

ABSTRACT

DERMAL TOLERABILITY USING AN ALCOHOL-FREE HAND SANITIZER AND AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER

In the hospital setting, handwashing practices include the use of antimicrobial soaps, and more recently, the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Although alcohol is an effective antiseptic, it has the ability to remove the naturally occurring oils from the skin when it is used as an antiseptic on the hands. Skin irritation, including redness, dryness, cracking, and pain have been observed by healthcare workers after repeated use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers. This study compared the dermal tolerability on the hands when using an alcohol-free hand sanitizer and an alcohol-based hand sanitizer multiple times. The subjects were instructed to follow a particular sequence of handwashing. The researcher used the Dermal Tolerability Scale to rate any amount of skin irritation visible on each subject's hands. The results showed that the alcohol-based hand sanitizer caused more irritation to the tissue of the hands compared to the alcohol-free hand sanitizer.

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