

nursing homes and households. The transmission of virus through person to person contact, food borne and waterborne transmission and indirectly through fomites have been documented. The incidence of health care associated infections, have caused numbers of outbreaks in the hospitals. The control of hospital acquired infection is a major challenge. Nosocomial pathogens are mostly transmitted via the hands of health-care workers and hand hygiene is considered the leading preventive measure to reduce cross-transmission in health-care settings. Soap based and ethanol based hand disinfectant have been shown to be effective against bacteria, fungi and enveloped viruses. The nonenveloped viruses remain the challenge as the virucidal activity against these viruses varies widely. We determined the virucidal efficacy of hand soap and alcohol based hand disinfectants against poliovirus Sabin 1, adenovirus type 5, parechovirus 1 and murine norovirus (surrogate for human norovirus) in a quantitative carrier test. The hand soap tested in-use-concentration showed less than 1log<sub>10</sub> infectivity reduction within 1 min of exposure time. The alcohol (60%) hand disinfectant tested showed no significant reduction in infectivity of the tested viruses. The tested hand soap and alcohol hand disinfectants do not possess antiviral activity, therefore physical removal of viruses by hand washing using running water, soap and disposable towels remains the recommendable practice when dealing with infections or outbreaks.

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#### The virucidal efficacy of hand disinfectants

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Human noroviruses (NoVs) are the leading cause of nonbacterial acute gastroenteritis of all age groups. Human NoV is responsible for a number of outbreaks in hospitals,