

# The Q-Net™ Monthly

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December 2003

## What's News

### Happy Holidays

This month's newsletter provides a quiz that summarizes all of the topics published in 2003. Use it to test your knowledge and to identify areas you may want to review. The answers to this quiz are available at Q-Net's website: <http://www.myendosite.com>. Also at Q-Net's website are links to recent newspaper articles that document potential infections due to reprocessing mishaps.

## Editor-in-Chief

The articles published in this newsletter are written by: **Lawrence F Muscarella, PhD, Chief, Infection Control at Custom Ultrasonics, Inc.** Ivyland, PA 18974.

## What is 'Q-Net'?

**Q-Net** is a technology-assessment network of questions and answers. Its newsletter is *The Q-Net™ Monthly*.

**Q-Net's** main goal is to encourage the infection control and endoscopy communities to not only ask good questions but to also demand succinct and well referenced responses.

**Q-Net** addresses the needs of both the health care provider whose goal is to provide the best care possible, and the patient who deserves affordable quality health care.

## ~ End of year quiz ~

*Presented below is a quiz designed to assist in understanding each of the topics discussed in this newsletter during 2003. Only one answer applies for each question, unless otherwise stated.*

*transmission of P aeruginosa via a flexible endoscope? (A) Environment-to-patient; (B) Patient-to-patient; (C) Medical staff-to-patient; (D) Patient-to-medical staff; (E) None of the above.*

**March-April 2003 issue: "Going back to school."** This double issue discusses a recent bacterial outbreak.

**January-February 2003 issue: "Bronchoscope reprocessing."** This double issue discusses bronchoscope reprocessing.

1. Which of the following has **not** been reported to be transmitted via a bronchoscope: (A) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; (B) *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; (C) Hepatitis C virus; (D) *Mycobacterium chelonae*; (E) None of the above.

2. Which of the following has been reported to be a source of outbreaks linked to endoscopes contaminated with antibiotic-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*? (A) sinks and other environmental surfaces; (B) An index patient; (C) Both A and B; (D) Neither A nor B.

3. Endoscope drying is recommended: (A) only between patient procedures; (B) between patient procedures and before storage; (C) only when the endoscope is used on a HIV-infected patient; (D) none of the above.

4. Which of the following modes is most often reported to be responsible for

1. Which of the following poses a risk during bronchoscopy and is most often transmitted via the environment-to-patient route? (A) *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; (B) *P aeruginosa*; (C) HIV; (D) *Escherichia coli*; (E) Hepatitis C virus; (F) All of the above.

2. Patient-to-patient transmission of *P. aeruginosa* via a bronchoscope is most likely due to: (A) violation of Standard Precautions; (B) violation of Droplet Precautions; (C) inadequate cleaning of the bronchoscope; (D) contaminated rinse water or another environmental surface.

3. Which of the following can affect the length of time an operative field remains sterile? (A) The type of surgical procedure; (B) Knowledge of and attention to aseptic technique; (C) The duration of the surgical procedure; (D) All of the above.

**May-June 2003 issue: "Dear Los Angeles Times."** This double issue presents a response to a newspaper article recently  
*(Continued on page 24)*

published in the *Los Angeles Times*.

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1. Are current guidelines for reprocessing gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopes flawed and in need of significant modification? (A) No—what is needed is strict adherence to current guidelines; (B) Yes—“new and improved” guidelines are needed; (C) Yes and no—new guidelines are needed, but only for some types of GI endoscopes; (D) None of the above.
  2. Most types of which of the following endoscopes feature a “forward water jet” (or “auxiliary water channel”)? (A) Bronchoscopes; (B) Side-viewing duodenoscopes; (C) Cystoscopes; (D) Colonoscopes; (E) All of the above.
  3. When does the forward water jet channel require reprocessing? (A) Never—because it is a “blind” and sealed channel; (B) Only at the end of the day; (C) Only if this channel is used during the procedure; (D) Every time the endoscope is reprocessed, even if this channel was not used during the procedure; (E) None of the above.

**July 2003 issue: “Dear Los Angeles Times, Part 2.”** This article is a continuation of the previous month’s response to a newspaper article published in the *Los Angeles Times*.

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1. Which of the following has been reported to be transmitted via a gastrointestinal endoscope? (A) Hepatitis C virus; (B) Human papilloma virus; (C) HIV; (D) Prions; (E) *Bacillus anthracis* (anthrax); (F) None of the above.

**August-September 2003 issue: “To dry or not to dry?”** This double issue discusses the importance of endoscope drying.

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1. Which one of the following statements is false? (A) Not every manufacturer of automated endoscope reprocessors (AERs) recommends drying the endoscope after reprocessing; (B) The FDA and CDC recommends drying the endoscope after reprocessing using any AER; (C) 2% glutaraldehyde is a liquid sterilant; (D) There are published data that show a 0.2 micron bacterial filter can produce sterile water from a hospital’s tap; (E) Sterilization cannot be “guaranteed.”
  2. How should a healthcare facility dry bronchoscopes and gastrointestinal endoscopes? (A) Using a microwave oven; (B) By placing the endoscope overnight in a carrying case or AER; (C) Flushing the endoscope with 70% isopropyl alcohol, followed by forced air; (D) None of the above.

**October 2003 issue: “Severe acute respiratory syndrome” (SARS).** This issue discusses SARS and methods for preventing its nosocomial transmission.

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1. SARS is a potentially fatal atypical pneumonia likely caused by: (A) a coronavirus; (B) a prion; (D) a respiratory bacterium; (E) a fungus; (F) the causative agent of anthrax.

2. Which of the following is false? (A) Contact Precautions includes gloving, hand washing, and use of gowns and other protective apparel; (B) Both Contact Precautions and Droplet Precautions require use of a N-95 respirator and isolation of the patient in a room with negative air pressure; (C) SARS is often treated with a cocktail of drugs that contains antibiotics, steroids, and antiviral medications; (D) Standard Precautions, Contact Precautions, and Airborne Precautions are all currently recommended when treating SARS-infected patients; (E) None of the above.

**November 2003 issue: Whipple’s disease.** This issue presents a review of a recently published article. Endoscope storage is also discussed in this issue.

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1. Which of the following is false? (A) Whipple’s disease is a rare and chronic disorder caused by a bacterium; (B) Whipple’s disease only affects the colon; (C) Increasing the temperature of most liquid sterilants increases their biocidal properties; (D) *Tropheryma whipplei* is the causative agent of Whipple’s disease; (E) All of the above.
  2. Which of the following could pose an infection risk? (A) Storing a wet endoscope in an automated endoscope reprocessor; (B) Vertically hanging a dry endoscope with its valve/buttons removed; (C) Drying the endoscope between patient procedures; (D) Drying the endoscope before storage; (E) All of the above; (F) None of the above. ● *The End*

• For the answers to each of this quiz’s questions, visit: <http://www.myendosite.com>

Thank you for your interest in this newsletter. I have addressed each issue to the best of my ability. Respectfully, the Publisher: *Lawrence F. Muscarella, PhD*. Please direct all correspondence to:

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