

## Journal of Hospital Infection

### Reply to G.J. Hughes et al: Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England assessed using a breakpoint model

--Manuscript Draft--

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To the Editor / Journal of Hospital Infection

Issy Les Moulineaux

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

**Subject:** Letter to the editor – Reply to G.J. Hughes *et al.* *Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England assessed using a breakpoint model*

Dear Madam, Sir,

We have read with great interest the recent publication *Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England assessed using a breakpoint model* by T.Y. Fu\*, P. Gent, V. Kumar and hope you will accept to publish our response to this article.

All named authors have seen and agreed to the submitted version of the paper.

The material is original, unpublished and has not been submitted elsewhere.

Please note that I am presently employed by Advanced Sterilization Products, which develops and markets equipment for area decontamination.

This is not a randomized Controlled Trial and no ethical approval was needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. DESTREZ', written over a horizontal line.

Philippe DESTREZ

ADVANCED STERILIZATION PRODUCTS\*

Division of Ethicon, Inc.

a Johnson & Johnson company

Reply to G.J. Hughes *et al*: *Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England assessed using a breakpoint model*

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Keywords:

Hydrogen peroxide

Deprox

We read with great interest the recent article by G.J. Hughes *et al*: "*Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England using a breakpoint model*". We are in full agreement with the authors who state that reinforced environmental cleaning and disinfection, and in particular hydrogen peroxide automated surface decontamination, contribute to improved surface safety and therefore a reduction of HAI rates<sup>1,2,3</sup>

However, we have reason to believe the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> surface decontamination system identified as being used by one of the participating hospitals (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) is unlikely to have been the Deprox system (Hygiene Solutions), as stated in Table 1 of the article. We have based this on the following:

- (1) We are able to confirm that another system was in use at the hospital during the period in question: the Sterinis/Sterusil system and its subsequent solution, now commercialized as GLOSAIR™ 400 System by Advanced Sterilization Products (a Johnson & Johnson company). Hygienics Biosecurity Limited (previous distributor of the

1. M.E. Falagas, P.C. Thomaidis, I.K. Kotsantis, K. Sgouros, G. Samonis, D.E. Karageorgopoulos. Airborne hydrogen peroxide for disinfection of the hospital environment and infection control: a systematic review. *Journal of Hospital Infection* July 2011, Vol. 78, Issue 3, 171-177

2. F. Barbut, PharmD, PhD; D. Menuet, BSc; M. Verachten, BSc; E. Girou, PharmD. Comparison of the Efficacy of a Hydrogen Peroxide Dry-Mist Disinfection System and Sodium Hypochlorite Solution for Eradication of *Clostridium difficile* Spores. *Infection control and hospital epidemiology* June 2009, vol. 30, no 6

3. S. Shapey, K. Machin, K. Levi, T.C. Boswell. Activity of a dry mist hydrogen peroxide system against environmental *Clostridium difficile* contamination in elderly care wards. *Journal of Hospital Infection* October 2008, Vol. 70, Issue 2, 136-141

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3  
4 Sterinis/Sterusil system) provided decontamination services at the time the data was  
5 collected and as such has evidence to confirm the hospital was in receipt of these  
6 services during this period. We presume this can be further corroborated by the journal  
7 contacting: (i) the trust to access its accounting records for 2008/9, and (ii) Hygiene  
8 Solutions to confirm it was not providing services to the trust at the time.  
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- 14 (2) As we understand it, the two companies mentioned on the provider's website (bottom of  
15 the page: <http://www.hygiene-solutions.co.uk/s22/Contact.htm>) were both established in  
16 2010. Please see below the two companies and their respective company numbers, as  
17 listed with Companies House (<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>):  
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22 Specialist Hygiene Solutions Limited: company number 07183575  
23

24 Hygiene Solutions Limited: company number 07479344  
25  
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27 We assume both authors and publisher of the article will be keen to ensure the accuracy of the  
28 data used. Therefore we suggest this matter be further investigated and, if the details in the  
29 article are found to be inaccurate, the matter be resolved by the publication of a correction. If  
30 you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact us, we would be happy to  
31 assist.  
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## Tom Lister | Hygiene Solutions

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**From:** Rick Fentiman | Hygiene Solutions  
**Sent:** 09 January 2014 12:41  
**To:** Mark Fentiman | Hygiene Solutions; Tom Lister | Hygiene Solutions  
**Subject:** FW: paper in Journal of Hospital Infection, July 2013  
**Attachments:** JHI-D-14-00004.pdf

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Need to be aware and cautious on this one.

Regards,

**Rick Fentiman** *Product Manager | UK*

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**From:** Brown, Nicholas [<mailto:nicholas.brown@addenbrookes.nhs.uk>]

**Sent:** 09 January 2014 12:13

**To:** Ayers, Robert; Rick Fentiman | Hygiene Solutions

**Cc:** Gareth Hughes

**Subject:** FW: paper in Journal of Hospital Infection, July 2013

**Importance:** High

Robbie/Rick,

Are you in a position to be able to respond to the letter from J&J about the use of their system in Addenbrooke's? Clearly, the company are wanting credit for the reduction in cases of C difficile if their system was in use at the time. We need to know which system was in use in the Trust and when.

We need to coordinate a response through Gareth Hughes, as corresponding author for the paper.

Regards,

Nick

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gareth Hughes [<mailto:Gareth.Hughes@phe.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 09 January 2014 11:23

**To:** Nicholas Brown; Brown, Nicholas; [robert.ayres@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:robert.ayres@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

**Subject:** FW: paper in Journal of Hospital Infection, July 2013

**Importance:** High

Hi Nick and Robbie

I've received this from the Editor at JHI about our paper. There is a query about the decontamination system which was used at Addenbrookes and which we mentioned in the paper.

Would you be able to look into this and get back to me as soon as possible? We'll need to reply to the Editor pretty quickly.

Cheers

Gareth

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**From:** Jenny Child [jhieditor@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 09 January 2014 11:01

**To:** Gareth Hughes

**Subject:** paper in Journal of Hospital Infection, July 2013

Dear Dr Hughes

I have received the attached letter from Johnson & Johnson, commenting on the paper that we published in JHI in July 2013 (Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired *Clostridium difficile* infections in two hospitals in England assessed using a breakpoint model).

This is more than just a letter for publication; if Dr Destrez is right in his assertion, then we will need to publish an erratum.

Could you please have a look and reply to me directly to this e-mail address (not via Editorial Manager)?

I look forward to hearing from you,

with kind regards

Jenny Child

Dr Jenny Child MD FRCPATH

Editor in Chief,

*Journal of Hospital Infection*

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