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SwabCap Improves Compliance with Catheter Infection Control, Study Says

Disinfection Cap Allowed for 79 Percent Reduction in Catheter Bloodstream Infections

NEPTUNE, N.J. – SwabCap® improved compliance with [catheter infection-control](#) measures and was favorably viewed by nurses, according to a podium talk at the annual meeting of the Infusion Nurses Society.

New results from the first major [clinical study](#) of SwabCap showed nurses used the device 80% of the time on average, and were highly satisfied with the disinfection cap. A compliance rate of 80% is much higher than has been reported with the older, “scrub the hub” method of disinfecting IV needleless connectors.

The INS presentation reported study results showing near-unanimous agreement among nurses that SwabCap saved them time and contributed to better patient care.

Clinicians at NorthShore University Health System (Evanston, Ill.) conducted a prospective, peer-review clinical trial of SwabCap. The study compared the disinfection cap to the [“scrub the hub”](#) method of disinfecting IV connectors by wiping them with a pad containing 70% isopropyl alcohol (IPA).

SwabCap is an [FDA-cleared](#), twist-on device that passively disinfects the top and threads of [needleless IV connectors](#). As the single-use cap is twisted onto the threads after an IV line is placed and between line accesses, a foam pad inside the cap is compressed. The pad releases 70% IPA that continually bathes the connector top and threads while the cap is in place.

Clinicians reported that compliance with SwabCap use was easy to track, because compliance is verified when the bright orange cap is observed in place on the connector.

The ease of verification made it possible for managers to intervene and reinforce compliance as necessary. Measures included educational posters and written reminders about the disinfection cap protocol.

One of the major drawbacks of manual disinfection of IV connectors is that the method is subject to noncompliance because busy nurses may find it too time-consuming. Compliance with manual disinfection is very difficult to track without following nurses on their rounds, which is highly impractical.

Clinician end-users at NorthShore were surveyed about the device's ease and efficiency of use, perceived effectiveness, and other attributes. From 96% to 99% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the items about positive attributes of the disinfection cap. Survey questions included:

- SwabCap saves time over the current needleless connector protocol (15 second scrub, 30 second dry)
- SwabCap improves needleless connector cleaning and protocol compliance
- I feel that, as a performance improvement initiative, the application of SwabCap contributes to better patient care
- I support the use of SwabCap throughout the hospital

A second talk at the INS meeting focused on two sets of results from the study. The first set showed that SwabCap allowed for reduced CLABSI rates by more than 79% in the four NorthShore hospitals.

The second set of results concerned the two methods' effectiveness in reducing contamination of the intraluminal space of patients' PICC lines. There was a nearly 53% reduction in lumen colonization when disinfection was performed using SwabCap, compared to using an alcohol wipe. Those samples that were contaminated had 75% fewer colony-forming units during the SwabCap phase.

The INS conference was May 21-26 in Louisville, Ken.

About Excelsior Medical Corporation

Excelsior Medical Corporation is a privately held company with a primary focus on innovative catheter maintenance products that may reduce infection, medication errors and healthcare costs. The company makes SwabCap, SwabKIT™ and SwabFlush™ for disinfection and protection of IV needleless connectors. Formed in 1989, Excelsior also manufactures and sells prefilled saline flush syringes, prefilled heparin flush and lock syringes, and syringe pump systems to customers throughout the world.

For more information, call toll-free 800-487-4276 or access www.excelsiormedical.com.

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