

be sustained by a toxigenic clone for a period of at least 25 months in one report.^{13,14} Over the last year and a half, we have noted aggressive initiation of metronidazole for presumed CDAD, with continued treatment despite a negative cytotoxin assay. Because we do not perform stool culture for *C. difficile* at UMMC, and cytotoxin assay remains a far less sensitive method for detection of *C. difficile* than culture, these cases very well may represent true *C. difficile* infection. The endemic level of *C. difficile* disease in our institution may, in fact, be higher than currently detected by cytotoxin assay alone.

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Check Out These Web Sites

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The ID LINKS Web Site

There is a site on the Internet named the ID LINKS web page: <http://www.idlinks.com>. It provides hot links to the web pages of other organizations such as IDSA, SHEA, NFID, ASM, WHO, and CDC. There also are links to infection control, intravenous therapy, and pharmacy

organizations, as well as to pharmaceutical companies. In addition, there is information on state, regional, and international infectious disease societies, with mailing and e-mail addresses, as well as a source book on intravenous therapy products. Lecture slides can be down loaded on PowerPoint.

Department of Health and Human Services Web Site

This web site, <http://www.os>.

dhhs.gov, gives access to the HHS department, as well as other public health service agencies, including CDC, NIH, FDA, and HCFA. In addition, it has telephone numbers of the major officials in the departments and access to specialized databases and publications such as CDC's *MMWR* and *Recommendations and Guidelines*.