



APUA

Five important updates in *C. difficile* infection (CDI) management

Consumers and Patients

A Quick Reference Sheet from The Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics

1. A new U.S. CDC study found that 75% of patients admitted to a hospital or nursing home were already colonized with *C. difficile* at the time of admission. This knowledge has important ramifications for infection control practices.
2. Fidaxomicin is now the second drug approved by the U.S. FDA for the treatment of CDI. While it may be relatively costly, it has global cure rates superior to those of vancomycin.
3. Doctors in the Netherlands have trained a beagle to detect CDI based on the odor of *p*-cresol, the phenolic compound that is thought to be associated with *C. difficile*. The beagle's performance in the trial was near perfect.
4. Surgeons at the University of Pittsburgh have reported a new surgical approach to treating severe *C. difficile* infection, called "diverting loop ileostomy with colonic vancomycin lavage," which has lower mortality rates than the standard colectomy procedure.
5. Stool transplants for patients with multiple relapses of CDI are becoming more widely accepted, thanks to more research and relaxed FDA requirements.

These updates were adapted from Dr. John G. Bartlett's 8/26/13 article on Medscape.com.



For more information, visit the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA): www.apua.org

*The elderly and people with prolonged use of antibiotics are at greater risk for contagious *C. difficile* infections*

What is *Clostridium difficile*?

Clostridium difficile, also known as *C. difficile*, is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and serious intestinal inflammation, such as colitis or gastroenteritis. It can also lead to sepsis and death (rare).



Established in 1981, The Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA)® is a non-governmental organization fighting to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobials.