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Microbial patient and operating room personnel sampling and culture evaluation of an ambulatory ophthalmological unit: A novel protocol

Chatzilaou Georgios, MD ¹

A.John Kanellopoulos, MD ^{1,2}

George Asimellis, Ph.D ¹

1: Laservision.gr Eye Institute, Athens, Greece

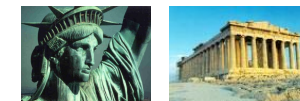
2: NYU Medical School, New York, NY

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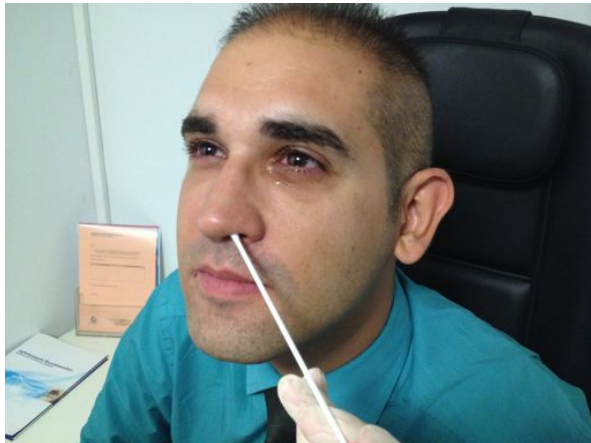
Kanellopoulos, MD
www.brilliantvision.com

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Introduction:

- To evaluate an elaborative, novel protocol of personnel and patients nasal and conjunctival mucosa sampling in a modern ophthalmological ambulatory surgical center.



Methods:

- All operating room personnel including : Surgeons, nurses, technicians and physician assistants were sampled with swab smears of the nasal and conjunctival mucosa.
- 122 consecutive patients were also sampled with swab smears of the nasal and conjunctival mucosa, prior to any ophthalmic drop, administration and sterility measures.
- All cultures were analyzed and processed in a specialized microbiology laboratory.



Swab smear for Nasal and Conjunctival Sampling



Results:

- Surgeon Nasal and Conjunctival cultures showed: Staphylococcus epidermidis.
- Nurse and Technician Nasal cultures showed : Staphylococcus epidermidis and logdunensis, while the Conjunctival cultures was negative.
- Patients Nasal cultures showed: 13% Staphylococcus epidermidis, 7% Staphylococcus hominis, 7 % Staphylococcus aureus, while the Conjunctival cultures showed: 20% Staphylococcus epidermidis and 7% Staphylococcus hominis.



Conclusions

This novel elaborative microbial monitoring system of an ambulatory operating unit provided detailed data, of not only the classification and the population of microbes, but their exact origin.

This information may caution clinicians on ongoing disinfecting techniques and methods, as well as in planning appropriate antimicrobial prophylaxis for prospective patients.

