TITLE: Implementing a Complete Chlorhexidine Environment for Surgical Procedures: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

DATE: 17 May 2010

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What are the benefits and harms associated with the implementation of a complete chlorhexidine environment for surgical procedures?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 5, 2010), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI (Health Devices Gold), EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between January 1, 2005 and May 13, 2010. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, and observational studies, and guidelines. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Two systematic reviews, five randomized controlled trials, two controlled clinical trials, six observational studies, and five evidenced-based guidelines were identified regarding the benefits and harms associated with the use of chlorhexidine in pre-operative or post-operative infection control strategies. No health technology assessments were identified. There were no studies identified that addressed the use of chlorhexidine in a complete perioperative setting (i.e., pre-, intra-, and post-operative). Additional articles of interest may be found in the appendix.
Health technology assessments
No literature identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


Controlled clinical trials

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations

   *Note:* See Antiseptic skin preparation and Wound dressing

   *Note:* See Hand Hygiene

   *Note:* See Recommendations for Surgical Staff: Hand hygiene
Note: See Unresolved Issues

Note: See Preparation of the patient

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Randomized controlled trials


Clinical practice guidelines


Review articles

