

# Novel Strategies for Enhanced Removal of Persistent *Bacillus anthracis* Surrogates and *Clostridium difficile* Spores from Skin

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## Message:

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Removing spores of *C.difficile* and *B.anthraxis* from skin is challenging because they are resistant to commonly used antimicrobials and soap and water washing provides only modest efficacy.

## Methods:

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Hands of volunteers were inoculated with non-toxigenic *C.difficile* spores or *B.anthraxis* spore surrogates and then Vashe® hand scrubs were compared to soap and water scrubs. Similarly patient bed baths were used to compare reductions of the spores on patients using Vashe vs. soap and water baths.

## Results:

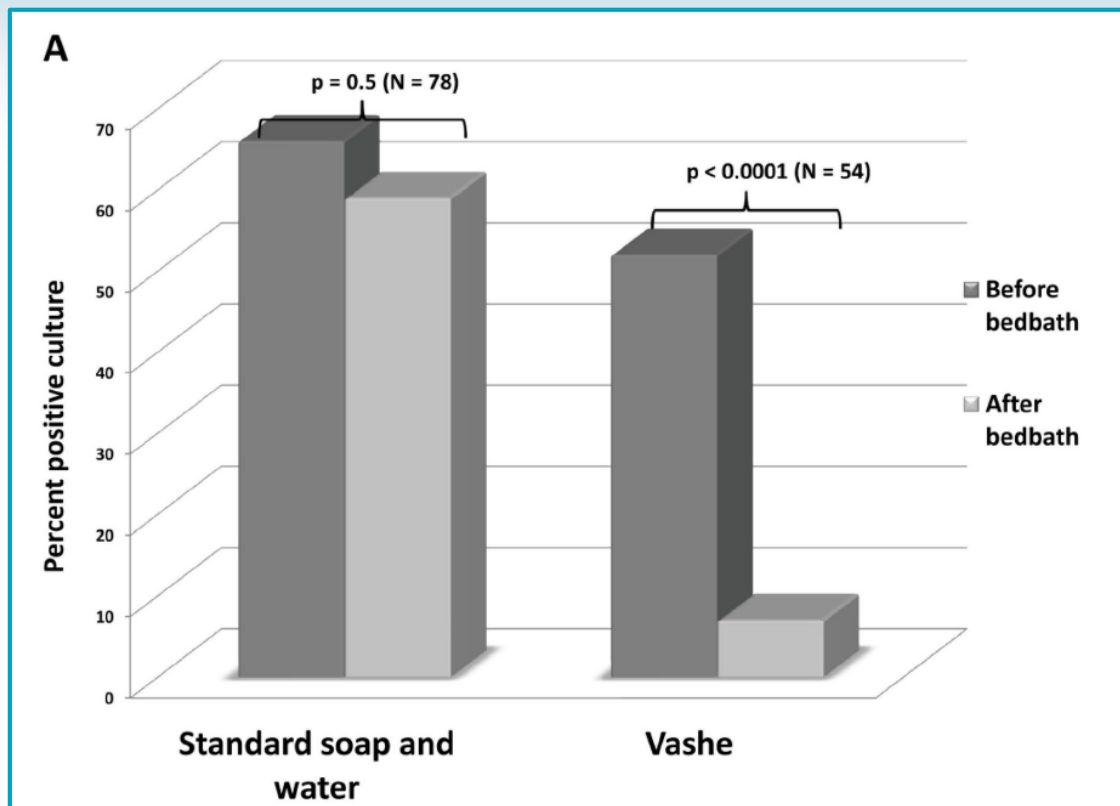
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Spore removal from hands was enhanced with Vashe vs. soap and water or alcohol wipes. Bed baths with Vashe significantly reduced skin contamination, whereas soap and water bed baths did not reduce the percentage of positive cultures.

## Conclusions:

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Vashe was safe and effective for reducing *C.difficile* spores and *B.anthraxis* surrogates on hands. Bed baths with Vashe were effective for reducing *C.difficile* on skin.



#### Author's References:

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