TITLE: Antimicrobial Drapes for the Reduction of Surgical Site Infection: Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 15 April 2013

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the clinical effectiveness of antimicrobial surgical drapes for the prevention or reduction of surgical site infections?

KEY MESSAGE

Two systematic reviews were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of antimicrobial surgical drapes for the prevention or reduction of surgical site infections.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2013, Issue 3), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval to study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between April 1, 2011 and April 2, 2013. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS

Rapid Response 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 and non-randomized studies.

Two systematic reviews were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of antimicrobial surgical drapes for the prevention or reduction of surgical site infections. No relevant health technology assessments, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

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This report is an update to *Preoperative Skin Antiseptic Preparations and Application Techniques for Preventing Surgical Site Infections: A Systematic Review of the Clinical Evidence and Guidelines*, published in 2011. ([http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/htis/june-2011/M0025_Pre-Operative_Skin_Prep_Final.pdf](http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/htis/june-2011/M0025_Pre-Operative_Skin_Prep_Final.pdf))

**OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

One updated systematic review\(^1\) was identified that examined the use of plastic adhesive drapes during surgery for the prevention of surgical site infection. No new evidence was identified in this update; therefore, there was no change to their previous findings showing no difference in surgical site infection rates when comparing iodophor-impregnated surgical drapes with no surgical drapes. Evidence from a second systematic review suggested that there were no significant differences in infection rates between the use of alcohol scrub plus iodophor drape or iodophor scrub alone in women undergoing cesarean section.\(^2\)
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Manufacturer Information