

Evaluation of Bacterial Contamination of Old and New Indian Paper Currency Notes

Dilip S. Gedam, Ashwini S. Pisey, Poonam Chandrakant Sayare, Nitin A. Ambhore, Rajesh P Karyakarte, Divya Shekokar

Dr. Ashwini S. Pisey, Department of Microbiology, Govt Medical College, Akola, Maharashtra, 444001, email: ashwinipisey@gmail.com

Abstract

Background: Currency is widely exchanged for goods and services. It gets contaminated during handling. Contaminated currencies might act as fomites, playing an important role in the transmission of microorganisms. Since no level of contamination can be regarded as safe, this study was focused on bacterial contaminants of paper currency of India.

Objectives: The present study was conducted to isolate and identify microorganisms contaminating old and new currency notes. **Methods:** This study was conducted in Department of Microbiology, GMC Akola from 10th November 2016 to 25th December 2016. A total of 400 Indian currency notes were screened for bacteriological contamination. Dividing the notes into two groups new and old, contamination was noted accordingly.

Results: Of total 400 screened currency notes, 200 were new and 200 were old. 91.5% of old notes whereas 28% of new notes were found to be contaminated. A total 448 isolates were identified. Of the all isolates of old notes, majority (22.95%) were Coagulase negative Staphylococcus spp (CONS). While in new currency Micrococcus (64.29%) was found predominant. **Conclusion:** Money which is responsible for solving health problems can turn out to be as a cause of creating health problem. Therefore, public education on proper handling also cashless or electronic money transaction should be initiated to avoid such public hazards.