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## Clostridium difficile infection: Prevention is in your hands

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Clostridium difficile has emerged as a quintessential nosocomial pathogen by multidrug resistance and its spore forms persisting in the environment, surviving the routine disinfectants. It is responsible for at least one fourth of antibiotic-associated diarrhea in hospitalized patients and almost all cases of life-threatening pseudo membranous colitis. Recent epidemics of a hyper virulent strain were associated with significant morbidity and mortality, highlighting the need for better prevention treatment of Clostridium difficile infections. Preventive measures proven effective are judicious use of broad spectrum antibiotics plus selective restriction of clindamycin, an agent strongly responsible for suppressing gut flora allowing multiplication

of *C. difficle*, personal disinfection by preferring soap and water hand washing over alcohol based scrubs that are ineffective against spores and environmental control by isolation of patients and use of sodium hypochlorite on surfaces of equipment. These, along with prompt diagnosis and alerting can go a long way in curbing outbreaks.

## Speaker Biography

Sarbjeet Sharma is a Clinical Microbiologist to the work of diagnostics for over 20 years, with keen focus on HIV and Tuberculosis. She has contributed many international and national publications and presentations, one of the latest being at ICAAC 2012, San Francisco, USA: "Comparative evaluation of Conventional techniques and Nested PCR in the diagnosis of Extra-pulmonary TB.

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