



## Daily scrub with chlorhexidine reduces skin colonization by antibiotic-resistant *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

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Abstract: The aim of this study was to establish whether long-term use of chlorhexidine would prevent skin colonization by antibiotic-resistant *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. Ten nurses, working on a ward for haematological disorders, volunteered to participate in the test. They washed one arm every morning for three weeks with chlorhexidine gluconate, ('Hibiscrub' ICI Pharmaceuticals). The other arm served as a negative control. Samples from the antecubital fossa of both arms were taken two to three times a week during the wash period and two weeks thereafter, giving a total of 216 samples. The appearance of resistant *S. epidermidis* with different antibiograms was analysed. During the wash period the total bacterial counts and the counts of the resistant *S. epidermidis* strains on the test arm were both about one-tenth of those on the control arm, a significant difference (P

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