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Doctors play roulette with infectious diseases

by Nishay Chitkara

Dr. John Swartzberg, a consultant for control of infectious diseases at Alta Bates Medical Center, says that AIDS consciousness has "changed dramatically the way patients are approached [in that it has been] the main force in the development of universal precautions" for all health care workers. **Some protective measures include such special techniques as washing one's hands after all contacts, wiping off one's stethoscope,** putting sharps and needles in sharps containers instead of leaving them out on trays, and wearing a gown and gloves whenever one comes into contact with infected secretions.