



Infectiology

A Personal Stethoscope Disinfectant

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Background

Several recent studies demonstrate that 5-10% of hospitalized patient acquire nosocomial infection, 5% of which are fatal. Epidemiologists believe that one third of all nosocomial infections can be attributed to stethoscope contamination. Further studies demonstrated that 90-100% of the stethoscopes harvest microbial contamination and that more than 20% were MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) and other lethal resistant species.

The cleanliness of the stethoscope head is of great concern, especially in hospitals where infectious agents can pass easily from one patient to the next through contact with contaminants on a doctor's stethoscope. The stethoscope head is particularly prone to contamination since it comes into physical contact with each patient. To date, no device has become universally accepted for performing stethoscope disinfection. To be practical, such a device has to be very easy and convenient to use, not requiring any extra amount of time or effort.

Market

Stethoscopes are being used in wide scale by physicians, nurses, and medical students. The sum of the above reaches 3-4 million users in the US market alone, in hospitals and in private clinics.

The Innovation

A compact, personal stethoscope-head disinfecting device which the healthcare practitioner can wear on the shirt lapel, coat pocket or the stethoscope itself. The head of the stethoscope is returned to the device between every use. The device is pre-loaded with disinfectant which, upon return of the stethoscope in-between every patient exam, results in its automatic disinfection. A number of devices are possible with dispensing mechanisms including adhesive disposable pads, spray and roller.

R&D Program

- Develop a working prototype
- Establish proof of concept

Contact

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