

## WHITE PAPER

# CLOSED INFUSION SYSTEMS INCLUDING ECOFLAC® PLUS IV CONTAINER PREVENT MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION

*In vitro* study validating the microbial barrier function of closed infusion systems against microbial touch- and airborne contamination

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) are a major problem for healthcare systems as they contribute to increased morbidity and mortality in hospitalised patients. Each year, HAIs affect millions of patients worldwide.<sup>1, 2</sup>

Infusion systems are widely used in daily clinical practice. Their major goals are the protection of healthcare workers against exposure to infectious agents and potentially harmful drugs, as well as the protection of patients from microbial contamination.

Infusion systems are typically expected to be closed systems. The definition of a closed system should take into account the following aspects:

- microbial aspect (preventing unfiltered air or microbial contaminant transfer into the system)
- chemical aspect (preventing the escape of a drug out of the system)
- blood aspect (preventing the escape of blood out of the system)

With respect to infection by transmission, the most clinically relevant pathways are direct contact and airborne transmission. Therefore, the microbial barrier function of infusion systems is an important aspect to consider in terms of preventing microbial ingress and nosocomial infections.

#### **PURPOSE**

The aim of this study was to investigate a complete infusion device as a closed system, in order to confirm the microbial barrier effectiveness of the connections found on a typical infusion system (B. Braun's infusion system including Ecoflac® plus IV container) that are subject to microbial exposure (touch and airborne contamination).

#### **METHODS**

For testing, a completely assembled infusion system with Ecoflac® plus IV container was used (Figure 1).

Two test scenarios were investigated:

touch contamination of Ecoflac® plus IV container connection sites by pressing them onto a
contaminated textile, using a defined artificial microbial contamination (gram-positive Staphylococcus
epidermidis, gram-negative Escherichia coli and the yeast Candida albicans), followed by wipe
disinfection

• airborne contamination of Ecoflac® plus IV container connection sites in an aerosol chamber with a defined microbial aerosol (gram-positive Staphylococcus epidermidis, gram-negative Escherichia coli and the yeast Candida albicans), followed by wipe disinfection

In both scenarios, the infusion solution was administered by gravity flow. In a second step, the infusion solution was collected, centrifuged and analysed for bacterial contamination. All tests were performed 5 times, using new materials for each single experiment. An infusion system including Ecoflac® plus IV container without disinfection was used as a positive control, and a pre-assembled infusion system including Ecoflac® plus IV container was used as a negative control.

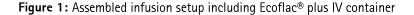
#### **RESULTS**

No microbial contamination was detected in any of the five Ecoflac® plus IV containers tested (touch/contamination). For the positive controls, living organisms were recovered (Figure 2).

#### CONCLUSION

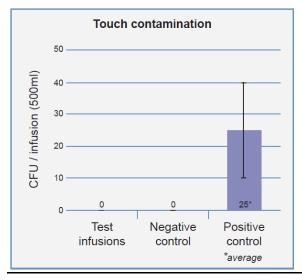
The presented data demonstrates that the applied test methods are suitable for investigating the microbial barrier effectiveness of infusion system components such as Ecoflac® plus IV container, as well as of the complete infusion systems. The presence of microbes on the Ecoflac® plus IV container connection sites after the artificial contamination does not necessarily result in their transmission into the extension set or infusion system, but the data proves that handling the extension set/system without disinfecting the connection sites can result in transmission of microorganisms into the extension set/system. Once transmission has occurred, the microorganisms may enter the patient's body and can be the initial stage of an infection.

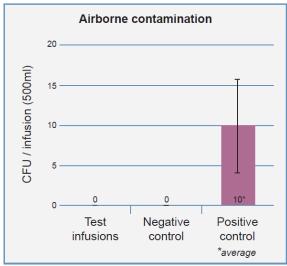
The applied methods demonstrate that the infusion system components tested – such as Ecoflac® plus IV container – act as an antimicrobial barrier when used and disinfected according to instructions and guidelines.





**Figure 2:** Number of microorganisms (colony forming units per 500 ml) isolated from the drained infusion solution after artificial contamination of the Ecoflac<sup>®</sup> plus IV container connection sites (touch/airborne; n=5), wipe disinfection and assembly of the infusion system.





### **REFERENCES**

- [1] Allegranzi B, Bagheri Nejad S, Combescure C et al. Burden of endemic health-care-associated infection in developing countries: systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet 2011;377:228–41
- [2] Bagheri Nejad S, Allegranzi B, Syed SB, Ellis B, Pittet D. Health-care-associated infection in Africa: a systematic review. Bull World Health Organ 2011;89:757–65

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