

Nestelplaats Infectieuze pathogenen: gordijnen bieden meer dan privacy!

De gordijnen op de ziekenhuiskamer kunnen, zo blijkt uit nieuw onderzoek, een verzamelplaats voor infectieuze pathogenen zijn. Dit blijkt uit een publicatie in het American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC), het blad van de Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). Het onderzoek liet zien dat gordijnen, naar mate ze langer hingen, steeds meer besmet raakten en dat 87,5% besmet was met MRSA, het pathogeen dat er van verdacht wordt substantieel bij te dragen aan overlijdensgevallen. Na 21 dagen lieten de gordijnen bij meting meer dan 2.5 KVE/cm zien. Meer dan bijvoorbeeld in de voedselindustrie is toegestaan. De testgordijnen die niet in patiëntenkamers waren opgehangen blijven schoon gedurende de gehele 21 dagen.

Geen van de patiënten had MRSA. De besmetting met MRSA komt vooral door veelvuldig handcontact van met name personeel. In het kader van goede infectiepreventie, verdienen de gordijnen dus ook de nodige aandacht!



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New Study Says Hospital Privacy Curtains May Harbor Infectious Pathogens

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Without timely intervention, privacy curtains in hospitals can become breeding grounds for resistant bacteria, posing a threat to patient safety, according to new research published in the American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC), the journal of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

The longitudinal, prospective, pilot study tracked the contamination rate of 10 freshly laundered privacy curtains in the Regional Burns/Plastics Unit of the Health Services Center in Winnipeg, Canada. While the curtains had minimal contamination when they were first hung, the curtains that were hung in patient rooms became increasingly contaminated over time – and by day 14, 87.5 percent of the curtains tested positive for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a pathogen associated with significant morbidity and mortality. In contrast, control curtains that were not placed in patient rooms stayed clean the entire 21 days.

None of the rooms where the curtains were placed was occupied by patients with MRSA. Four curtains were placed in a four-bed room; four were placed in two double rooms; and two controls were placed in areas without direct patient or caregiver contact. Researchers took samples from areas where people hold curtains, suggesting that the increasing contamination resulted from direct contact. “We know that privacy curtains pose a high risk for cross-contamination because they are frequently touched but infrequently changed,” said Kevin Shek, BSc, the study’s lead author in the article. “The high rate of contamination that we saw by the fourteenth day may represent an opportune time to intervene, either by cleaning or replacing the curtains.”

By day 21, almost all curtains exceeded 2.5 CFU/cm, the requirement for food processing equipment cleanliness in some locations, such as the United Kingdom.

“Keeping the patient’s environment clean is a critical component in preventing healthcare-associated infections,” said 2018 APIC president Janet Haas, PhD, RN, CIC, FSHEA, FAPIC. “Because privacy curtains could be a mode of disease transmission, maintaining a schedule of regular cleaning offers another potential way to protect patients from harm while they are in our care.”

The study authors acknowledge the small sample size of this pilot study and recommend additional research to understand the clinical consequences of contaminated curtains.

“Rate of contamination of hospital privacy curtains in a burns/plastics ward: A longitudinal study,” by Kevin Shek, Rakesh Patidar, Zeenib Kohja, Song Liu, Justin P. Gawaziuk, Monika Gawthrop, Ayush Kumar, and Sarvesh Logsetty, appears in the American Journal of Infection Control, Volume 46, Issue 9 (September 2018).

Source: APIC