Coagulase-negative Staphylococci Series

Series of three webinars
Register for any program or save $60 when you register for the series!

CoNS: How Far Should We Go with Identifications?
October 6, 2015 • 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET
Registration Deadline: October 4, 2015

DESCRIPTION
Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS) are one of the most common groups of organisms encountered in diagnostic specimens submitted to the bacteriology laboratory. It is often difficult to determine if isolation of CoNS is clinically significant or likely to represent contaminating skin flora. And if deemed clinically significant, it is often difficult to determine if species identification is indicated or if reporting “CoNS” is sufficient. This program will focus on strategies for identifying and reporting CoNS and also molecular and other methods available to obtain a species identification.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of the program, the participant will be able to:
- Outline strategies for working up CoNS in various types of diagnostic specimens.
- Discuss options available for and reliability of phenotypic and molecular methods for ID of CoNS.

FACULTY
Lars F. Westblade, PhD, D(ABMM), Clinical Microbiologist/Immunologist, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

CoNS: Practical Considerations for AST and Reporting
October 13, 2015 • 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET
Registration Deadline: October 11, 2015

DESCRIPTION
Susceptibility testing of CoNS is relatively straightforward. However, interpreting and reporting AST results can be challenging. In addition, the value of susceptibility testing of CoNS may be questioned since vancomycin is commonly prescribed for almost all serious CoNS infections and almost all CoNS are vancomycin susceptible. Current recommendations for AST of CoNS will be discussed in this session with particular emphasis on application of species-specific testing and reporting rules and indications for testing newer antimicrobial agents and incidence of resistance to agents commonly used for treatment of CoNS infections.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of the program, the participant will be able to:
- Discuss the latest recommendations for AST and reporting of CoNS.
- List indications for reporting various agents on CoNS depending on species identification and specimen source.

FACULTY
Janet A. Hindler, MCLS, MT(ASCP), Sr. Specialist, Clinical Microbiology, UCLA Health System, Los Angeles, CA

CoNS: Managing Infections
October 20, 2015 • 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET
Registration Deadline: October 18, 2015

DESCRIPTION
It is often challenging for clinicians to determine if a patient is colonized or infected when CoNS are isolated from diagnostic specimens. A species identification may be useful but sometimes a species identification could be misleading. A clinician will discuss evaluating laboratory reports of CoNS (with or without species identification) and management of patients with CoNS infections. The goals of this and the other two sessions in this series are to help labs minimize both over or under reporting of CoNS (and corresponding AST results) to avert inappropriate patient management.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of the program, the participant will be able to:
- List the most common types of infections caused by CoNS and discuss the management of patients with CoNS infections.
- Discuss the value of species ID of CoNS as related to patient management.

FACULTY
Colleen S. Kraft, MD, Assistant Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases, Medical Director, Microbiology Laboratory, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
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AUDIENCE
These intermediate-level programs are appropriate for laboratory professionals working in clinical, reference, public health and academic settings.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program. Participants who successfully complete each program will be awarded 1.0 contact hours. P.A.C.E.® is accepted by all licensure states except Florida. APHL is a Florida and CPH-recertification approved CE provider; each course has been approved for 1.0 contact hours.

REGISTRATION REGISTER NOW FOR THE SERIES!
• Registration fee per site (for one phone line):
  • CoNS Series (three webinars) • $285 - Series includes one connection to each live program with unlimited attendance (and CEUs) for everyone AND unlimited access (and CEUs) to the archive program for 6 months
  • Single webinar from the CoNS Series: $115 - includes one connection to the live program with unlimited attendance (and CEUs) for everyone AND unlimited access (and CEUs) to the archive program for 6 months
• Site facilitator must register online at www.aphl.org/courses/pages/588-991-15.aspx.
  Having difficulty with the online registration process? Please email registrar@aphl.org or call 240.485.2727 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM ET.
• After your facility’s registration is confirmed, the site facilitator will receive all necessary instructions and paperwork via email.
• For program content information, please email webinar@aphl.org