TITLE: Disposable Blood Pressure Cuffs to Prevent the Transmission of Antibiotic Resistant Bacterial Strains: Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 15 September 2008

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the clinical effectiveness of disposable blood pressure cuffs for the reduction or prevention of the transmission of antibiotic resistant bacterial strains of C. difficile and MRSA in hospital settings?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 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 1993 and September 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

No literature on the clinical effectiveness of disposable blood pressure cuffs for the reduction or prevention of the transmission of resistant bacterial strains was identified. Four observational studies assessing the spread of bacterial infections with conventional blood pressure cuffs were found and are included in the appendix, along with an additional guideline of potential interest.

Health technology assessments
No literature identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified

Disclaimer: The Health Technology Inquiry Service (HTIS) is an information service for those involved in planning and providing health care in Canada. HTIS responses are based on a limited literature search and are not comprehensive, systematic reviews. The intent is to provide a list of sources of the best evidence on the topic that CADTH could identify using all reasonable efforts within the time allowed. HTIS responses should be considered along with other types of information and health care considerations. The information included in this response is not intended to replace professional medical advice, nor should it be construed as a recommendation for or against the use of a particular health technology. Readers are also cautioned that a lack of good quality evidence does not necessarily mean a lack of effectiveness particularly in the case of new and emerging health technologies, for which little information can be found, but which may in future prove to be effective. While CADTH has taken care in the preparation of the report to ensure that its contents are accurate, complete and up to date, CADTH does not make any guarantee to that effect. CADTH is not liable for any loss or damages resulting from use of the information in the report.

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Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Observational studies
No literature identified

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations

**see Enhanced environment measures**

*National Guideline summary:*
(accessed 10 Sept 2008)