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A study conducted by Singh, et al., acknowledges other studies pointing to stethoscopes, electronic thermometers and otoscopes as potential vectors of nosocomial infections. One study demonstrated the transfer of *Micrococcus luteus* from inoculated stethoscopes to skin and suggested that other bacteria could be transferred in this manner.²³⁻²⁴ Another study revealed that staphylococcal species were isolated from 21 percent of stethoscopes in a hospital setting.²⁵

It has been documented that 22 percent of HCWs cleaned their stethoscopes regularly.²⁶ This study was conducted in a 450-bed general hospital to evaluate the bacterial contamination of stethoscopes, determine bacterial survival on stethoscope membranes and study the efficacy of 70 percent alcohol or liquid soap for membrane disinfection. Among the 355 stethoscopes tested, 234 carried at least two different bacterial species and 31 carried potentially pathogenic bacteria. Although some bacteria deposited onto membranes could survive 6 to 18 hours, none survived after disinfection.