

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title: UV Robots Zap Hospital Germs / Date December 2015

Intro: A new government report this month says the rate of hospital-acquired infections has dropped 17% since 2010. Unfortunately, the rate held steady last year, and it’s estimated that 1 in 10 patients will still contract an infection while hospitalized in the U.S. Mayo Clinic has been testing a high-tech solution. Here’s Dennis Douda for the Mayo Clinic News Network.

Video

Audio

Est. Total running time [2:25]	/// NATS
Dennis Douda speaking	Mayo Clinic is shining a powerful new light on its efforts to reduce the risk of hospital acquired infections; Ultraviolet, or UV, devices that blast disease-causing microbes. Make no mistake; this room has already been thoroughly cleaned. It is a never-ending process in hospitals. Just disinfecting the patient rooms at Mayo’s facilities in Rochester, Minnesota is a major operation.
TITLE: Larry Nation, Mayo Clinic Environmental Services Director	“We’re talking just over three million square feet in the two hospital campuses, about 1244 rooms.”
Dennis Douda speaking	In spite of the best efforts, however, cases of hospital-acquired infections still cause troubling consequences.
TITLE: Dr. Priya Sampathkumar, Mayo Clinic Infection Control	“Makes hospital stays longer, patients feel worse, and sometimes they can die of these infections. There are approximately 900 patients dying of hospital-acquired infections each day in the United States.”
Dennis Douda speaking	One serious health care-associated infection is caused by bacteria called clostridium difficile, or c-diff. It can cause diarrhea, fever and severe gastrointestinal complications. Even with disinfectant use, its spores are very stubborn, capable of surviving on surfaces for months, which is why Mayo Clinic conducted a study of UV disinfection. Its ultraviolet-C wavelength of light can kill a wide variety of germs, and penetrate areas most cleaning techniques can’t reach.

Larry Nation speaking	“The surfaces that are hard to disinfect are those that have bumps, ridges, and indents, such as the TV remote, keyboards, and fabrics, textiles are very hard to disinfect.”
Dennis Douda speaking	After a 5-minute cycle on one side of the room, all such objects are flipped over for maximum exposure, then another cycle is run on the other side of the room. The results have been dramatic.
Dr. Sampathkumar speaking	“We tested this for about six months, and we were pretty surprised at how much difference this made. The C. difficile rates on the units treated with UV light had gone down by 30 percent. It did add about 25 minutes to the entire room turnaround process, but a C. difficile infection can result in three extra hospital days, so we figured the 25 minutes was a bargain.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Naturally, patient restrooms get a blast of UV light, as well. Mayo now has plans to deploy additional UV devices to other C. diff hotspots throughout its hospitals.
Larry Nation speaking	Well, we think these could be useful in many different places. We’re talking potentially in the OR’s after they’ve been cleaned - areas where patient care equipment is held in a clean storage room, that type of space.”
Dennis Douda speaking	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Dennis Douda.

Anchor tag: Mayo Clinic experts stress that the UV devices are just one part of a comprehensive strategy for preventing hospital acquired infections. Other efforts include rigorous hand hygiene for staff, patients and visitors. Additional disinfection solutions have been tested and patient rooms now feature wipe-able computer keyboards and disposable privacy curtains.

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