

4. It seems reasonable that the mechanical friction of wiping the hands with a towel aids in the removal of residual microorganisms on the hands.
5. Cost-effective analysis and studies to compare air dryers with the paper towel method should be done.

Regarding the utility rooms; every effort should be made in a hospital environment to confine and contain. Since the dirty utility room is a place where patient excretions and secretions are usually poured into hoppers, there is a possibility of airborne contamination, therefore, the door to the dirty utility room should be kept closed. Sterile and clean items are stored in the clean utility room. These items need to be in a controlled area; open doors do not imply control.

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Clarification of Formula Notation

To the Editor:

I read with interest the article "Risks and Benefits of Vaccination" which appeared in Volume 5, Number 9 of *Infection Control*. I believe that there is a typographical error in the formula at the bottom of the first column, on page 439. The second term should be a small r/t rather than a capital R/t. Unfortunately, as capital R is also a defined quantity, correction of this typographical error seems necessary in order to reduce confusion.

Joel Spalter, MD
South Broward Infection Control Consultants
Hollywood, Florida

Dr. Wiedermann, author of the article in question, was invited to respond.

Thank you very much for reading our paper so carefully. There is indeed a typographical error on page 439. The formula for the risk-benefit difference (D) should read as follows:

$$D = pR - \frac{r}{t} \text{ (instead of } \frac{R}{T} \text{)}$$

It is correctly printed, however, in "Results and Discussion" on pages 441 and 443.

G. Wiedermann, MD
Institute for Specific Prophylaxis
and Tropical Medicine
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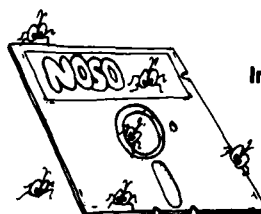
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