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SHEA News

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Surveillance of Pathogens of Epidemiologic Importance

As announced at the 1994 Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, investigators in the Division of General Medicine, Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research, and the Division of Medical Microbiology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine currently are coordinating an effort to develop a national surveillance network of appropriately distributed sentinel hospitals to address issues raised by the alarming trends in antimicrobial resistance patterns that were discussed at the meeting. Sponsored by Lederle Laboratories, with a grant in excess of \$200,000 for the first year, the initial plan is to obtain clinical data on nosocomial bloodstream infec-

tions and antibiotic sensitivity patterns for the responsible pathogens.

Enrollment of hospitals currently is underway, and the design of the project calls for equal numbers of facilities from each of four quadrants of the US in each of three size categories (<400 beds, 400 to 700 beds, and >700 beds). The required standardized case-report forms will be analyzed monthly at the University of Iowa, with feedback to the participants. Validation of surveillance methodologies is planned for a sample of the participating hospitals.

Microbiologic aspects of the surveillance will include confirmation of local laboratory identification and susceptibility patterns of the causative iso-

lates, with molecular typing to be applied to strains with phenotypic similarity. It is hoped that the data generated by this surveillance program will be useful not only in monitoring national rates and trends of nosocomial infection and resistance patterns but also for local quality improvement initiatives that address these concerns.

Epidemiologists interested in obtaining more details on the current status of this program or in enrolling their own institution in this surveillance program should contact Michael B. Edmond, MD, MPH, at the University of Iowa, fax (319) 3563086; voice (319) 353-8491.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to C. Glen Mayhall, MD, SHEA, Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Route 1092, The Former Shriner's Bldg, Room 2-64B; University of Texas Medical Branch; Galveston, TX 77555-1092; FAX (409) 772-6527. Copy should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed 5 pages.

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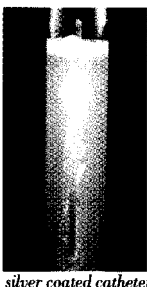
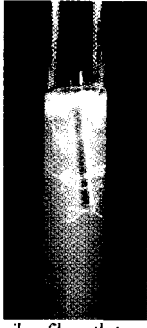
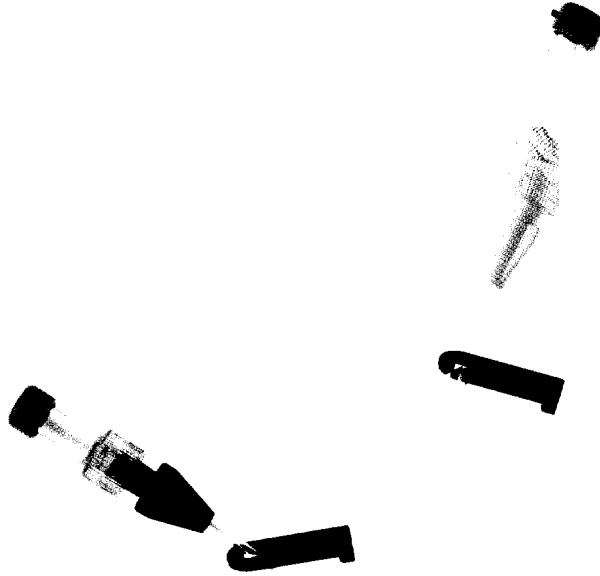
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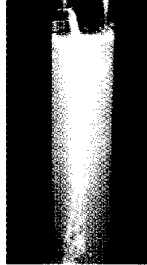
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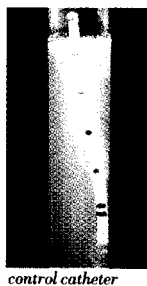
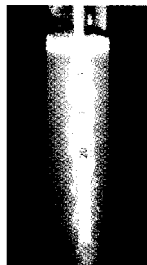
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¹ Pittet, D; Torara, D; Wenzel, RP. Nosocomial Bloodstream Infection in Critically Ill Patients. *JAMA*. 1994; 271: 1598-1601

² Elliott, TSJ. Intravascular-device infections. *J Med Microbiol*. 1988; 27: 161-167.

³ Maki, DG; Cobb, I; Gamman, JK; Shapiro, JM:

⁴ Maki, DG; Wheeler, SJ; Stolz, SM; Mermel, LA. Clinical trial of a novel antiseptic-coated central venous catheter. Presented at 31st Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Chicago, IL, October 1, 1991. Abstract.