TITLE: Dehumidifiers for the Reduction of Humidity in Operating Rooms: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

DATE: 20 May 2014

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of stand-alone dehumidifiers versus dehumidifiers installed within the HVAC system for patient safety in operating rooms?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines for determining unsafe humidity conditions within operating rooms?

3. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the selection of a dehumidification system for operating rooms?

KEY MESSAGE

No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, or evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding humidifier types for patient safety in operating rooms or for determining unsafe humidity conditions within operating rooms.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 4), 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 by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1 2004 and May 5 2014. 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, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of stand-alone dehumidifiers or HVAC dehumidifier systems for patient safety in operating rooms. In addition, no relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding either the determination of unsafe humidity conditions within operating rooms or the selection of a dehumidification system for operating rooms.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

No relevant literature was found regarding the clinical effectiveness of stand-alone dehumidifiers or HVAC dehumidifier systems for patient safety in operating rooms, for determining unsafe humidity conditions within operating rooms, or the selection of a dehumidification system for operating rooms; therefore, no summary can be provided.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Additional References


Standards

See: Table 7-1 Design Parameters