



Symposium 18.1

Novel technologies in the prevention of infection

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The need for novel technologies for infection prevention has become more apparent in recent years with the widespread emergence of multi-drug and pan-drug resistant nosocomial pathogens especially in the Asia-Pacific region. These technologies have ranged from the very simple and basic such as the use of checklists or other strategies designed to ensure that evidence based practices are carried out in wards and intensive care units to high technology innovations that have incorporated the use of nanotechnology and RFID devices. In the field of device associated infections a number of coated devices have been employed with varying degrees of success. The fundamental step in the use of technology for the prevention of infection is, however, a good understanding of the pathogenesis of these infections. Here the use of molecular methods as well as good well designed surveillance studies has allowed for scientific approaches to the development of novel technologies. Well designed randomised clinical trials are critical to evaluating these technologies. They also need to be performed in a variety of environments especially in the Asia Pacific to ensure that technology is used in an appropriate and cost-effective manner.