



Tanning bed hygiene: Microbes found on tanning beds present a potential health risk

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Abstract

On an average day in the United States, more than 1 million people use tanning salons. However, dermatologists say you may be getting more than just a tan while using salon beds. Studies show that bacteria and viruses can lurk inside tanning beds, including the dreaded herpes virus. Currently, there is little uniformity in sanitary guidelines for tanning salons. Although cleanliness is encouraged, most states have no monitoring or enforcement methods.

Study

The top ten rated tanning salons located in New York City, were tested for their microbiologic environment by testing cultures from the tanning beds. Specimens were obtained using one sterile swab pre-moistened with non-bacteriostatic sterile saline solution. Samples were taken from the middle portion of a tanning unit in each salon where skin contact typically occurs.

Results

The study revealed that cultures of all the salons tested grew out pathogens. Of the ten establishments tested, five organisms were isolated from one site, four from one site, three from five sites, two from two sites, and one salon had one isolated organism. The most commonly found pathogens were: *Pseudomonas spp.*, *Bacillus spp.*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Enterococcus spp.*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Enterobacter cloacae*. All of the pathogens found in this study have been associated with serious skin infections.

Conclusions

Only a few states have guidelines for indoor tanning bed sanitation regulations, however, these regulations are rarely enforced. Given the direct contact of the skin of tanning salon patrons with the tanning bed surfaces tested, there is a legitimate concern for pathogen transmission and skin infections. There is need for strict enforceable sanitation regulations for tanning salons in order to prevent the

transmission of pathogenic organisms that could cause serious health problems.

Implications for AHP

AHP Disinfectants are One-Step Disinfectant Cleaners

- AHP has powerful surfactants, which means it disinfects while it cleans on surfaces and equipment, resulting in lower cost and faster results.

AHP Disinfectants have realistic contact times

- Short contact times ensure surfaces remain wet for the required contact time, providing comfort and confidence that disinfection has occurred
- AHP's shelf life both as a ready to use and concentrate once diluted ensures less product is used making it more economical

AHP Disinfectants provide the perfect balance between safety and efficacy

- AHP is non-irritating to eyes, skin and non-skin sensitizing and is designed to be easier on employees and occupants resulting in protocol compliance
- Personal protective equipment such as gloves or goggles is not required when handling AHP, meaning tanning salons can use a product that clients can wipe surfaces before and/or after use

AHP Disinfectants are compatible

- AHP formulations are tested to ensure compatibility that preserve your investments in equipment, furniture, and building surfaces

AHP Disinfectants are environmentally sustainable

- AHP's active ingredient, hydrogen peroxide, breaks down into water and oxygen leaving no active residues