

CADTH Reference List

Cleansing Wipes Versus Basin and Soap for Bathing in Acute Care or Long-Term Care Settings

June 2021

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Cite As: *Cleansing Wipes Versus Basin and Soap for Bathing in Acute Care or Long-Term Care Settings*. (CADTH reference list). Ottawa: CADTH; 2021 Jun.

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Funding: CADTH receives funding from Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with the exception of Quebec.

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Key Message

- One systematic review and 1 randomized controlled trial were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of cleansing wipes versus basic cleansing for patients requiring bathing in acute care or long-term care settings.

Research Question

What is the clinical effectiveness of cleansing wipes versus basic cleansing for patients requiring bathing in acute care or long-term care settings?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the international HTA database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were cleansing wipes, acute care, and long-term care. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or network meta-analyses, and randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, or any other type of clinical trial. An additional, more limited search was conducted in the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL). When possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The searches were also limited to English-language documents published between January 1, 2016, and June 21, 2021. Internet links were provided if available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened the literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed.

Results

One systematic review¹ and 1 randomized controlled trial² were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of cleansing wipes versus basic cleansing for patients requiring bathing in acute care or long-term care settings. No relevant health technology assessments or non-randomized studies were identified.

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Population	Any patient in need of bed bathing (e.g., those who cannot shower or move from bed) in acute care or long-term care settings
Intervention	Patient cleansing wipes (e.g., pre-packaged wipes with cleansers in them)
Comparator	Basin and soap (e.g., bed bath consisting of a dish pan, water, a soap cleanser, and a cloth)
Outcomes	Clinical effectiveness (e.g., infection prevention, rate of infection, patient satisfaction [e.g., patient hygiene, odour control], skin integrity [e.g., level of soap residue, skin sores]); adverse events (e.g., skin irritation, skin sensitivities)
Study designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies

References

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

1. Beeckman D, Van Damme N, Schoonhoven L, et al. Interventions for preventing and treating incontinence-associated dermatitis in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016 Nov;11(11):CD011627. [PubMed](#)

Randomized Controlled Trials

2. Martin ET, Haider S, Palleschi M, et al. Bathing hospitalized dependent patients with prepackaged disposable washcloths instead of traditional bath basins: A case-crossover study. *Am J Infect Control*. 2017 Sep;45(9):990-994. [PubMed](#)

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

Unclear Population: Acute Care or Long-Term Care Settings Not Specified

- Groven FMV, Zwakhalen SMG, Odekerken-Schröder G, et al. How does washing without water perform compared to the traditional bed bath: a systematic review. *BMC Geriatr.* 2017 Jan;17:31. <https://bmccgeriatr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12877-017-0425-4> Accessed 2021 Jun 22. [PubMed](#)

Alternative Intervention: Wash Glove

- Cowdell F, Jadotte YT, Ersser SJ, et al. Hygiene and emollient interventions for maintaining skin integrity in older people in hospital and residential care settings. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2020 Jan;1(1):CD011377. [PubMed](#)

Unclear Intervention: Cleansing Wipes Not Specified

- Konya I, Nishiya K, Yano R. Effectiveness of bed bath methods for skin integrity, skin cleanliness and comfort enhancement in adults: A systematic review. *Nurs Open.* 2021 Mar;16. [PubMed](#)
- Zanichelli V, Pavoni C, Eastmond J, Longtin Y. Microbiological efficacy and skin tolerance of commonly used nonantiseptic inpatient bathing practices in non-ICU settings: A systematic review. *Am J Infect Control.* 2021 May;49(5):603-607. [PubMed](#)

Randomized Controlled Trials

Alternative Outcome: Microorganisms on Skin

- Veje PL, Chen M, Jensen CS, Sorensen J, Primdahl J. Effectiveness of two bed bath methods in removing microorganisms from hospitalized patients: A prospective randomized crossover study. *Am J Infect Control.* 2020 Jun;48(6):638-643. [PubMed](#)

Non-Randomized Studies

Quasi-Qualitative Study

- Buyukyilmaz F, Sendir M. (2017). Opinions of Intensive Care Nurses: Traditional or Disposable Wipes Bed Bath? A Quasi-Qualitative and Cost Analysis Study. *Int J Nurs Clin Pract.* 2017;4:269. <https://www.graphyonline.com/archives/IJNCP/2017/IJNCP-269/> Accessed 2021 Jun 22.