Current Update

Dental Waterborne Diseases
(Legionnaires Disease)
THE CHALLENGES OF WATERBORNE INFECTIONS: A MICROBIOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

Infections caused by waterborne microorganisms are among the most harmful to global health. These include diseases caused by a variety of bacteria, protozoa, viruses, and other parasites. They are able to proliferate in many natural water sources, as well as man-made systems designed to provide potable water for public and health care use. An initial overview of the principles and epidemiology associated with waterborne infections will be followed by discussion of representative, clinically important pathogens and the challenges they present to healthcare settings and the general population. With specific regard to dentistry, comprehensive infection prevention recommendations now address the potential for colonization and contamination of dental treatment water. Emphasis here will focus on recent waterborne microbial challenges, including Pseudomonas, Legionella pneumophila, and non-tuberculous Mycobacteria (NTM) species.

VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS: SCIENCE, SUCCESS & MYTHS

This seminar will consider vaccination as an effective public health intervention for dentistry, along with updated data regarding vaccine safety, health care risks, and preventive measures, will serve as frameworks for this presentation. Evidence-based information also will be discussed to address certain issues where perceptions and misuse of infection control procedures and products are in conflict with scientific and clinical knowledge. A major goal of this presentation is to help dental professionals increase their understanding of the “why” as well as the “what” of infection control practices.