

Table: User Assessment of Different Aspects of the Online Course

	General Practitioners		Other Physicians		Other Professions		Total	
	N	Average score	N	Average score	N	Average score	N	Average score
Overall Course	118	1.23	98	1.41	57	1.3	273	1.31
Technical Organization	121	1.31	99	1.43	57	1.14	277	1.32
Selection of Topics	121	1.24	99	1.34	58	1.28	278	1.28
Selection of Speakers	119	1.47	99	1.53	58	1.36	276	1.47
Presentation	121	1.52	100	1.52	57	1.51	278	1.52
Informativeness	121	1.31	99	1.52	57	1.44	277	1.41
Clinical Relevance	120	1.18	98	1.35	51	1.35	269	1.27
Knowledge Gain	121	1.58	100	1.66	58	1.5	279	1.59
Discussion with Speakers	67	2.07	53	1.85	29	1.62	149	1.91
Exchange with colleagues	64	2.28	49	2.02	27	1.81	140	2.1

N = number of evaluators; Score-Scale: 1 (very good) – 6 (not sufficient)

face-to-face formats and helps to cover needs related to antibiotic training.

Funding: None

Disclosures: None

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Presentation Type:

Poster Presentation

Dissemination of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and Viral Surrogate Markers Outside Patient Rooms

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Background: Patients with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) colonization often shed MRSA, resulting in contamination of surfaces in their room. It is not known whether MRSA-colonized patients also frequently contaminate surfaces

Figure. Dissemination of MRSA and Viral Surrogate Markers to Surfaces Outside Patient Rooms

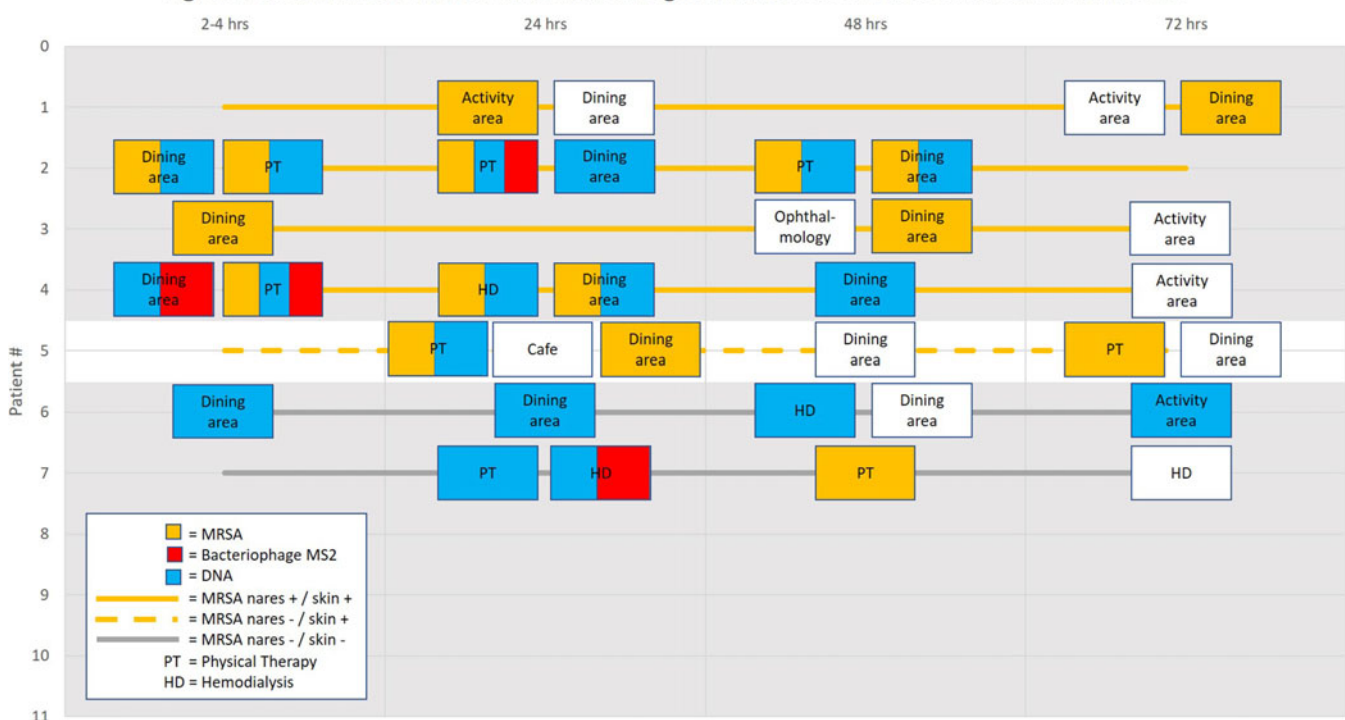


Fig. 1.

during medical appointments and other activities outside their room. **Methods:** We conducted an observational cohort study of MRSA-colonized long-term care facility (LTCF) residents to determine the frequency and mechanisms of contamination of surfaces outside patient rooms. Nares, skin, and clothing of patients in contact precautions for MRSA were cultured for MRSA, and high-touch surfaces in the residents' room were contaminated with the live virus bacteriophage MS2 and cauliflower mosaic virus DNA. The participants were observed during activities and medical appointments outside their rooms for 3 days, and sites that were contacted were sampled for recovery of MRSA, bacteriophage MS2, and cauliflower mosaic virus DNA. **Results:** As shown in Fig. 1, bacteriophage MS2 and cauliflower mosaic virus DNA was transferred to 1 or more surfaces outside the resident's room by 5 of the 7 participants, and MRSA was recovered from surfaces touched by 6 (86%) participants. MRSA was recovered during 16 of 35 episodes (46%) where sampling was performed, and recovery was similar for medical appointments (eg, hemodialysis, physical therapy) and nonmedical activities (eg, using the dining room or activity center). Moreover, MRSA, MS2, and the viral DNA marker were recovered both from sites contacted

only by participants' hands and from sites contacted only by clothing. Bacteriophage MS2 and the viral DNA marker were also recovered from portable equipment and from the nursing station. **Conclusions:** MRSA-colonized LTCF residents frequently disseminated MRSA and viral surrogate markers to surfaces outside their rooms through contact with contaminated hands and clothing. Efforts to reduce contamination of hands and clothing might reduce the risk for pathogen transmission.

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Does Blood on "Dirty" Instruments Interfere With the Effectiveness of Sterilization Technologies?

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Table. Effectiveness of the microbicidal activity of sterilization technologies in the presence of blood on "dirty" instruments¹

Test Organism	Method of Sterilization	Instruments "dirty" (non-cleaned) with or without blood	Instrument Quantitation (Mean)	No. of Positives/No. of Runs (% Positive)
<i>Geobacillus stearothermophilus</i> (spores)	Steam Sterilization	Dirty	~ 1.56x10 ⁵	0/10 (0)
		Dirty with blood	~ 1.82x10 ⁵	0/15 (0)
	ETO	Dirty	~ 1.53x10 ⁵	0/10 (0)
		Dirty with blood	~ 2.35x10 ⁵	0/11 (0)
	HPGP	Dirty	~ 1.58x10 ⁵	5/10 (50)
		Dirty with blood	~ 2.35x10 ⁵	9/15 (60)
<i>Mycobacterium terrae</i>	Steam Sterilization	Dirty	~ 4.25x10 ⁶	0/10 (0)
<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i> (spores)	ETO	Dirty	~ 2.30x10 ⁷	6/10 (60)
		Dirty with blood	~ 4.08x10 ⁷	9/10 (90)
MRSA	ETO	Dirty	~ 2.62x10 ⁶	0/10 (0)
		Dirty with blood	~ 1.72x10 ⁶	0/10 (0)
	HPGP	Dirty	~ 1.13x10 ⁶	4/15 (27)
		Dirty with blood	~ 1.27x10 ⁶	4/10 (40)
VRE	ETO	Dirty	~ 2.27x10 ⁶	0/10 (0)
		Dirty with blood	~ 3.59x10 ⁶	0/10 (0)
	HPGP	Dirty	~ 2.42 x10 ⁶	3/15 (20)
		Dirty with blood	~ 2.34x10 ⁶	9/10 (90)

¹Study conditions not representative of practice or manufacturer's recommendations

Abbreviations: ETO, ethylene oxide; HPGP, hydrogen peroxide gas plasma; MRSA, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; VRE, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*