Title: Waterless, Scrubless Operating Room Skin Preparations for Health Professional Use: Clinical Effectiveness for Reducing Surgical Site Infections

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Research question:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of waterless, scrubless operating room skin preparations compared with traditional surgical scrub preparations for reducing surgical site infection rates?

2. Are there studies evaluating the bactericidal effect of waterless, scrubless operating room skin preparations?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 1, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and March 2008 and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to systematic reviews, clinical studies, observational studies, and guidelines. Internet links are 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 (RCTs), observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One systematic review, two RCTs and nine observational studies were identified pertaining to the clinical effectiveness of waterless, scrubless operating room skin preparations for reducing the rates of surgical site infections. No relevant health technology assessments or evidence...
based guidelines were found. Additionally, one systematic review and one RCT were identified that may be of interest and have been included in the Appendix. Based on the abstracts, it is unclear as to whether or not they examined scrubless solutions.

Health technology assessments

None identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


Observational studies


9. Parienti, JJ, Thibon, P, and Heller, R. Handrubbing with an aqueous alcohol solution was as effective as handscrubbing with antiseptic soap for preventing surgical site infections [Cochrane review]. *Cochrane Database of Syst Rev* 2008;(1):CD004288.

**Guidelines and recommendations**

None identified

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Appendix – Further information:

Systematic reviews


Randomized controlled trials