USING THE CORRECT HAND DRYING METHOD

Does it really matter in infection control?

Prof. Mark Wilcox

TUESDAY
27 November 2018
17:00 - 18:00

Room A
Liverpool ACC

FIND THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE HERE
www.europeantissue.com

Download the complete Multisite Study here:
https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(18)30366-9/fulltext
Laboratory and in situ studies have demonstrated that some hand-drying methods are associated with a greater risk of dissemination of residual microbes from hands after (particularly suboptimal) handwashing. We have carried out a multicentre study at hospitals in three countries (UK, France, Italy) to measure the prevalence of environmental contamination, including by antibiotic resistant bacteria, in toilets (used by visitors, staff and patients) according to hand-drying method (PTs vs JADs). Our multicentre, real world, healthcare setting study showed that options for hand-drying in public toilets are associated with clearly differing potential for environmental bacterial contamination. We measured higher levels of contamination in washrooms using a JAD compared with those using PTs. We found multiple examples of significant differences in the extent of surface bacterial contamination, including by faecal associated (enterococci and enterobacteria) and antibiotic resistant bacteria (MRSA and ESBL-producing bacteria). Hand-drying method can affect the risk of (airborne) dissemination of bacteria in real world settings. JADs may not be suitable for settings where microbial cross-contamination risks are high, including hospitals.

Prof. Mark Wilcox, Leeds, October 2018.