



PROJECT **FIRSTLINE** JOURNAL CLUB

Project Firstline's curated journal club series draws on published, open access research examining important infection control topics for the healthcare workforce. Use the discussion questions below or create your own. Please check [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest data and recommendations on infection control topics affecting the healthcare workforce.



Article:

[Outbreak of *Burkholderia stabilis* Infections Associated with Contaminated Nonsterile, Multiuse Ultrasound Gel — 10 States, May–September 2021](#)

Burkholderia cepacia complex (BCC) is a group of opportunistic germs that can cause infection in healthy people exposed to contaminated medical products. In 2021, a total of 119 BCC infections were associated with the use of non-sterile ultrasound gel contaminated with BCC organisms. Use of this contaminated gel before procedures that break the skin, like IV insertion, likely contributed to patient infections.



Discussion:

Understanding and analyzing the article:

- What is the purpose of this article? If provided, identify the main research questions and hypotheses.
- Who are the authors and what are their affiliations (who they work for or who funded the research) and credentials (degrees or professional experience)?
- Do any of the authors have affiliations that could influence the outcome of the study due to a conflict of interest?
- When was the article published, and is the information still timely and relevant to the topic? Why or why not?
- What background information is important to understanding this topic?
- What study design or research methods were used?
- What were the main findings of the paper and how do the authors support their interpretation of the findings?
- What are the strengths and limitations of this article?
- What main conclusions and calls to action are presented?

Continue the discussion:

- How should healthcare workers who perform ultrasounds and ultrasound-associated procedures be trained for the appropriate use of ultrasound gel?



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