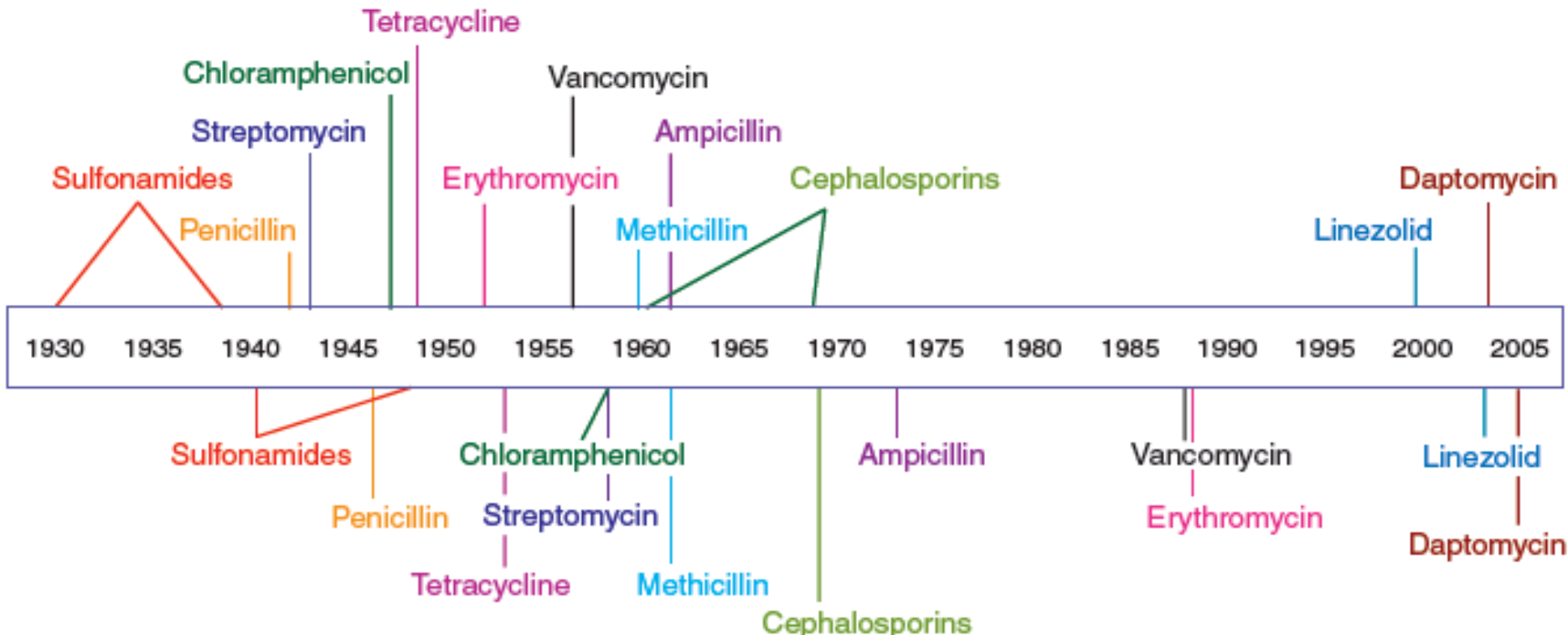
- in the EU €5-10 billion each year
- added costs are three times more
- an average of 6.5 additional days in hospital
- 1 in 10 hospitalised patients acquires a skin infection



must reduce antibiotic use

new organisms - new antibiotics
...then we run out!

antibiotic introduced.....



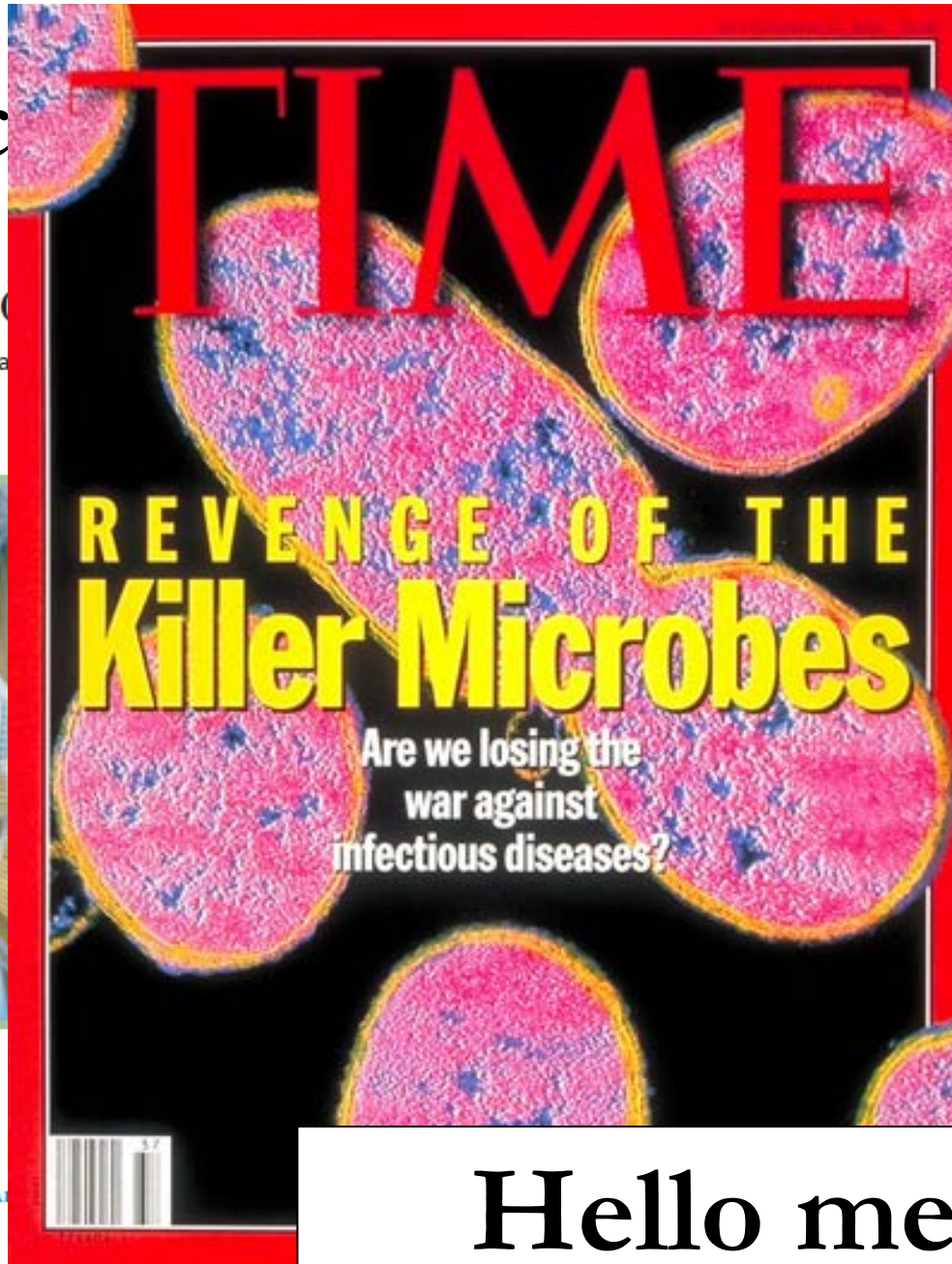
.....antibiotic resistance observed

Conc

iotics

BAD BUGS, NO

As Antibiotic Discovery Stagnates
A Public Health Crisis Brews



resistance in Europe

potential

ESCMD)
Lancet Infect Dis 2005;
5: 115-19
SDN is at the Swedish Institute
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MAJOR ARTICLE

Drug Development:



Hello media!!

managers and politicians

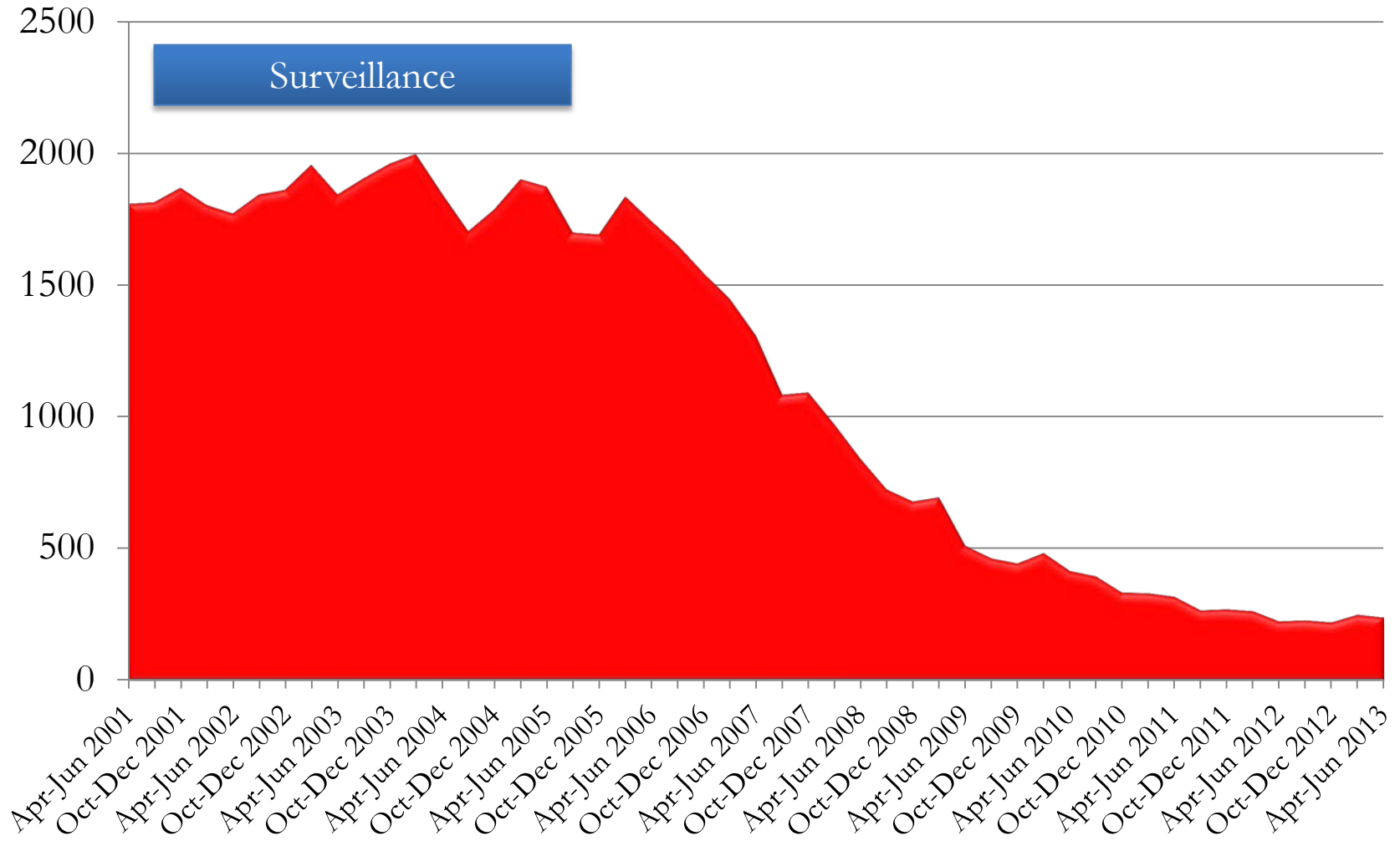
stop devolution of power to them from doctors /ICNs?

(driven by the media)

- clean your hands
- bare below the elbows
- deep clean hospitals (bring back Matron)
- targets: waiting lists (difficult in UK)
- search and destroy (difficult in UK)
- stop taking samples
- intravascular catheter care (High Impact Intervention)
- good antibiotic stewardship (local formularies)



quarterly MRSA bacteraemia (England: 2001-12)

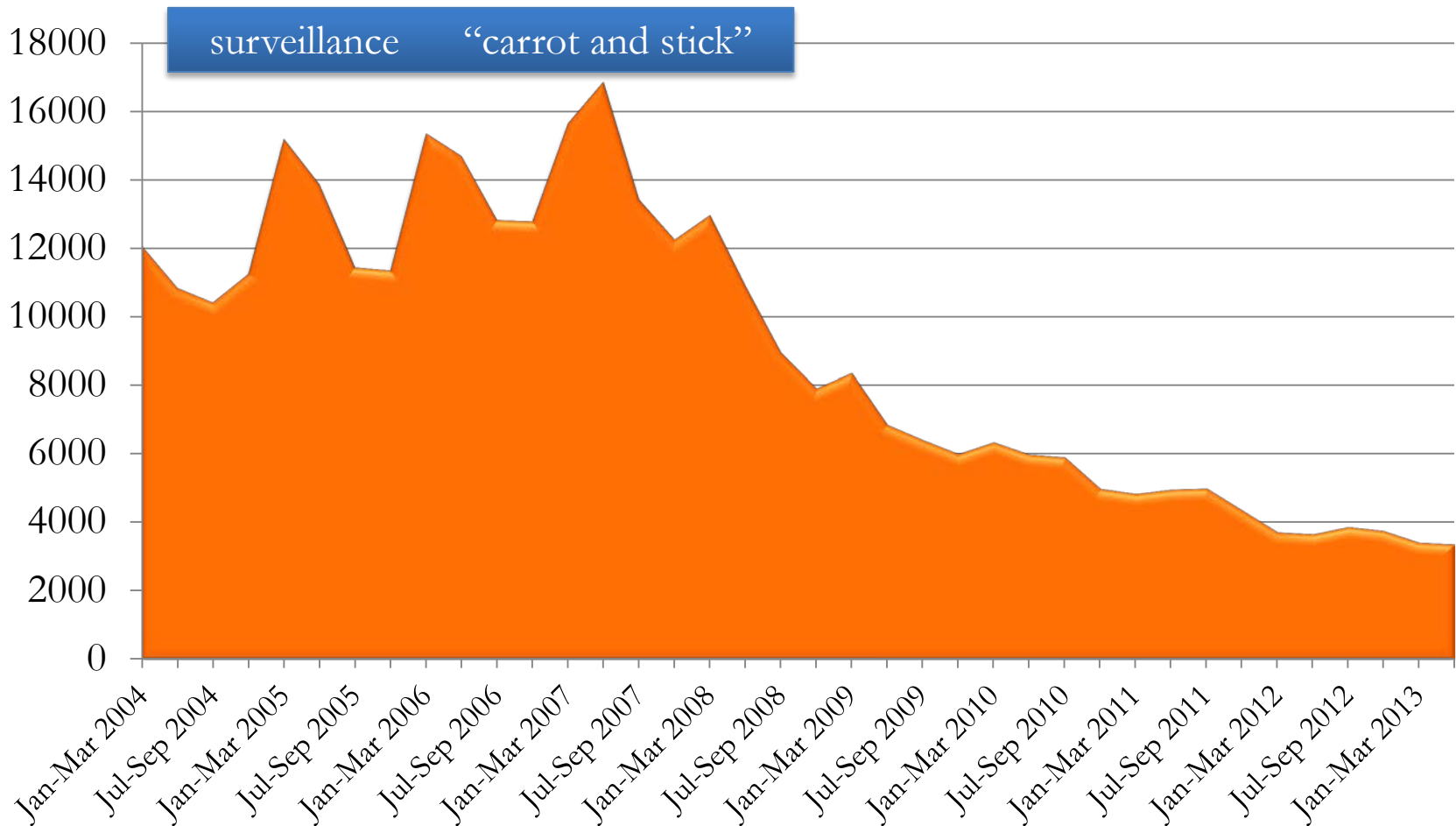




Infection Control lectures are usually considered to be 'therapeutic' for staff with sleep deprivation disorders

quarterly *C. difficile*

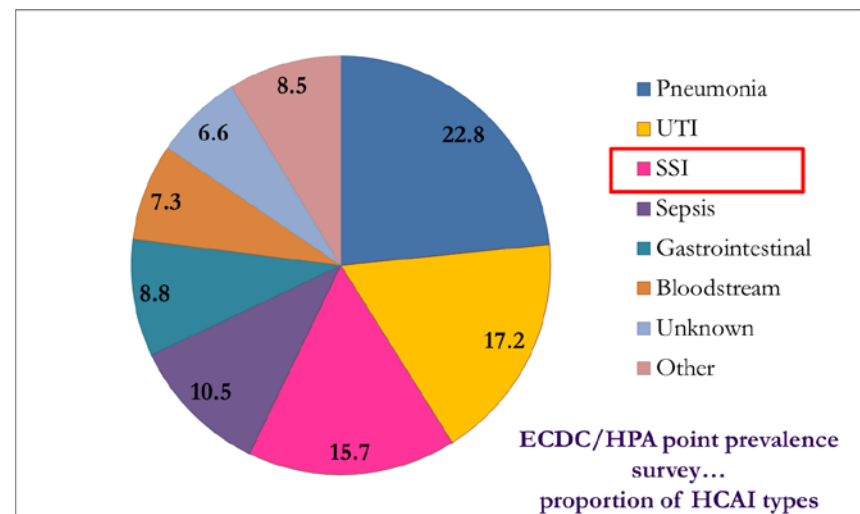
(England 2004-2011)



epidemiology of SSI

- 2.5-5% of all operations
- third most common HCAI (**now the commonest?**)
- most common nosocomial infection among surgical patients (30 -40%)
- 7.3 additional postoperative days at an additional cost of \$3,152 per patient (US)
- 9.8 additional postoperative days at an additional cost of €2,000 per patient (Europe)
- one third of postoperative deaths are attributable, at least in part, to SSIs

**HCAIs point prevalence study...
why are SSIs NOT falling?**



when should antibiotics be given for surgical infections?

- cellulitis
- lymphangitis
- bacteraemia
- **SIRS and MODS, MOF and DEATH**
- definite pathogens (β -haemolytic streptococcus)
- large numbers (critical colonisation-infection)
- host defences (immunosuppression, diabetes)



antibiotic stewardship

definitions are critical

categories of surgical wounds

(prosthetic surgery?)

clean

clean contaminated

contaminated

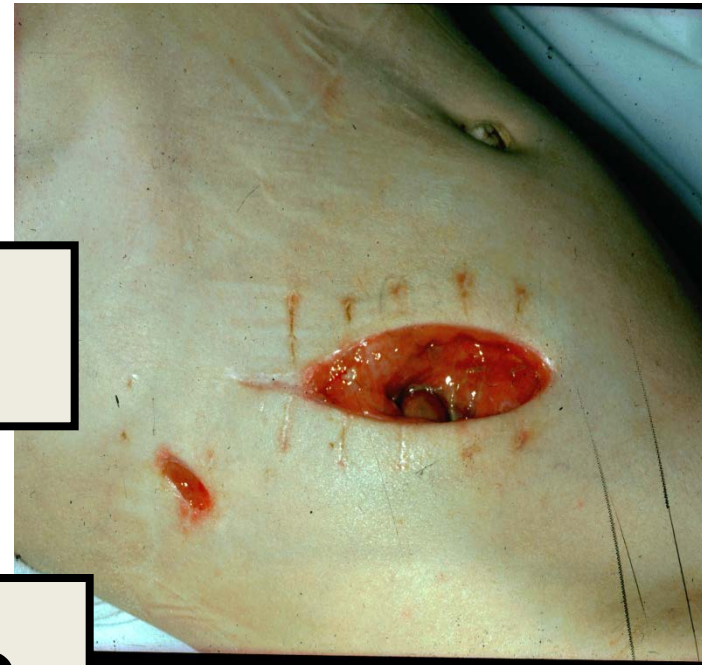
dirty



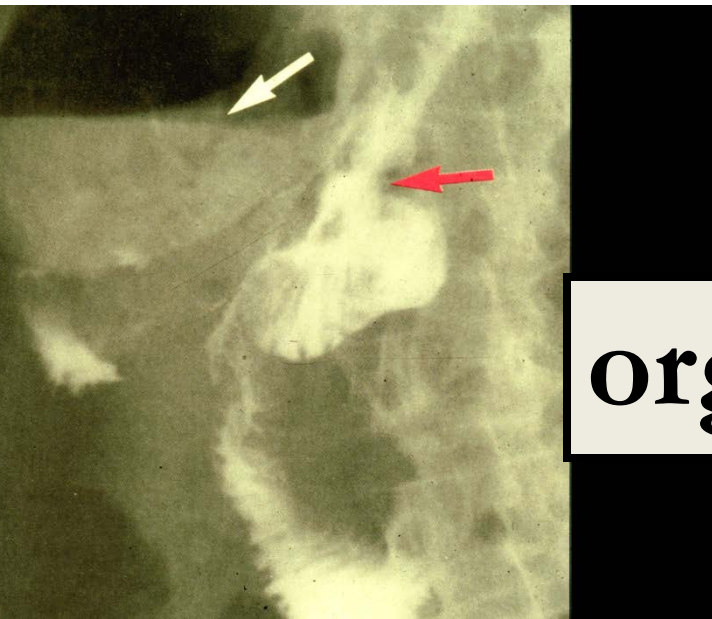
classification of surgical site infection.....real patients!



superficial



deep



organ space

CDC definition

(most commonly used)

30 days (1 year prosthetics)

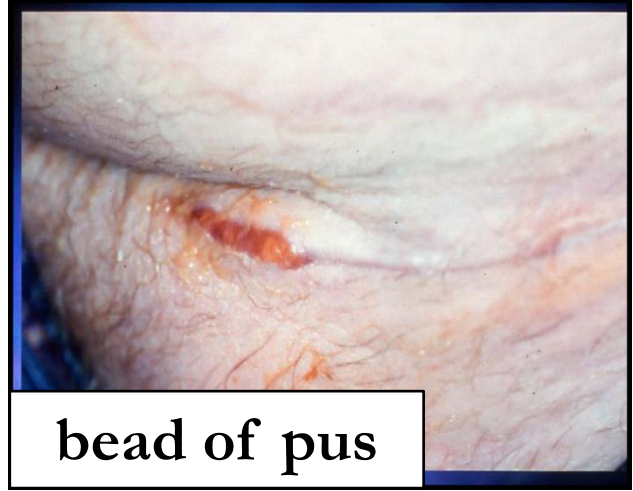
purulent discharge or abscess

isolated organisms

1+ Celsian signs

wound separation or need for drainage

categorical data



bead of pus



total disaster

ASEPSIS

Additional treatment

Serous discharge

Erythema

Purulent exudate

Separation of deep tissues

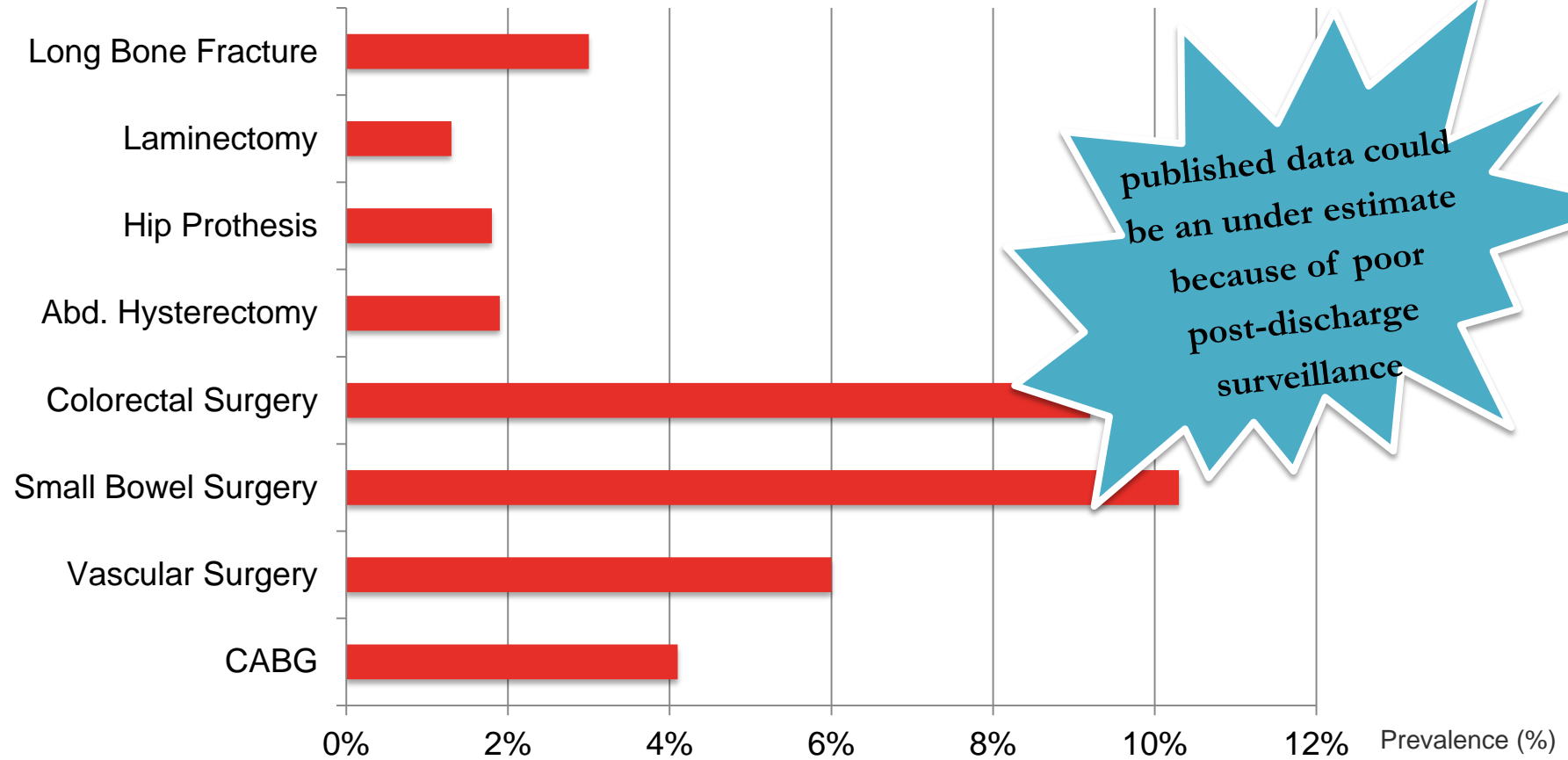
Isolation of bacteria

Stay in hospital >14 days

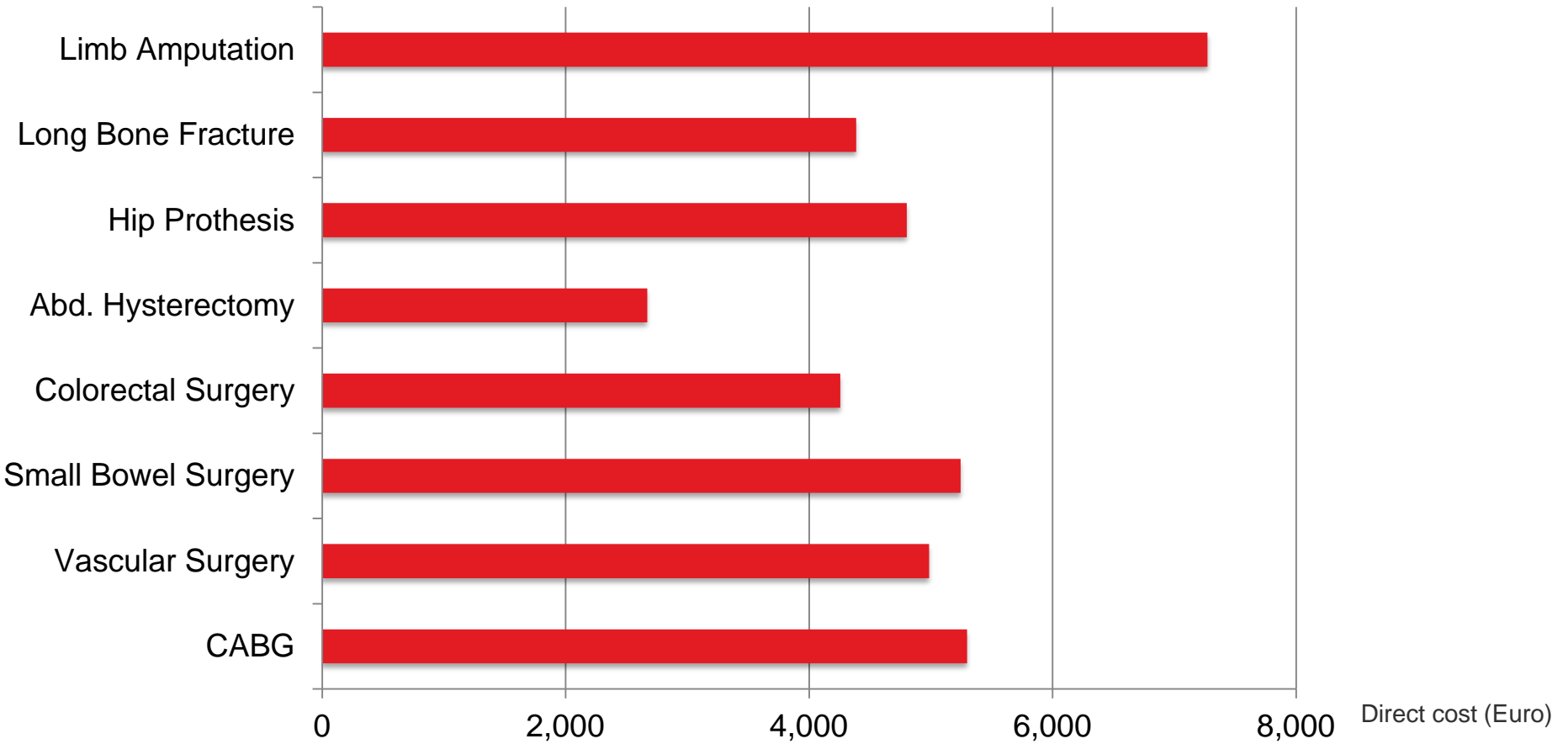
interval data



prevalence of SSI in hospitals



cost of SSI per incident



Mean additional Cost attributable to SSI

controversy in clean surgical wounds

accurate audit

(rates vary between 1.4% to over 15%)



post-discharge surveillance **MUST** go to 30 days (1 year)

independent unbiased blinded trained direct observer

scoring systems/diaries

Leaper et al. IWJ
2004; 1: 247-273

mandatory reporting:

Melling et al. Lancet
2001; 358: 876-880

who undertakes it? who pays? primary care?



methods of surveillance

(all need full engagement)

- in patient
 - i. notes review
 - ii. swab microbiology reports
 - iii. temperature charts
- readmission data (only serious and may go elsewhere)
- post-discharge
 - i. out-patients review
 - ii. questionnaires or telephone follow up
 - iii. patient diaries (PROMs)
 - iv. research data
 - v. specialist appointment data

**independent unbiased blinded
trained direct observer**

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

 **Journal of Hospital Infection** 

journal homepage: www.elsevierhealth.com/journals/jhin

Review

Surveillance of surgical site infection: more accurate definitions and intensive recording needed

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Surgical site infection

SUMMARY

Surgical site infection (SSI) continues to be a burden on systems that deliver healthcare and on patients who suffer morbidity, and mortality, associated with this complication of medical intervention. Surveillance of SSI is often an integral part of organizational infection prevention and control activities, but unless post-discharge surveillance is carried out in a robust manner the data may be inaccurate and misleading. Coupled with a lack of robust application of definitions, variations in methods of case-finding and incomplete follow-up, the results may lead to a false sense of security or conversely cause unnecessary anxieties. Data from national surveillance schemes that purport to be suitable for benchmarking are often at odds with published rates from well-designed studies and the reasons for this should be examined. If benchmarking is truly desirable and if clinicians are to have confidence in the outputs, surveillance schemes should ensure that participating organizations adopt a consistent approach to definitions, case-finding methodologies following discharge, and to robust follow-up, to ensure that every opportunity is taken to maximize the return rate and enhance data validity.

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let's change perspective for a bit ...

how can the team prevent surgical site infection?



guidelines for compliance and to prevent SSIs

National Collaborating Centre for
Women's and Children's Health

Surgical site infection prevention and treatment of surgical site infection

Clinical Guideline

October 2008

Funded to produce guidelines for the NHS by NICE

Perioperative actions

Hair removal

- Use a clipper with a disposable head.
- Shaving with a razor is not recommended.⁵

Prophylactic antimicrobial

- Appropriate antimicrobial administered within 60 minutes prior to incision.^{13,14}

Normothermia

- Maintaining a body temperature above 36°C in the perioperative period has been shown to reduce infection rates.^{16,17}

Glucose control

- Maintaining a glucose level <11mmol/l has been shown to reduce wound infection in diabetic patients.¹⁵



SURGICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST (FIRST EDITION)

Before induction of anaesthesia ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ Before skin incision ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ Before patient leaves operating room

SIGN IN	TIME OUT	SIGN OUT
<input type="checkbox"/> PATIENT HAS CONFIRMED • IDENTITY • SITE • PROCEDURE • CONSENT	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFIRM ALL TEAM MEMBERS HAVE INTRODUCED THEMSELVES BY NAME AND ROLE	NURSE VERBALLY CONFIRMS WITH THE TEAM: <input type="checkbox"/> THE NAME OF THE PROCEDURE RECORDED
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE MARKED/NOT APPLICABLE	<input type="checkbox"/> SURGEON, ANAESTHESIA PROFESSIONAL AND NURSE VERBALLY CONFIRM • PATIENT • SITE • PROCEDURE	<input type="checkbox"/> THAT INSTRUMENT, SPONGE AND NEEDLE COUNTS ARE CORRECT (OR NOT APPLICABLE)
<input type="checkbox"/> ANAESTHESIA SAFETY CHECK COMPLETED	ANTICIPATED CRITICAL EVENTS	<input type="checkbox"/> HOW THE SPECIMEN IS LABELLED (INCLUDING PATIENT NAME)
<input type="checkbox"/> PULSE OXIMETER ON PATIENT AND FUNCTIONING	<input type="checkbox"/> SURGEON REVIEWS: WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL OR UNEXPECTED STEPS, OPERATIVE DURATION, ANTICIPATED BLOOD LOSS?	<input type="checkbox"/> WHETHER THERE ARE ANY EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED
DOES PATIENT HAVE A: NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> ANAESTHESIA TEAM REVIEWS: ARE THERE ANY PATIENT-SPECIFIC CONCERNS?	<input type="checkbox"/> SURGEON, ANAESTHESIA PROFESSIONAL AND NURSE REVIEW THE KEY CONCERNS FOR RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT OF THIS PATIENT
KNOWN ALLERGY? NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NURSING TEAM REVIEWS: HAS STERILITY (INCLUDING INDICATOR RESULTS) BEEN CONFIRMED? ARE THERE EQUIPMENT ISSUES OR ANY CONCERNS?	
DIFFICULT AIRWAY/ASPIRATION RISK? NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES, AND EQUIPMENT/ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE	<input type="checkbox"/> HAS AN ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS BEEN GIVEN WITHIN THE LAST 60 MINUTES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
RISK OF >500ML BLOOD LOSS (7ML/KG IN CHILDREN)? NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES, AND ADEQUATE INTRAVENOUS ACCESS AND FLUIDS PLANNED	<input type="checkbox"/> IS ESSENTIAL IMAGING DISPLAYED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	

THIS CHECKLIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE. ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO FIT LOCAL PRACTICE ARE ENCOURAGED.

mostly level I evidence

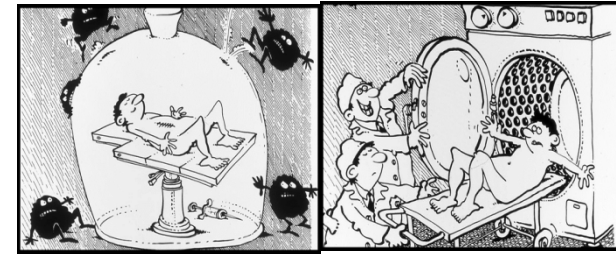
hair removal

traditional, improve view and access
perceived reduction infection rate
razors damage skin, sweat glands
abrasions potentially increase SSIs

- do not use hair removal routinely to reduce the risk of SSI
- if hair has to be removed, use electric clippers with a single-use head on the day of surgery

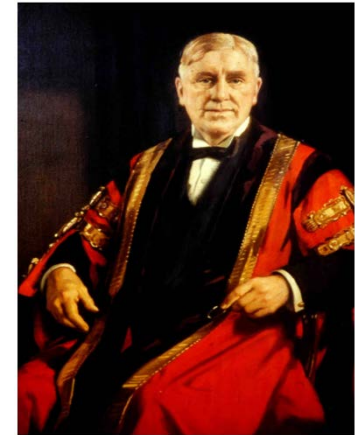


antibiotic prophylaxis



give antibiotic prophylaxis to patients before:

- clean surgery involving the placement of a prosthesis or implant
- clean-contaminated surgery
- contaminated surgery
- but not:
- clean surgery without a prosthesis



empirical choice depending on surgery
-decisive period

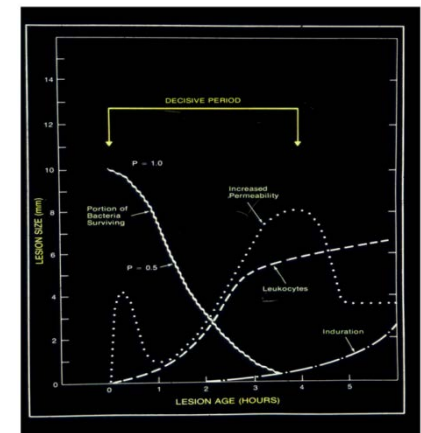
use local antibiotic formulary

IV at induction of anaesthesia

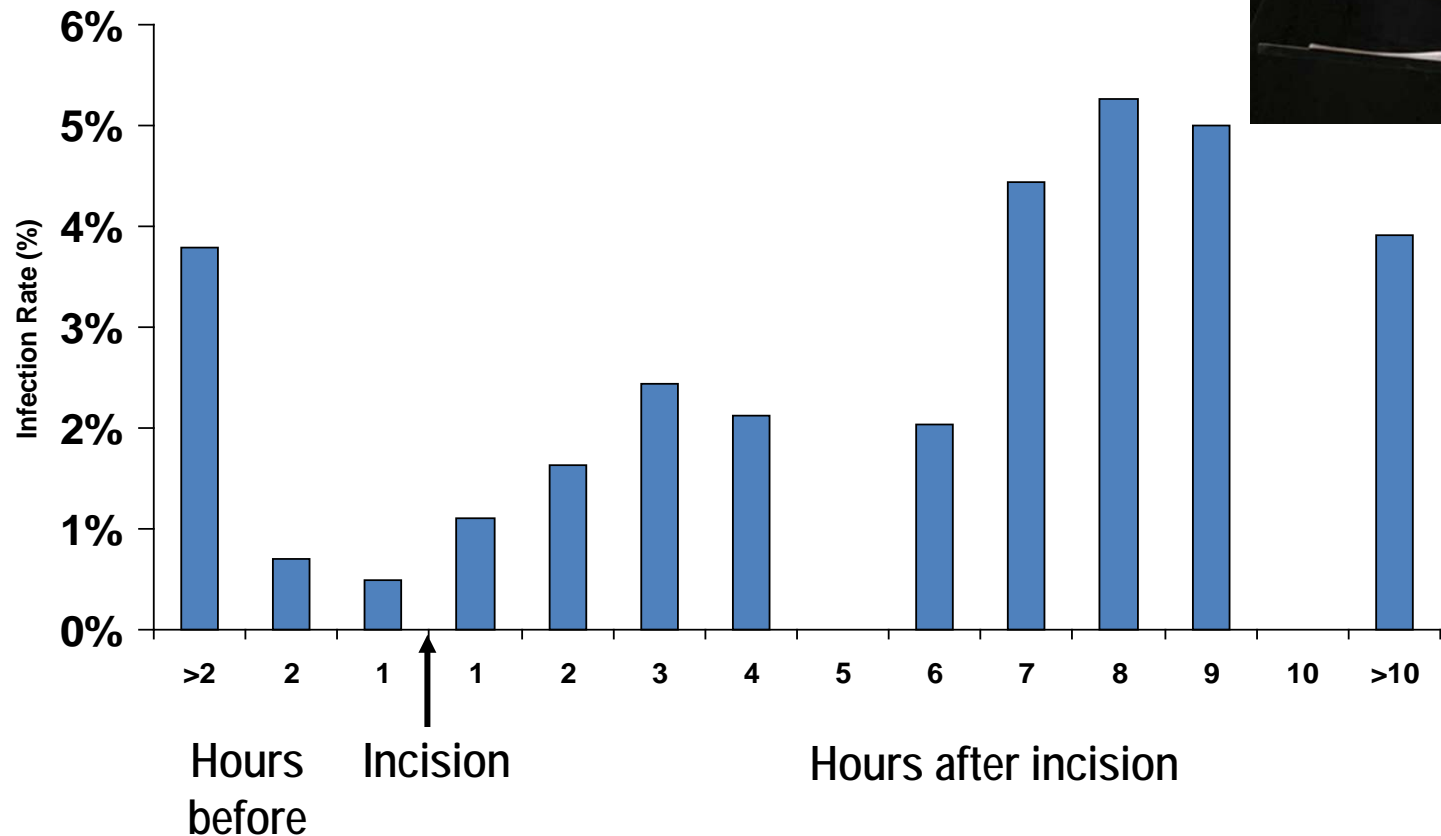
repeat **ONLY** with excess blood loss, long operation or prosthetic surgery

any longer is therapy

the decisive period



relation between timing of prophylaxis and SSI rate



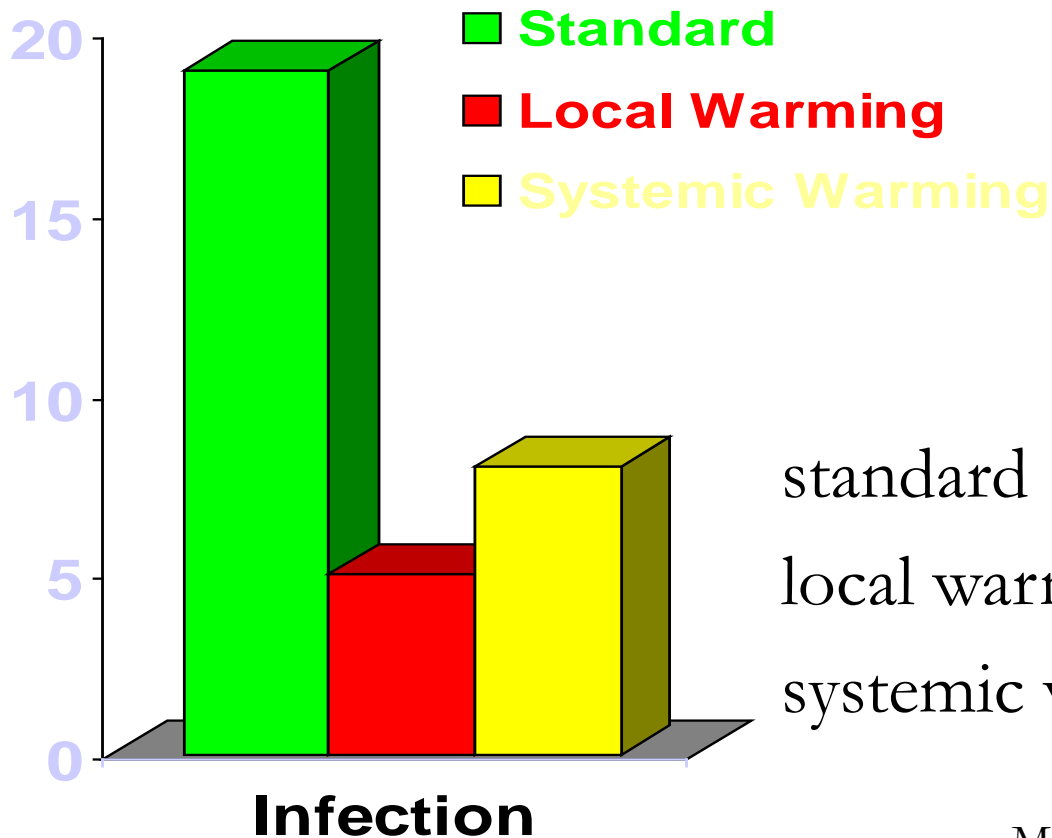
causes of hypothermia (<36°C) in the operating theatre

- cold environment 21°C 55% RH
- exposure (particularly open abdomen)
- cold intravenous fluids
- cold anaesthetic gases
- vasodilatation (or inhibited vasoconstriction)
- anaesthetic agents
- increased BMR with increased oxygen requirements
- poor oxygen delivery with hypoxia and acidosis

complications of hypothermia

- shivering increases O_2 demand by 4-5X
- shift in O_2 dissociation curve
- increased BMR not met by oxygen delivery
- acidosis if cardiopulmonary response inadequate
- relative organ ischaemia myocardial infarct
- prolonged drug action
- increased risk of pressure injuries
- increased risk of infectious complications
- surgical site infection

effect of warming on wound infection



infection rates

standard	13.7%
local warming	3.6% (p= 0.003)
systemic warming	5.8% (p=0.028)

the significance of local warming

	all warmed patients	non-warmed patients	P value
infection	4.7%	13.7%	0.001
haematoma	2.2%	3.6%	0.29
seroma	4%	5.8%	0.28
aspirated	4%	6.5%	0.19
post-op ABs	6.5%	15.9%	0.002

benefits of peri-operative warming: existing clinical evidence

- **wound infection**
- **blood transfusion**
- **cardiac events**
- **morbidity and mortality**
- **intensive care and overall hospital stay**
- **cost effective**

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Preventing Surgical-Site Infections in Nasal Carriers of *Staphylococcus aureus*

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Diana Bogaers, I.C.P., Christina M.J.E. Vandenbroucke-Grauls, M.D., Ph.D., Robert Roosendaal, Ph.D.,
Annet Troelstra, M.D., Ph.D., Adrienne T.A. Box, B.A.Sc., Andreas Voss, M.D., Ph.D., Ingeborg van der Tweel, Ph.D.,
Alex van Belkum, Ph.D., Henri A. Verbrugh, M.D., Ph.D., and Margreet C. Vos, M.D., Ph.D.

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Nasal carriers of *Staphylococcus aureus* are at increased risk for health care–associated infections with this organism. Decolonization of nasal and extranasal sites on hospital admission may reduce this risk.

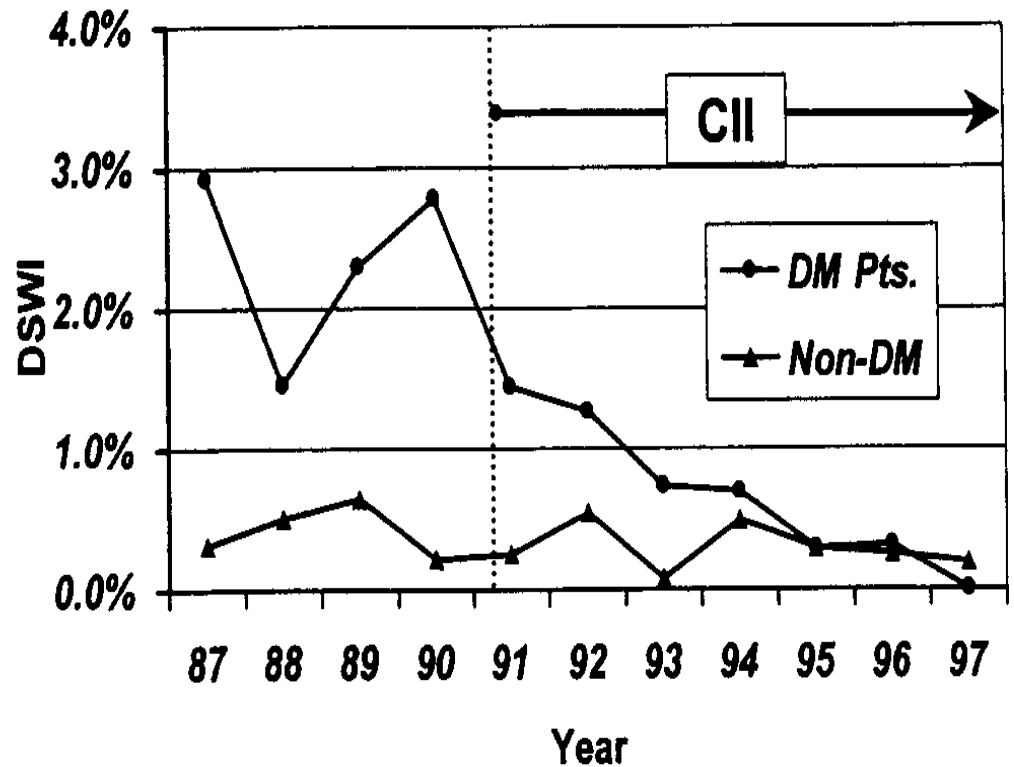
METHODS

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter trial, we assessed whether rapid identification of *S. aureus* nasal carriers by means of a real-time polymerase-chain-reaction (PCR) assay, followed by treatment with mupirocin nasal ointment and chlorhexidine soap, reduces the risk of hospital-associated *S. aureus* infection.

From the Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam (L.G.M.B., H.F.L.W., A.B., H.A.V., M.C.V.); the Laboratory of Microbiology and Infection Control, Amphia Hospital, Breda (J.A.J.W.K., D.B.); the Department of Medical Microbiology and Infection Control, VU Medical Center, Amsterdam (J.A.J.W.K., C.M.J.E.V.-G., R.R.); the Department of Medical Microbiology (A.T., A.T.A.B.) and the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care (I.T.), University Medical Center, Utrecht; the Depart-

glucose control and sternal SSIs

continuous insulin infusion



poor evidence

- preoperative showering
- specific patient and staff theatre wear
- minimizing movement in the operating theatre
- banning of hand jewellery and nail polish
- nasal decontamination of all *Staphylococcus aureus*, not just MRSA, to reduce the risk of SSI is effective (Bode et al 2010)
- mechanical bowel preparation (Cochrane Collaboration)
- operative rituals: hand decontamination, gloves, drapes and gowns, diathermy, antiseptic lavage and wound dressings

research opportunities

- cost effectiveness of new **antiseptic** incise drapes
- benefits of improved blood glucose control
- effectiveness of intra-cavity and wound lavage with modern **antiseptics**
- most appropriate suture closure methods
- **antimicrobial** sutures
- role of supplemental oxygen in the recovery room
- adaptation of chronic wound management for SSIs
 - in prevention
 - postoperatively after wound separation
 - interactive dressings and topical **antiseptics**
- effectiveness of modern debridement techniques
- most appropriate warming methods

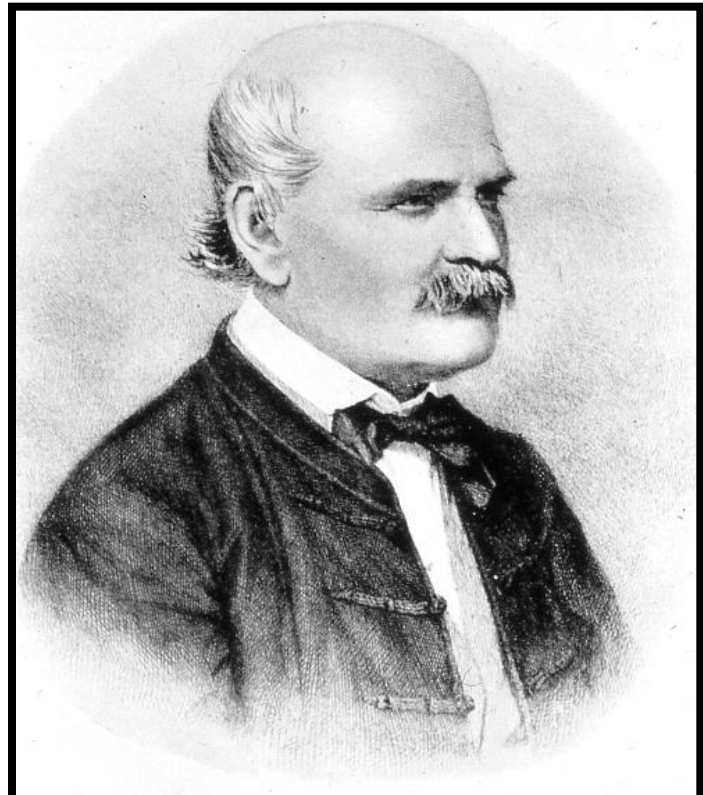


Ambroise Pare (1510 - 1590)

poisoned firearm wounds

boiling oil of elders with a little
theriac

digestive of egg yolk, rose oil
and turpentine



Ignaz Semmelweis

puerperal sepsis and handwashing
before delivery

1846 11.4%

1848 1.3%



**Louis
Pasteur**

bacteria the cause of
spoil wine
not miasma/ “bad air”



dans les champs de
l'observation le
hasard ne favorise
que les esprits
préparés

ANTISEPTICS

(“antimicrobial” : antiseptic, antibiotic)

phenol

hexachlorophane

cetrimide

benzalkonium

honey, permanganate, etc.,

chlorhexidine

povidone iodine

triclosan

silver

polyhexamethylene biguanide

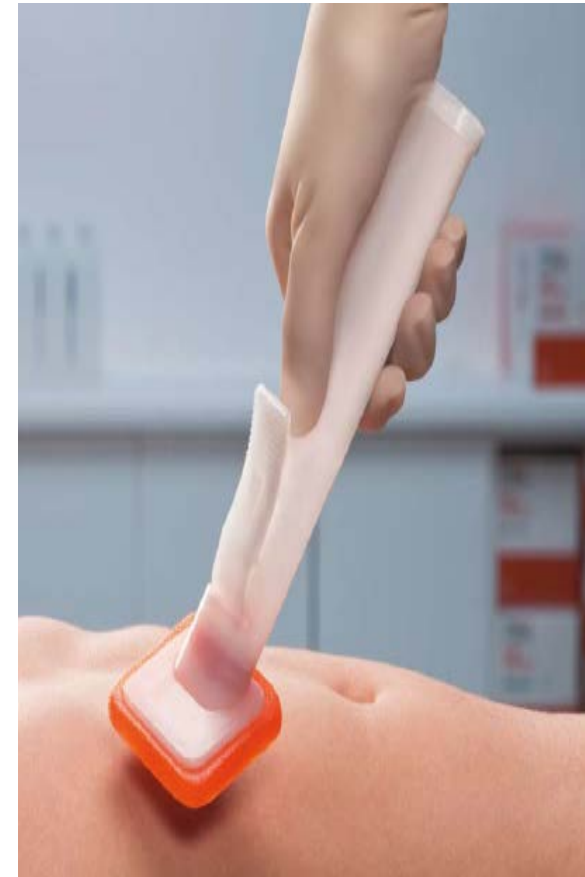


how can we do without antiseptics?

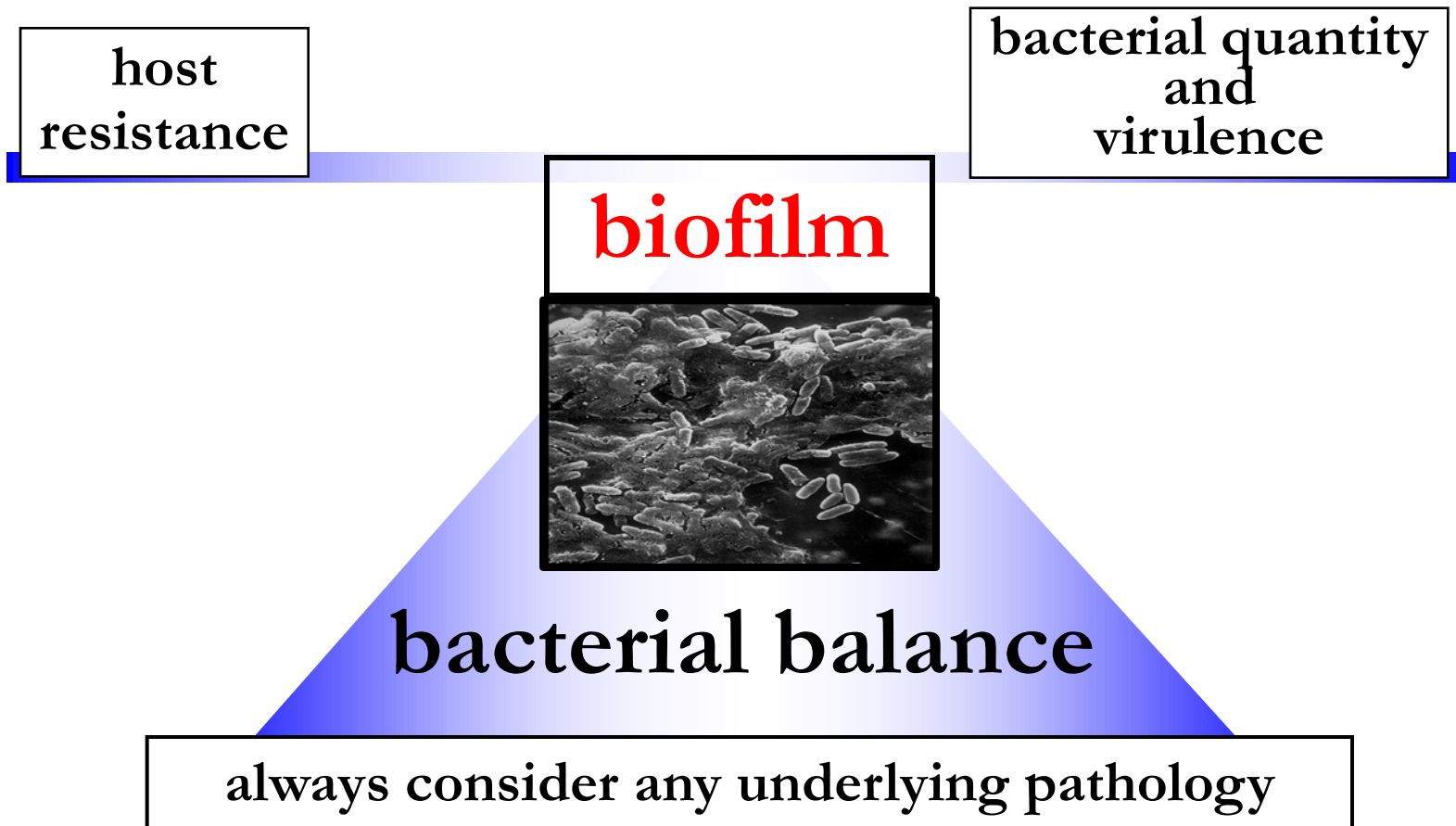
chlorhexidine-alcohol versus povidone-iodine for surgical site antisepsis

Darouiche et al. NEJM 2010

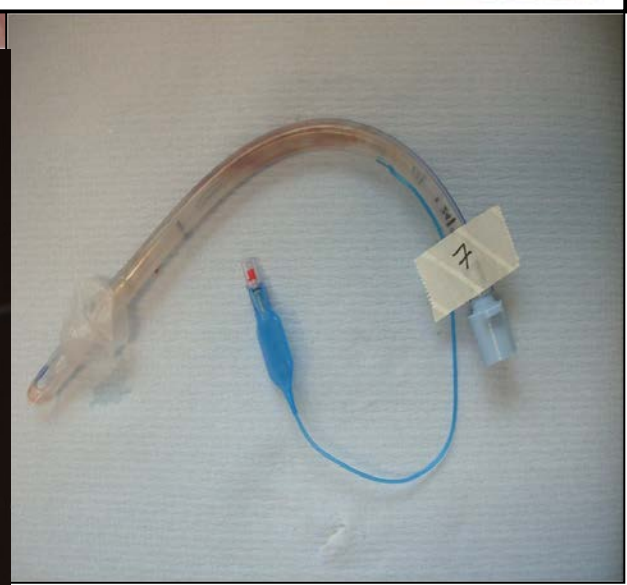
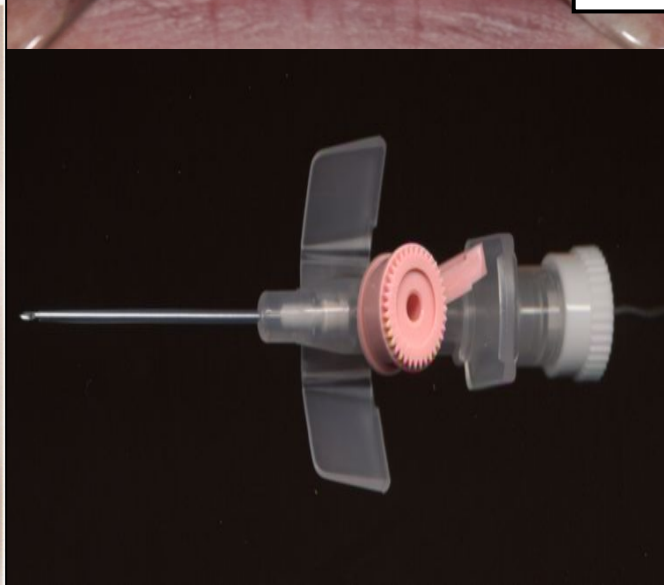
- multicentre (6 hospitals); 4 years
- 849: power and randomisation
- definition and surveillance of SSI
- 2% chlorhexidine 10% povidone iodine
- paint versus scrub and paint
- clean-contaminated category only
- 9.5% -16.1% overall; superficial
and deep SSIs
- not sepsis or organ space

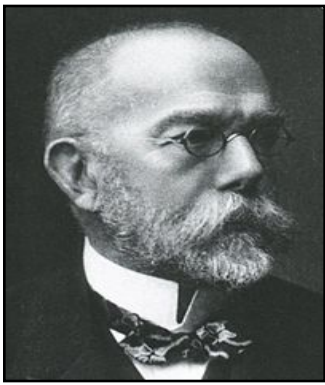


determinants for surgical site infection



biofilms are ubiquitous

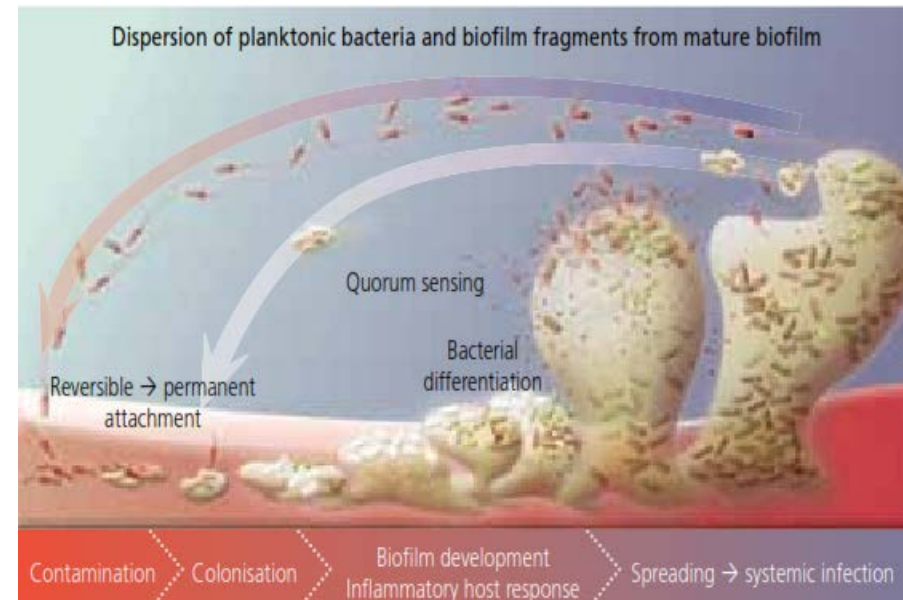




biofilms

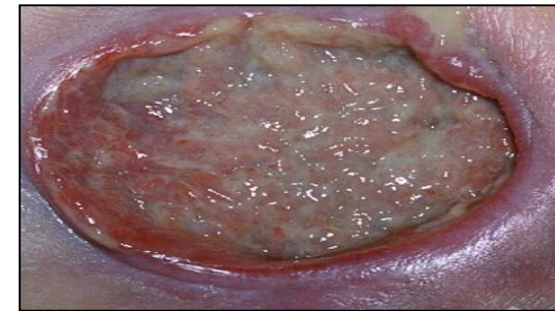
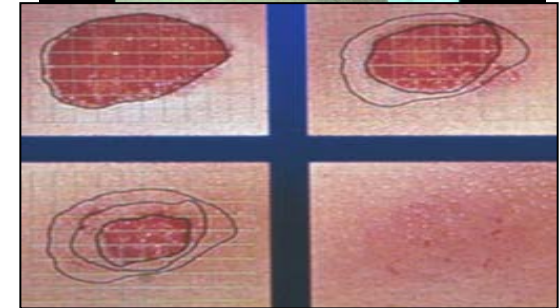
(Koch's postulates upside down)

- complex microenvironment - bacteria and glycocalyx
- intercellular communication (quorum sensing)
- resist host-defences and antibiotics
- exist in acute and chronic wounds?
- promote inflammation (nitric oxide, cytokines, MMPs)



biofilm management

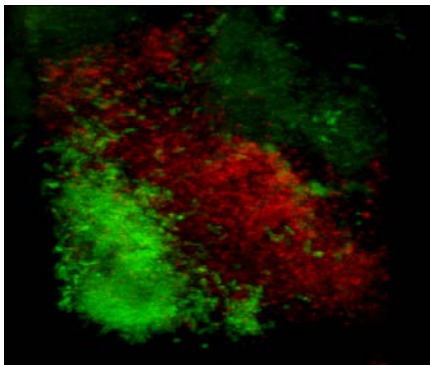
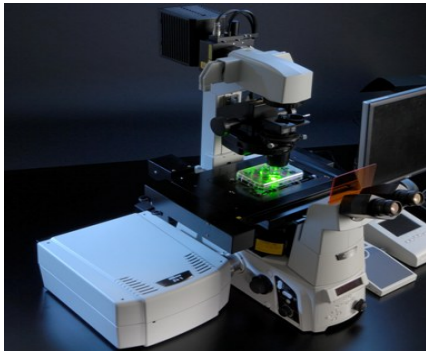
- undertake comprehensive holistic and local wound assessment
- suspect biofilm when there is static healing or slimy exudate
- vigorous cleansing
- maintenance debridement
- antiseptics cadexomer iodine, silver, PHMB, honey, chlorhexidine
- systematic antibiotics



biofilms...we could do with a diagnostic (swabs and biopsies unhelpful)

structural analysis

confocal laser
scanning
microscopy

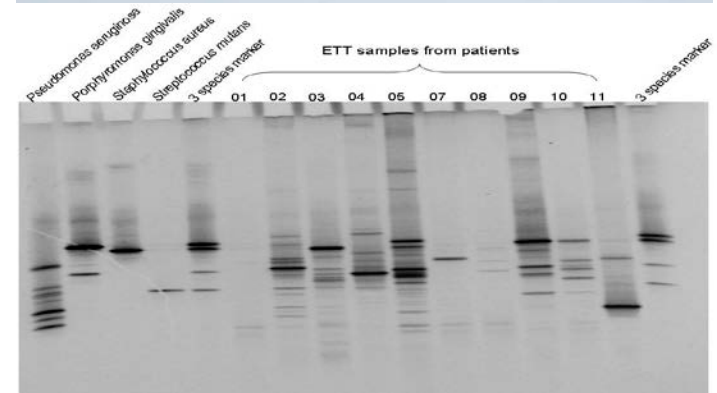
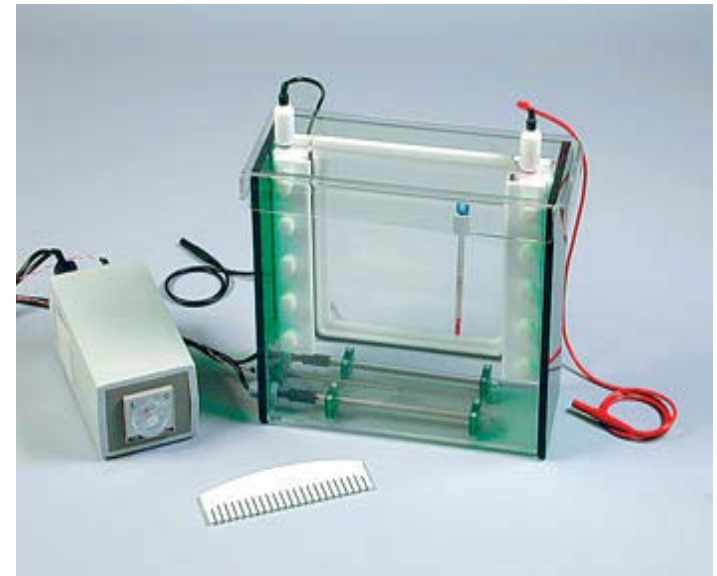


Pseudomonas aeruginosa
(PsaerFITC green)

Staphylococcus aureus
(Cy5 red)

DNA extraction
Denaturing Gel
Gradient
Electrophoresis
(DGGE)
Polymerase Chain
Reaction (PCR)

molecular analysis





infection or failure to heal?

.....are biofilms involved?

potential for antiseptic (triclosan) sutures to prevent biofilm in surgical wounds

- wide spectrum antimicrobial in deep tissues
- good for clean prosthetic surgery?
 - orthopaedics, vascular
- colorectal (dirty)surgery?
- potential in resistance? MRSA
- reduction of antibiotic use?
- reduction of biofilm and reformation? (prosthetics)

does it risk selection of antibiotic resistant organisms or transmissible resistance in human pathogens?

antiseptic use in sutures

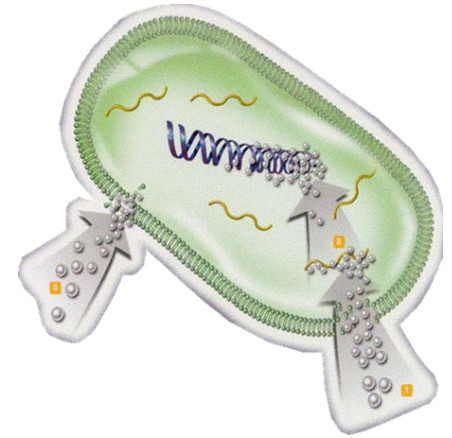
potential advantages

- wide spectrum antimicrobial in deep tissues
- relates to non-specific action of antiseptics
- good for many classes of surgery including prosthetics
- reduction of antibiotic use?

potential dangers

- selection of resistant human pathogens from environment? none yet
- selection of resistance to antiseptics and antibiotics? none yet
- promotion of transmission of resistant forms? none yet

the SCCS recommended prudent use of triclosan, for example in applications where a health benefit can be demonstrated



SCCP/1251/09



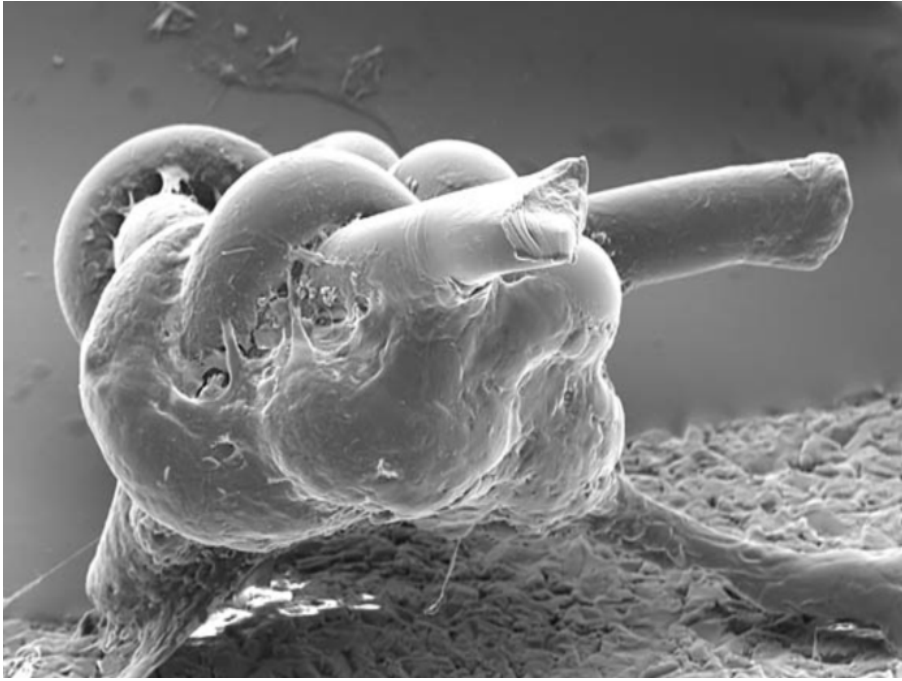
Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety
SCCS

Opinion on triclosan

Antimicrobial Resistance



The SCCS approved this opinion at its 7th plenary of 22 June 2010 after public consultation



**antiseptic use in
sutures**



**any belief that the
controlled trial is
the only way
would mean not
that the
pendulum had
swung too far, but
that it had come
right off its hook**



**Austin Bradford Hill
MRC trials 1950s:
RCT the gold
standard**

the myth of the RCT?

Non-random Reflections on Health Services Research

On the 25th anniversary of Archie Cochrane's *Effectiveness and Efficiency*

Edited by Alan Maynard and Iain Chalmers

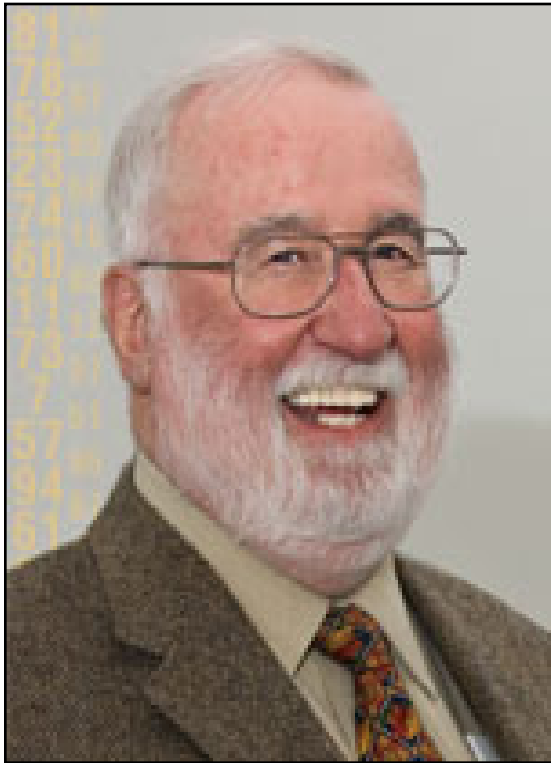
BMJ
Publishing Group



guidelines and protocols need evaluation of ALL the available data

evidence based medicine

David Sackett



- **conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about care of individual patients**
- **integrating individual clinical expertise with the best external evidence from systematic research**

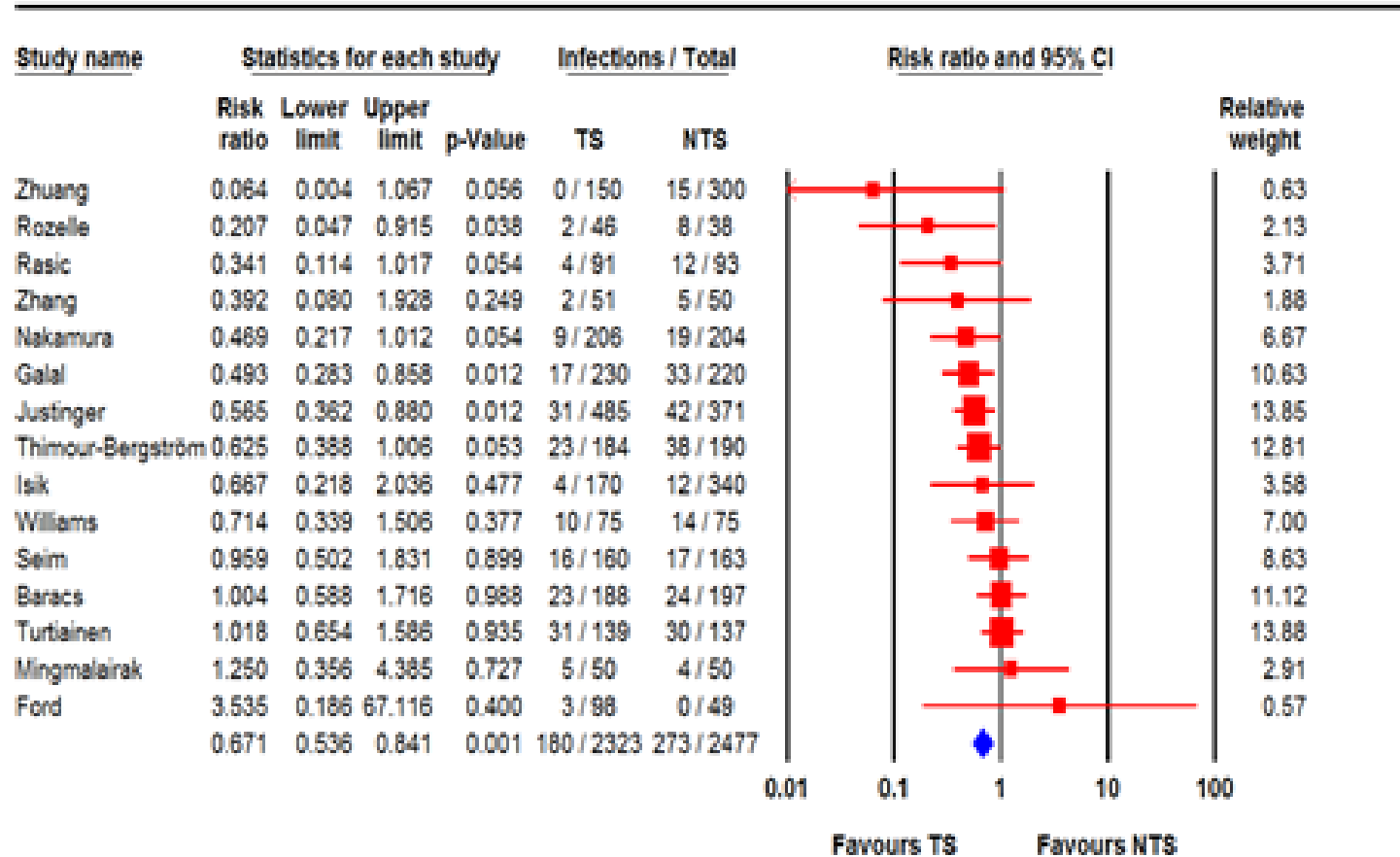
**involves: evidence
experience
patients and carers
(and health economics?)**

meta-analysis

- Chang et al *Annals Surg* 2012 836 patients 7 studies
RR 0.77; 95% CI 0.40,1.51; p = 0.45(too early)
- Wang et al *Brit J Surg* 2013 3720 patients 17 studies
RR 0.70; 95% CI 0.57, 0.85;p<0.001
- Edmiston et al *Surgery* 2013 3568 patients 13 studies
RR 0.73; 95% CI 0.59, 0.91; p < 0.005
- **Daoud et al *Surgical Infections* 2014 4800 patients 15 studies**
RR 0.67; 95% CI 0.54, 0.84; p = 0.0005

**robustness of sensitivity analysis, publication bias, risk of bias,
heterogeneity, classes and type of surgery**

Random-effects pooled RR of SSIs - 15 RCTs



Forrest plot of the risk ratios overall

Daoud, Edmiston & Leaper. *Surgical Infections* 2014

antimicrobial sutures:
level I evidence that they work

meta-analysis of 15 eligible trials of plus sutures

Daoud, Edmiston & Leaper. Surgical Infections 2014

- triclosan sutures (Vicryl plus, Monocryl plus and PDS plus) significantly reduce SSIs after clean, clean-contaminated and contaminated surgery
- no publication bias
- robust to removal of up to three trials
- overall effect: 33% reduction of SSIs (CI 0.53, 0.84; $p < 0.0005$)
- this is level I evidence-based medicine

the days of
chromic
catgut and
silk.....

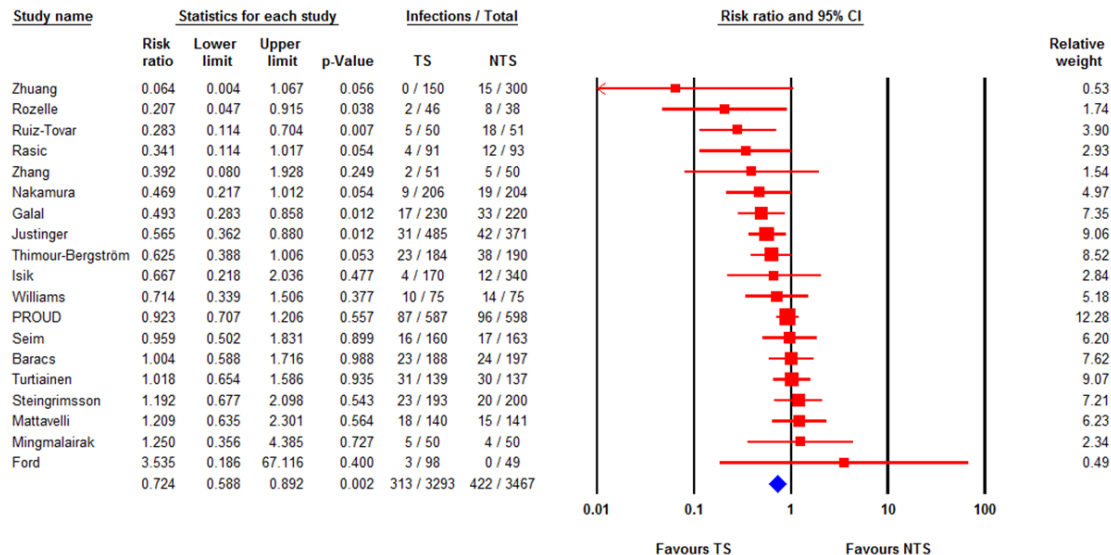


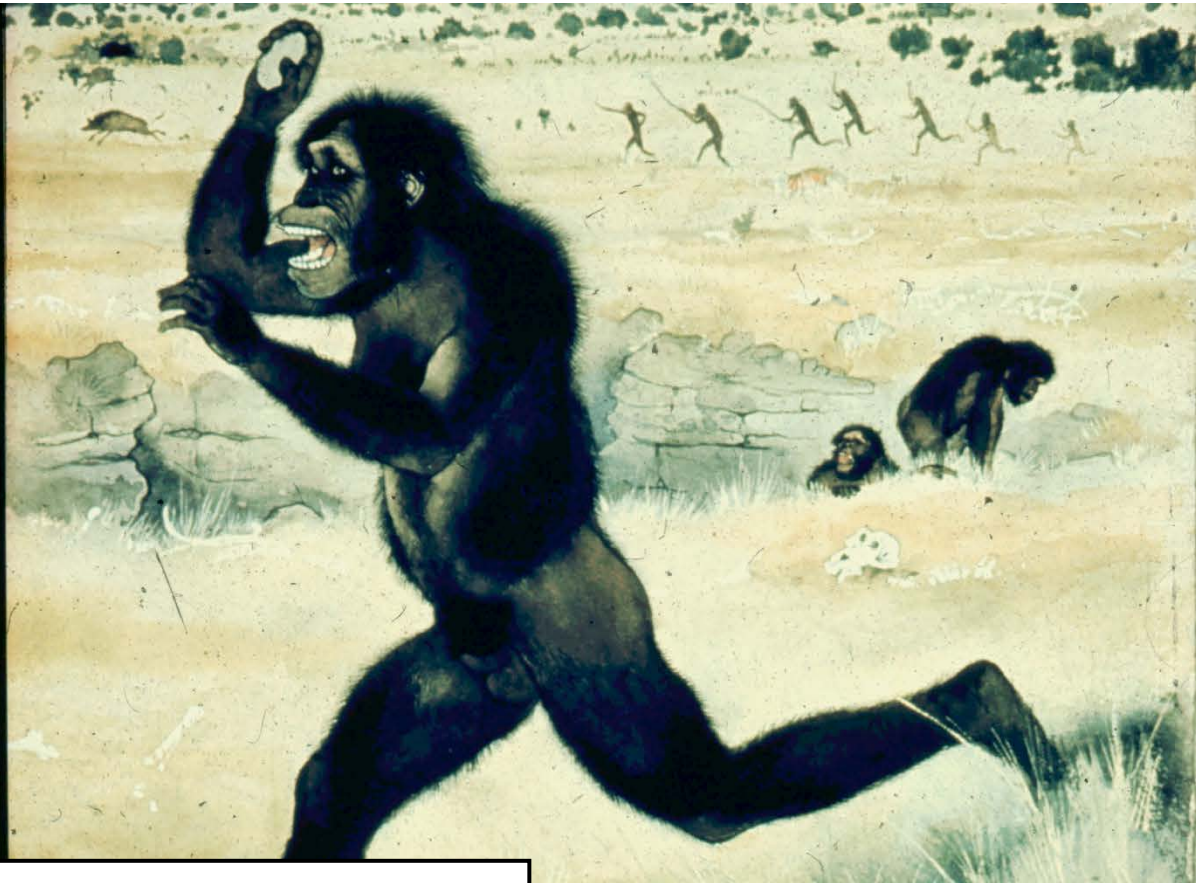
.....are gone

criticisms of the PROUD study

- why multicentre ? why did it take so long? where's the data on ITT?
- was there some "cherry-picking" ? ... was there sequential recruitment?
- definition of SSI is suspect; superficial SSIs dismissed
- deep SSIs agreed on by more than one assessor (which IS laudable) but using photographic evidence?
- why weren't subcuticular antimicrobial sutures used instead of clips?
- clip closure is more at risk of subsequent exogenous SSI
- were closures left to junior unsupervised staff? ... unacceptable level of fascial closure
- less deep SSIs in the antimicrobial suture group ... underpowered?

Meta-analysis of SSI RR: 19 peer-reviewed RCTs 10-Oct-2015 status





surgeons don't
change...
give me what I want,
not what I ask for!

should plus
sutures be
added to the SSI
care bundle?

extract from NICE guideline

implementation of the Guideline will not necessarily involve major changes in current practice but it does recommend the pooling of best practice into

“care bundles”

which should reduce the risk of SSI. The introduction of the Guideline into patient care needs to be across the whole spectrum of care from the decision to operate to recovery and return to normal life style



Perioperative actions

Hair removal

- Use a clipper with a disposable head.
- Shaving with a razor is not recommended.⁵

Prophylactic antimicrobial

- Appropriate antimicrobial administered within 60 minutes prior to incision.^{13,14}

Normothermia

- Maintaining a body temperature above 36°C in the perioperative period has been shown to reduce infection rates.^{16,17}

Glucose control

- Maintaining a glucose level <11mmol/l has been shown to reduce wound infection in diabetic patients.¹⁵

tactics to improve compliance (and surveillance?)

- understand
 - people resist change
 - “buy-in” HAS to be achieved
 - antibiotics can’t do it alone
- emphasize
 - education
 - evidence
 - best interests of the PATIENT
- reward
 - replace the “culture of blame”

why aren't SSI
rates falling?

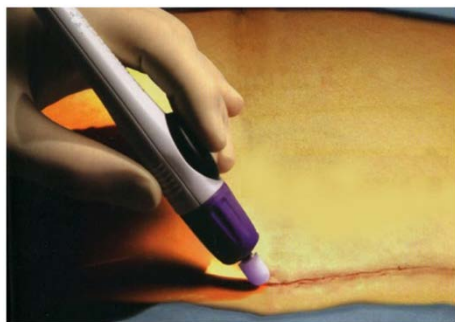
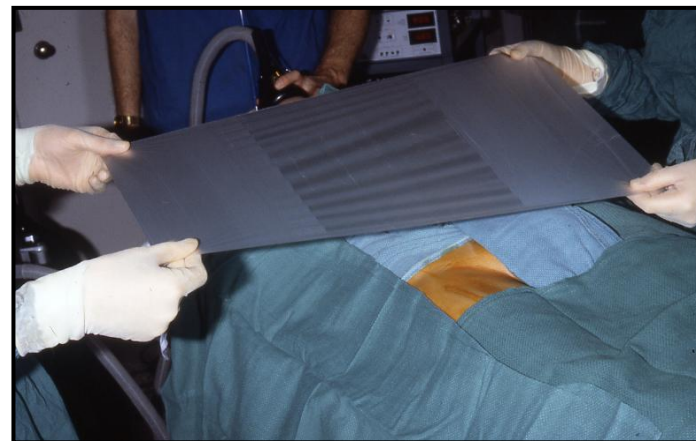
NICE

HII

SCIP

SSI Care Bundle

smoking advice	no cost
pre-op body washing	£2
optimum nutrition	improve current practice
patient warming	£15
antibiotic prophylaxis	improve current practice
hair removal	£2
patient skin prep	£6
surveillance feedback	no cost
TOTAL COST	£25 per patient



cost effectiveness (£25/bundle)

colorectal (315 patients)

1 year SSI Care Bundle £7,875

1 colorectal SSI cost: £10,366

1 colorectal SSI prevented = **cost effective**

breast (477 patients)

1 year SSI Care Bundle £11,925

1 breast SSI cost: £1,403

8 breast SSIs prevented = **cost effective**

post discharge surveillance (how robust can it be?)

- **rolling programme**
 - 3 monthly or continuously by specialty?
- **who?** primary/secondary care... doctors nurses?
 - i. on the ward
 - ii. specialist nurses breast/stoma
 - iii. out patient
 - iv. governance sessions
 - v. specialist appointment (with what cost?)
- **mandatory or voluntary?**
- **internationally comparable**

**independent unbiased blinded
trained direct observer**



A benchmark too far: findings from a national survey of surgical site infection surveillance

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SUMMARY

Background: The national surgical site infection (SSI) surveillance service in England collates and publishes SSI rates that are used for benchmarking and to identify the prevalence of SSIs. However, research studies using high-quality SSI surveillance report rates that are much higher than those published by the national surveillance service. This variance questions the validity of data collected through the national service.

Aim: To audit SSI definitions and data collection methods used by hospital trusts in England.

Method: All 156 hospital trusts in England were sent questionnaires that focused on aspects of SSI definitions and data collection methods.

Findings: Completed questionnaires were received from 106 hospital trusts. There were considerable differences in data collection methods and data quality that caused wide variation in reported SSI rates. For example, the SSI rate for knee replacement surgery was 4.1% for trusts that used high-quality postdischarge surveillance (PDS) and 1.5% for trusts that used low-quality PDS. Contrary to national protocols and definitions, 10% of trusts did not provide data on superficial infections, 15% of trusts did not use the recommended SSI definition, and 8% of trusts used inpatient data alone. Thirty trusts did not submit a complete set of their data to the national surveillance service. Unsubmitted data included non-mandatory data, PDS data and continuous data.

Conclusion: The national surveillance service underestimates the prevalence of SSIs and is not appropriate for benchmarking. Hospitals that conduct high-quality SSI surveillance will be penalized within the current surveillance service.

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the reflection sign



Sixth report of the mandatory surveillance of surgical site infection in orthopaedic surgery

April 2004 to March 2010



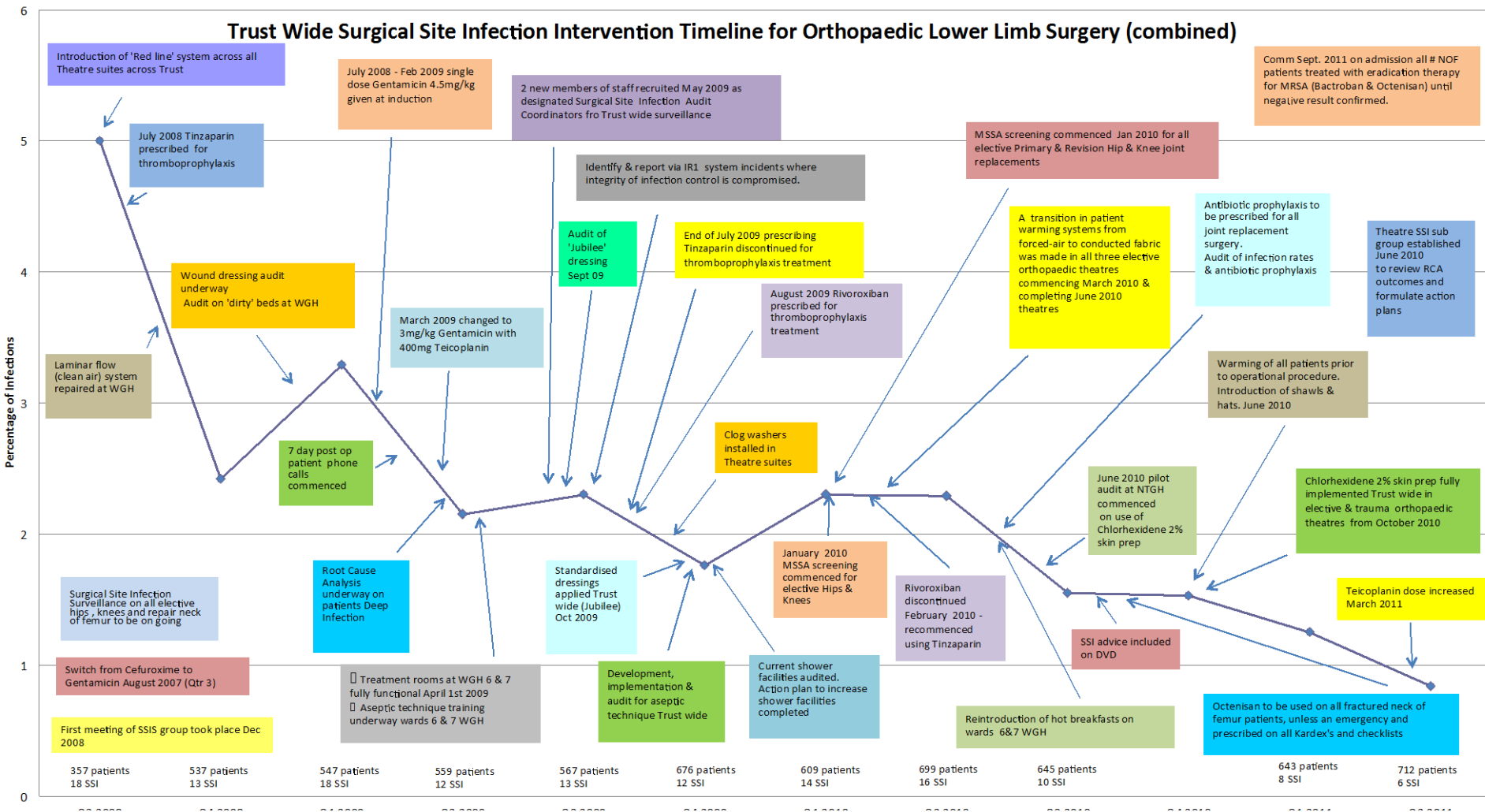
benchmarking and international comparisons

- definitions
- robust surveillance (not just readmission data)
- systems for quality control
- needs regular audit/review

1% SSI after hip replacement

0.5% SSI after knee replacement

Trust Wide Surgical Site Infection Intervention Timeline for Orthopaedic Lower Limb Surgery (combined)



vancomycin powder in wounds?

he had never learned how to repair wounds
[or manage infection].....this seemed a
serious flaw in his magical education

Harry Potter

...and the **Deathly Hallows**

Jo Rowling 2007

what an inspiration!

