MRSA Contamination of Computer Terminals

Devine and colleagues from the District General Hospital, Eastbourne, East Sussex, United Kingdom, conducted a survey of two acute district general hospitals (A and B) to investigate the extent of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) contamination of ward-based computer terminals. Of 25 terminals examined, MRSA was identified in 6 (24%). Environmental contamination was of a low level. Five of the MRSA-positive terminals were from hospital A, which had a significantly higher rate of MRSA transmission compared to hospital B (1.02 vs 0.49 new inpatient MRSA cases per 100 hospital admissions for 1999). MRSA containment and handwashing policies were similar at both hospitals, but only hospital B actively audited handwashing compliance. It had a 44% higher rate of paper towel use per hospital bed.

Ward-based computer terminals pose a low risk of MRSA cross-infection. The authors believe that this risk can be further reduced if all staff wash their hands before and after patient contact

FROM: Devine J, Cooke RP, Wright EP. Is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) contamination of ward-based computer terminals a surrogate marker for nosocomial MRSA transmission and handwashing compliance? *J Hosp Infect* 2001;48:72-75.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0195941700056964 Published online by Cambridge University Press