

RN₂

Regional Neonatal News & Notes



ENTEROCOCCUS



Enterococcus is a gram positive cocci often occurring in pairs or short chains. Two species that are commonly found in the digestive and female genital tracts are *E. faecalis* and *E. faecium*. Enterococci are facultative anaerobic organisms meaning they prefer to use oxygen but can also survive without it. While not one of the most common organisms causing neonatal sepsis, it is significant because of its high resistance to antibiotics. Some Enterococci are resistant to the penicillins as well as many aminoglycosides. However in the last 20 years, particularly virulent strains have emerged that are resistant to vancomycin (Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococcus* or VRE). To date, all reported cases of VRE were hospital acquired.

Enterococcus is an extremely hardy organism that can survive for weeks to months on environmental surfaces including hospital equipment and soiled linens. Hospital workers may be colonized with the organism as well.



Neonates, particularly the premature, low birth weight or ill infant, are at increased risk for sepsis related to their immature immune system. With their increased susceptibility to sepsis and their often subtle, nonspecific initial presentations, they require close monitoring so that sepsis can be identified and treated quickly and effectively. The infant's skin, respiratory tract, conjunctivae, GI tract and umbilicus may become colonized with organisms that are in their environment. Ways infants may become colonized include IV catheters, indwelling lines and contact with caregivers and family who are colonized with particular bacteria. Since VRE is such a virulent organism, at many hospitals neonates that are transferred from another facility are screened for VRE on admission. A rectal swab is sent for culture and if positive, the infant is placed on contact isolation until discharge.

Obviously, preventing sepsis is the best way to deal with *Enterococcus*. Adequate hand washing, following institutional infection control protocols and minimizing invasive procedures on the babies can help prevent infection. Encouraging



(Continued on page 4)

www.motherbabyuniversity.com

Congratulations!!! to the following facilities and staffs for successful completion of educational offerings

NORTHEAST

MAINE

Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor
Central Maine Medical Center, Lewiston
Maine Medical Center, Portland

MARYLAND

Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore
Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore

NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Health Care, Vineland

NEW YORK

Chenango Memorial Hospital, Norwich
New York Presbyterian Hospital, NY, NY
St. Joseph's Hospital Healthcare, Syracuse

PENNSYLVANIA

Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon
Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia

SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA

East Alabama Medical Center, Opelika
Jackson Hospital, Montgomery
Lakeland Community Hospital, Montgomery
University of Alabama, Birmingham

ARKANSAS

Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pine Bluff

FLORIDA

Holmes Regional Medical Center, Melbourne

GEORGIA

Bethany House, Summerville
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta

Columbus Regional Medical Center, Columbus
DeKalb Medical Center, DeKalb
Emory Eastside Medical Center, Atlanta
Eastside Medical Center, Atlanta
Grady Health System, Atlanta
Gwinnett Medical Center, Lawrenceville
Henry Medical Center, Stockbridge
Memorial Health University Medical Center, Savannah
Northside Hospital, Atlanta
Northside-Cherokee, Canton
Piedmont Community Hospital, Atlanta
Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, Jasper
Sleep Disorders Center of Georgia, Atlanta
Southern Regional Medical Center, Riverdale

KENTUCKY

Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Whitesburg
Pineville, Hospital, Pineville

NORTH CAROLINA

Ashe Memorial Hospital, Jefferson
Bladen County Hospital, Elizabethtown
Blueridge Health Care, Morganton
Brenner Children's Hospital, Winston-Salem
Caldwell Memorial Hospital, Lenoir
Cape Fear Valley Health System, Fayetteville
Carolina Birth Center, High Point
Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte
Carteret General Hospital, Morehead City
Catawba Valley Medical Center, Hickory
Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Shelby
Duke University Medical Center, Durham
First Health of the Carolinas—Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst
Grace Hospital, Morganton
High Point Regional Medical Center, High Point
Johnston Memorial Hospital, Smithfield

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Lexington Memorial Hospital, Lexington
McDowell Hospital, Marion
Mission Hospitals, Asheville
Moses Cone Health System, Greensboro
Murphy Medical Center, Murphy
New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington
Novant Health, Charlotte
Onslow Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville
Orange County Health Dept, Hillsboro
PCMH-Children's Hospital of Eastern NC,
Greenville
Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte
Presbyterian Hospital, Huntersville
Presbyterian Hospital, Matthews
Randolph Hospital, Asheboro
Richmond Memorial Hospital, Rockingham
Rex Healthcare, Raleigh
Rex Birth Center, Durham
Sampson Regional Medical Center, Clinton
Wake Forest University—Baptist Medical Center,
Winston-Salem
WakeMed, Raleigh
Wilson Medical Center, Wilson
Womack Army Medical Center, Ft. Bragg
Women's Hospital of Greensboro, Greensboro

SOUTH CAROLINA

Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia
McLeod Health System, Florence
Palmetto Health-Richland Memorial Hospital, Columbia

TENNESSEE

The Med, Memphis

VIRGINIA

Potomac Hospital, Woodbridge

MIDWEST

INDIANA

Sullivan County Community Hospital, Sullivan

MICHIGAN

Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo
DeVos Children's Hospital, Grand Rapids
North Oakland Medical Center, Pontiac
Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids
St. Mary's Health System, Grand Rapids
St Mary's Mercy Medical Center, Livonia

MINNESOTA

Austin Medical Center, Austin

SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA

Del E. Webb Hospital, Sun City

COLORADO

The Medical Center of Aurora, Aurora
The Medical Center of Aurora-South, Aurora
Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center, Denver

NEVADA

Summerlin Hospital, Las Vegas

OKLAHOMA

Southwestern Memorial Hospital, Weatherford

TEXAS

Brackenridge Hospital, Kyle
Hill Country Memorial Hospital, Fredericksburg

WEST COAST

CALIFORNIA

El Centro Hospital, El Centro
Kaiser Hospital, Anaheim
Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, Palo Alto
St. Joseph Hospital, Burbank

HAWAII

Trippler AFB Hospital, Wahiawa

OREGON

St. Charles Medical Center, Bend

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

CONSUMERS

I am very pleased that consumers (non-medically related individuals) continue to participate in these educational offerings. Consumers were from the following locations:

Winston-Salem, NC
Philadelphia, PA
Corona, CA
Snakomish, Washington
Winona, Mississippi



OUTSIDE USA

Alder Hey Children's Hospital , Liverpool, England
Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Australia
Miscordia Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Shiekh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirate
Vincente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Cebu City, Philippines

Congratulations!!!!
& Thank You To Everyone
.....Stacey



(Continued from page 1) Enterococcus

breastfeeding and explaining how breast-milk's antibodies provide protection to the infant is another way decrease the risk of infection. Remind parents to continue good hygiene after discharge.



.....Joan Lucas, RNC, BSN, NNP

