

## Study shows DuraPrep Solution may be better than chlorhexidine in prevention of surgical infections

3M Health Care announced in early October a new independent study, "Effects of Preoperative Skin Preparation on Postoperative Wound Infection Rates: A Prospective Study of 3 Skin Preparation Protocols," that compared the effects of three different skin preparation solutions on surgical-site infections. The study found that iodophor-based skin preparation solutions, such as 3M™ DuraPrep™ Surgical Solution (Iodine Povidone [0.7% available Iodine] and Isopropyl Alcohol, 74% w/w) Patient Preoperative Skin Prep, may be superior to chlorhexidine in preventing surgical-site infections. Authored by Brian R. Swenson, MD, Robert G. Sawyer, MD, and colleagues from the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, VA, the study appears in the October 2009 issue of the journal *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*.

The study, which examined more than 3,200 general surgery patients during an 18-month period, was performed in concert with ongoing data collection for the American College of Surgeons' National Surgical Quality Improvement Project (NSQIP). This program, which employs a prospective, peer-controlled, validated database to quantify 30-day risk-adjusted surgical outcomes, is a tool to measure and report surgical quality and outcomes, and is recognised by the Institutes of Medicine, the Joint Commission and the American Board of Surgery.

"The main findings of the study were somewhat unexpected. Based on data derived from central venous catheter insertions, we had thought that the infection rates would be lowest in the period where chlorhexidine was the preferred agent for skin preparation. This was not the case. If these findings are reproduced in a multicenter study, switching to iodine-based preparations on a broad basis could significantly reduce the huge morbidity and cost associated with surgical site infection in this country and abroad," said Robert G. Sawyer, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Public Health Science, Co-director Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit and Director of Surgical Nutrition Services at the University of Virginia Health System and co-author on the study.

"To date, there have only been limited studies comparing the impact of various skin preparation solutions on surgical-site infections. Previous studies examined only specific surgical sites or relied on less impactful surrogate endpoints such as microbial counts. Dr. Sawyer's study provided a broader assessment of general surgery patients and specifically examined means to reduce the risk of surgical-site infections," said Debra Rectenwald, Vice President and General Manager 3M Infection Prevention Division, 3M Health Care. "We are pleased that DuraPrep solution has been proven effective in the fight against surgical-site infections, and that hospitals, like the University of Virginia Health System, are updating their protocols to include its use."

This independent study was funded in part by an unrestricted educational grant from 3M Health Care. **DA**

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"As the global economic momentum has faded, firms can no longer 'ride the waves' created by others. They need to build their own momentum for innovation. In addition to identifying market needs and adapting their products or services to meet those needs, firms must also find ways of prompting the market to lock-in to their innovations ahead of others. If this successful two-way adaptation is achieved, spectacular growth will follow, even in challenging times like how we are facing at the moment. For three decades now, Mectron is well known as an inventor and developer of new technologies and trends. Talking about Mectron Asia/Pacific, markets such as India, Australia, Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong/China are doing pretty well, and indeed we are lucky we don't experience any downward tendency."



**- Mr. Norbert Emmerich,  
Managing Director,  
MECTRON ASIA PACIFIC.**

"KaVo Dental Asia Pacific, with its regional office in Singapore, has seen some changes in the market dynamics in Southeast Asia due to the current economical situation. In general, business during the last 12 months has been very flat and many private customers have been hesitating to implement planned equipment upgrade across all areas of dentistry. This, coupled together with a number of major governmental university and public oral health upgrades, has made 2009 a challenging year. KaVo has, with its extensive product portfolio, been able to fulfil sales targets in most markets and are confident about the 2010.

One reason for KaVo's positive performance during 2009 has been the current local support from our regional offices and the strong relationship with our dealers. Many KaVo distributors have been partners for decades and in difficult times, this type of strong collaboration is a major strength, helping us reach our mutual goals."



**- Mr. Sthen Boisen,  
General Manager,  
South Asia/India/Australia/New  
Zealand,  
KaVo DENTAL ASIA-PACIFIC PTE LTD.,**