

# Preventing Surgical Site Infections

Deverick J. Anderson, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor of Medicine

# Disclosures

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- Royalties from UpToDate, Online

# Outline

- Impact of SSI
- Surveillance for SSIs
- Strategies for Prevention
  - Compendium recommendations
  - Special strategies
- Implementation
- Rates and reporting

# Impact of SSI

- SSIs are the most common and most costly HAI
- An estimated 16 million operations were performed in acute care hospitals in 2010
- Prevalence
  - 2-5% of surgical patients develop an SSI
  - ~160,000-300,000 SSIs per year in US
  - SSI is now the most common and costly HAI
- Impact
  - Each SSI results in 7-11 additional hospital days
  - Patients with SSI have a 2-11 times higher risk of death
  - 77% of deaths among patients with SSI are directly due to SSI
  - Cost (2007 dollars): \$3.5 to \$10 billion annually

# Surveillance

- Direct vs. indirect methods
  - Indirect method reliable (sensitivity, 84%-89%) and specific (specificity, 99.8%) compared with direct surveillance
- Indirect combines
  - Review of microbiology reports and patient medical records
  - Screening for readmission and/or return to the operating room
  - Other information, such as coded diagnoses, coded procedures, operative reports, or antimicrobials ordered
  - Surgeon and/or patient surveys

# Surveillance - Electronic Data Helps

- Strategy 1 - antibiotics and readmissions
  - Improve the sensitivity and reduce effort
- Strategy 2 - diagnosis codes
  - Medicare claims data can be used to enhance traditional surveillance methods for SSI and to identify hospitals with unusually high or low rates of SSI

# Surveillance - Post-Discharge

- Important for internal review
- Not useful for hospital comparisons

# Rates and Reporting

- Rate
  - Number of infections/100 procedures
- SIR - Standardized Infection Ratio
  - Number of observed infections/number of expected infections
    - >1 is bad
- Methods for risk adjustment exist, but are not very good



# Example

- SSI following colon=10
  - Number of procedures=250
- NHSN says rate of colon SSI=2.0
  - So expected number of SSIs for 250 procedures would be 5 (5/250=2 SSI/100 procedures)
- $SIR = 10/5 = 2$

SHEA/IDSA PRACTICE RECOMMENDATION

## Strategies to Prevent Surgical Site Infections in Acute Care Hospitals: 2014 Update

Deverick J. Anderson, MD, MPH;<sup>1</sup> Kelly Podgorny, DNP, MS, RN;<sup>2</sup> Sandra I. Berríos-Torres, MD;<sup>3</sup>  
Dale W. Bratzler, DO, MPH;<sup>4</sup> E. Patchen Dellinger, MD;<sup>5</sup> Linda Greene, RN, MPS, CIC;<sup>6</sup>  
Ann-Christine Nyquist, MD, MSPH;<sup>7</sup> Lisa Saiman, MD, MPH;<sup>8</sup> Deborah S. Yokoe, MD, MPH;<sup>9</sup>  
Lisa L. Maragakis, MD, MPH;<sup>10</sup> Keith S. Kaye, MD, MPH<sup>11</sup>

### PURPOSE

Previously published guidelines are available that provide comprehensive recommendations for detecting and preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). The intent of this document is to highlight practical recommendations in a concise format designed to assist acute care hospitals in implementing

ventable by using evidence-based guidelines.<sup>10,11</sup>

- B. SSIs account for 20% of all HAIs in hospitalized patients.<sup>12</sup>
- C. Each SSI is associated with approximately 7–11 additional postoperative hospital-days.<sup>3,9,13,14</sup>
- D. Patients with an SSI have a 2–11-times higher risk of



# Most Recent Update

- Compendium documents originally published in 2008
- Reconvened and diversified writing group to update (inclusion of surgeons!)
- 6 sections
  - Rationale
  - Strategies
  - Performance measures
  - Detection
  - Recommendations
  - Implementation

# What's New?

- Modification of grading of evidence
- Expansion of recommendations
  - 15 Basic Practices
  - 5 Special Approaches
  - 4 Don't Dos
  - 4 Unresolved Issues
- Addition of the section on implementation

# Other Recent Guidelines

- WHO - 2016
- ACS - 2016
- Minor differences

# Basic Practices - SCIP

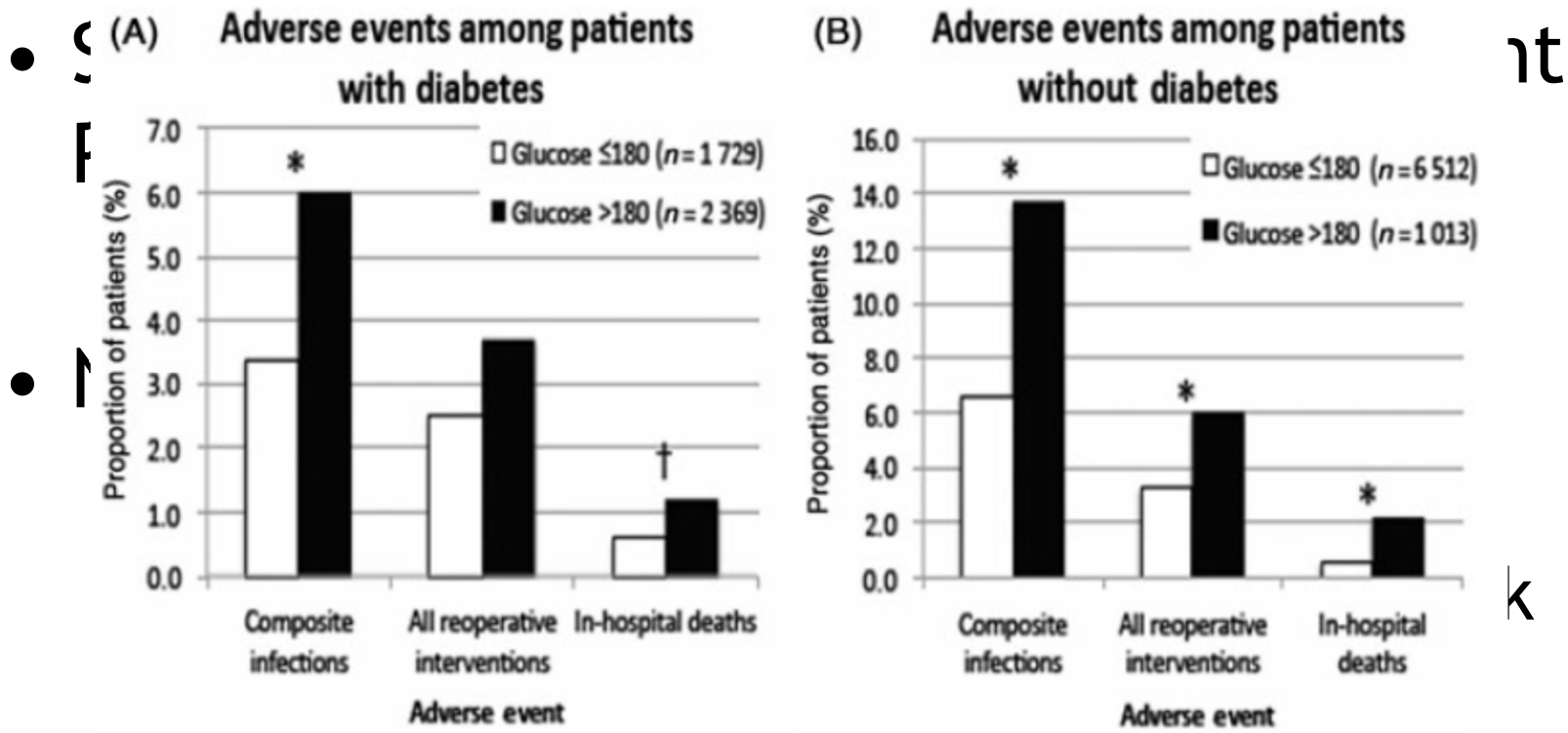
- Dose
- Timing
- Discontinuation
- No shaving
- Post-op glucose control
  - 180 mg/dL
  - Cardiac and non-cardiac
  - 18-24 hours after end of anesthesia
- Normothermia

# Post-op Glycemic Control

- Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program in Washington State
  - 11,633 patients (57% colorectal)
- Notes
  - 25% had glucose > 180
  - Hyperglycemia = 2-fold increase in SSI risk
    - Adjusted



# Post-op Glycemic Control





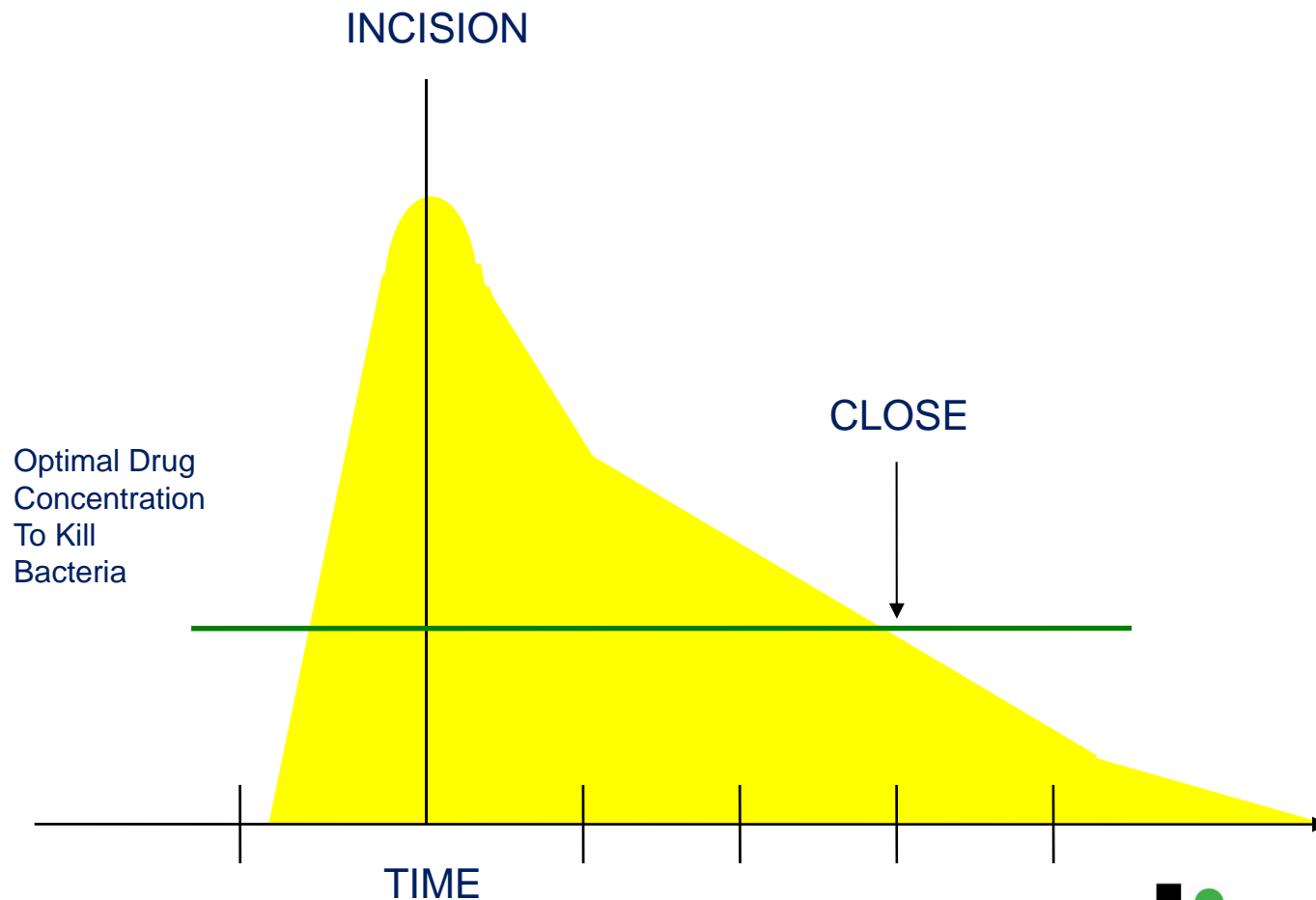
# How?

- RCT of basal-bolus insulin vs. SS insulin
  - 211 general surgery patients with diabetes
- Results
  - 3.4-fold decrease in composite outcome
    - SSI, pneumonia, BSI, resp/renal failure
  - Average post-op glucose 145 v. 172 ( $p < 0.01$ )
  - No statistically significant difference in patients with  $BG < 40$ , but close (4 v. 0,  $p = 0.06$ )

# Basic Practices - Build on SCIP

- Weight-based dosing
- Redosing of prophylactic antibiotics for prolonged procedures
- Bowel prep

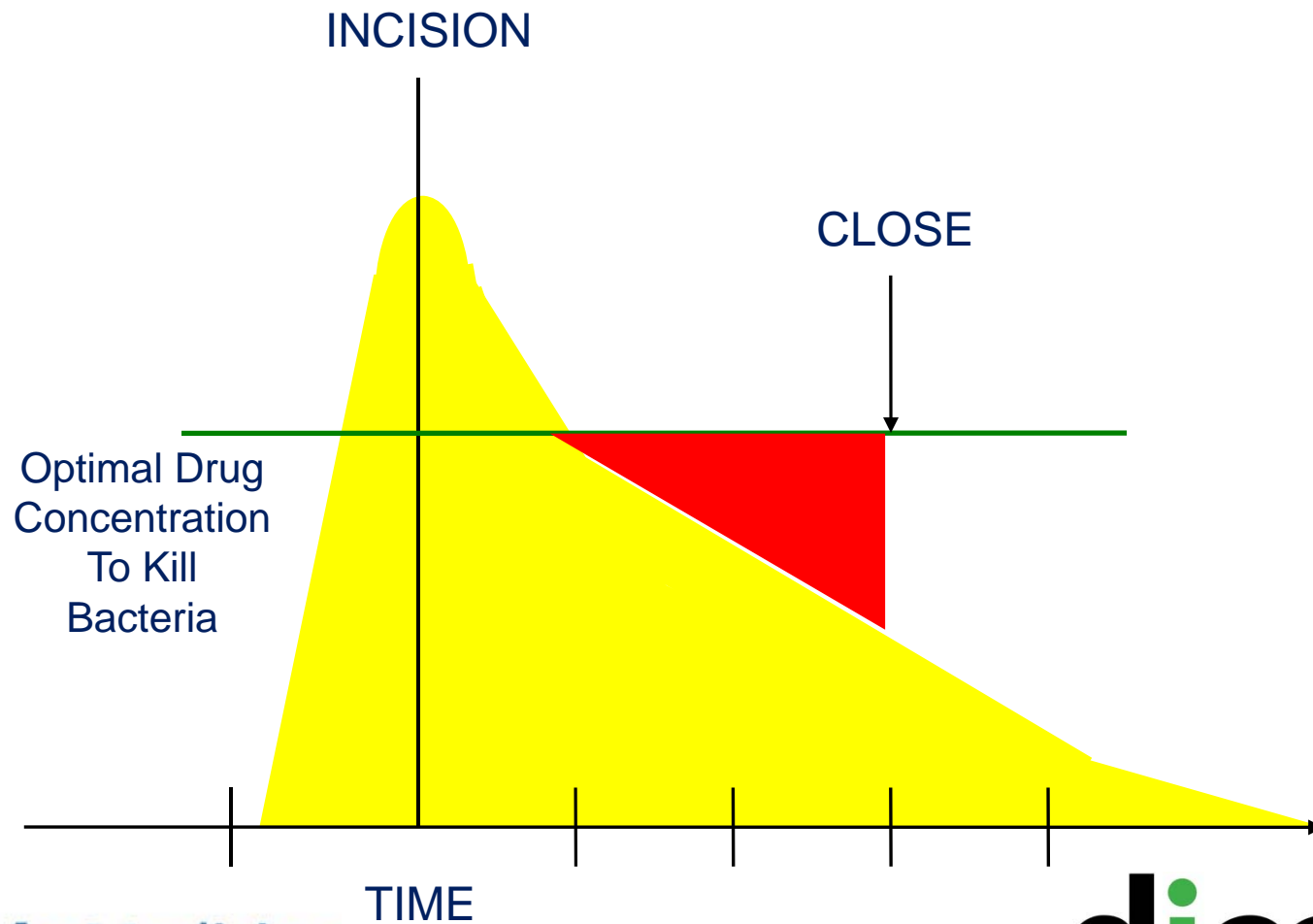
# Prophylaxis: Ideal Scenario



# Obesity and Surgical Duration

- Both significantly impact antibiotic levels in tissue
- Obesity is a risk factor for SSI
- Prolonged surgical duration is risk factor for SSI

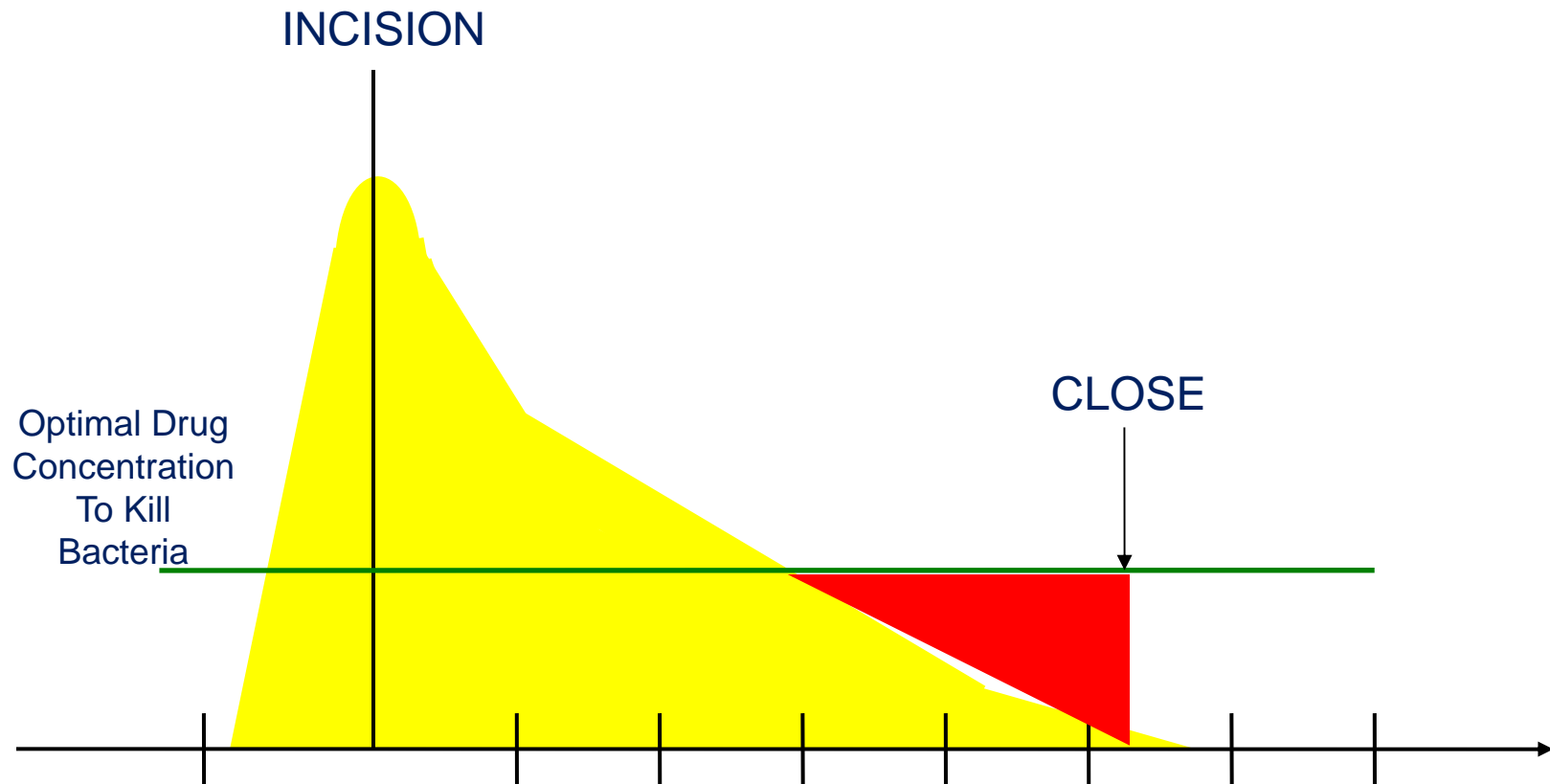
# Prophylaxis: Obesity



# Impact of Increasing Dose

- Trial comparing 1g cefazolin v. 2g cefazolin among obese patients undergoing bariatric surgery
- Baseline rates of infection
  - 16.5/100 in obese
  - 2.5/100 in non-obese (undergoing other clean-contaminated surgery)
- Tissue and serum concentrations were lower in patients who received 1g ( $p < 0.0001$ )
- Rate decreased to 5.6/100 procedures in obese patients

# Prophylaxis: Long Procedure



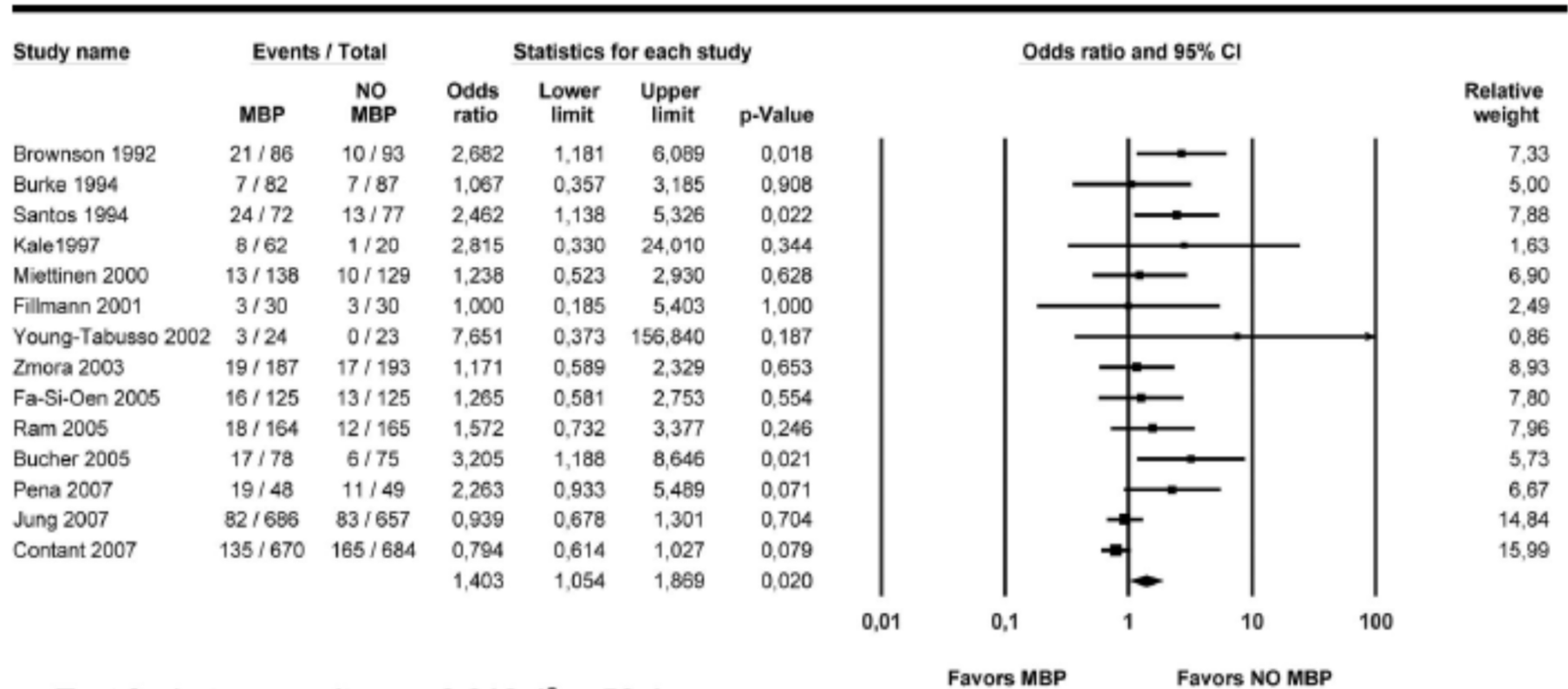
# Re-Dosing: Data Show it Works

- Review of published literature
- Analysis of 801 patients undergoing clean-contaminated operations:
  - 1g cefazolin
  - 1g cefazolin + 1g 3 hours later
- If procedure > 3 hours, then rate of SSI reduced from 6.1 to 1.3

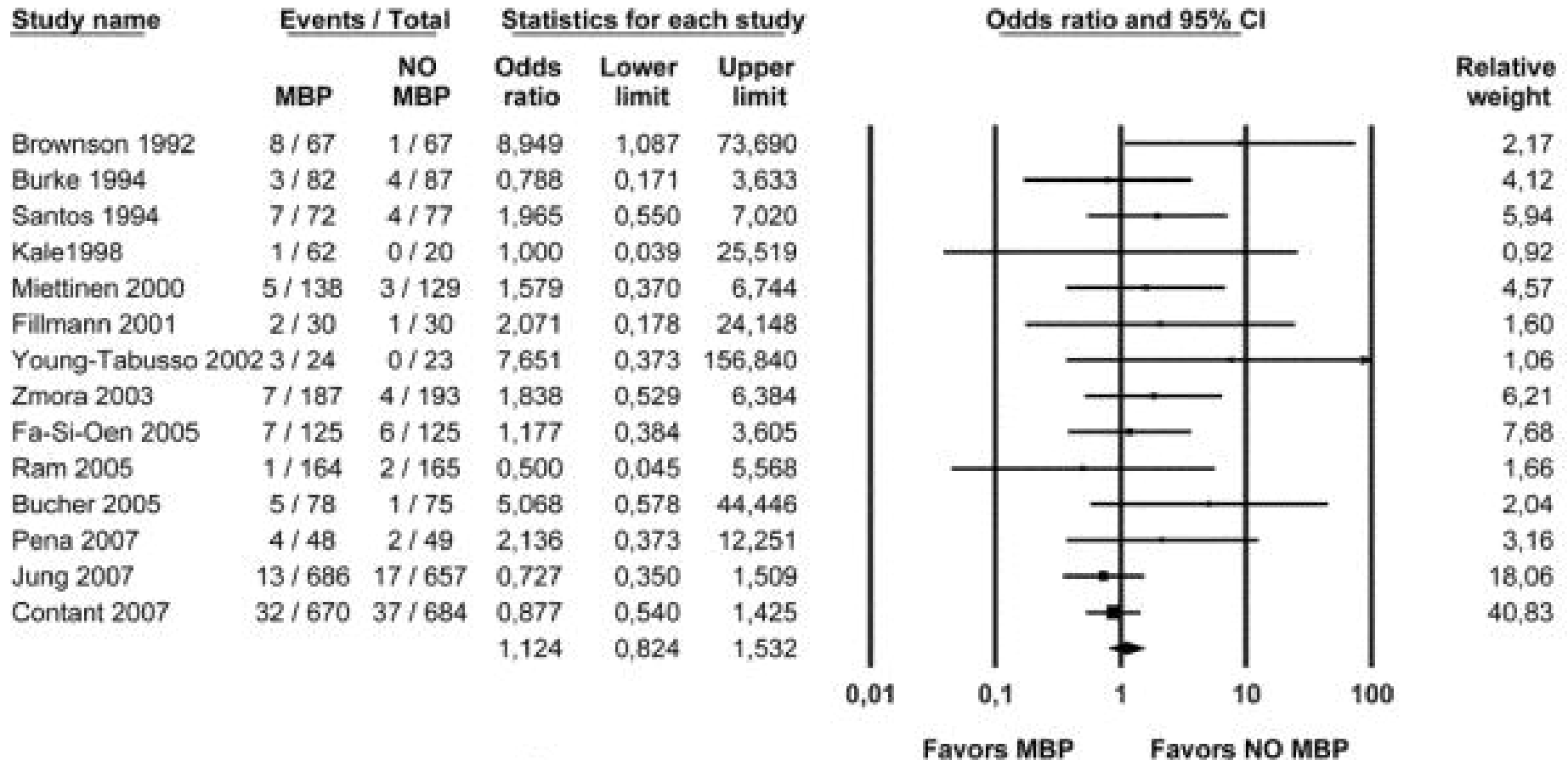




# MBP (no PO abx) and SSI



# MBP and Harm? Anastamotic Leak



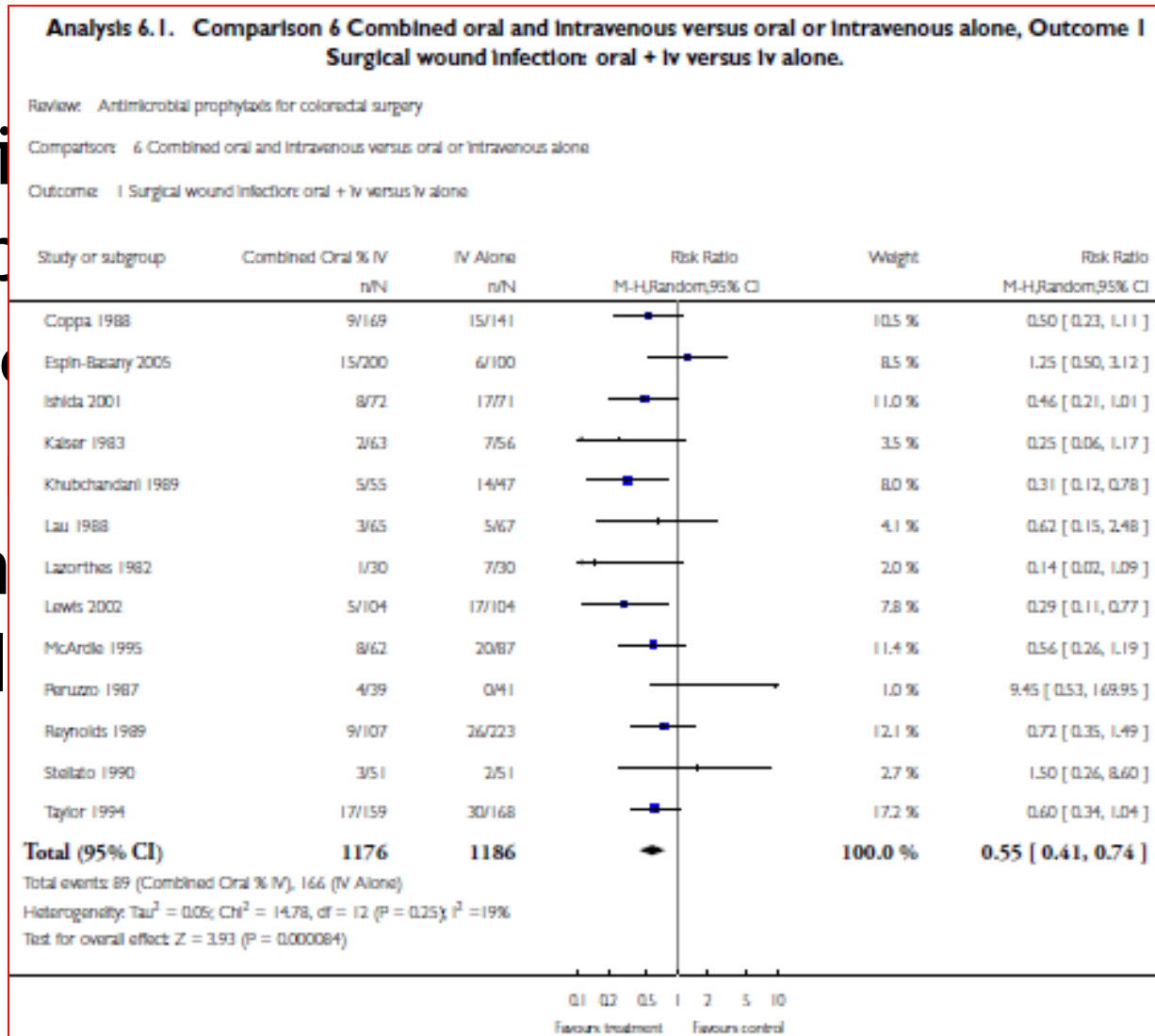
Test for heterogeneity  $p = 0.492, I^2 = 0$

# Oral + IV Antibiotics?

- Reviewed 182 RCTs comparing different prophylactic regimens
  - Elective and emergency procedures included
- 13 trials met criteria to compare combined oral and intravenous antibiotic vs. IV alone

# Oral + IV Antibiotics?

- Review of prophylaxis - Efficacy
- 13 trials compared oral + IV vs. IV alone



• Treatment

• Included

• Antibiotic

# Basic Practices - Beyond SCIP

- Oxygenation
- Skin prep
- Use of plastic wound protectors
- WHO checklist

# Oxygen and SSI: Basic Science

- $O_2$  is important for wound healing
- $O_2$  correlated with collagen deposition
- Tissue hypoxia is a risk factor for wound infection and dehiscence
- Superoxide production by leukocytes proportional to  $P_{O_2}$
- Many antibiotics require oxygen to exert lethal effects on bacteria



DukeMedicine

Hunt and Pai. *Surg Gynecol Obstet.* 1972;135:561-7.

Hartmann et al. *Eur J Surg.* 1992;158:521-6.

Hopf et al. *Arch Surg.* 1997;132:997-1004.

Allen et al. *Arch Surg* 1997;132:997-1005. Kohanski et al. *Cell* 2007;130:797-810.

dicon

DUKE  
INFECTION  
CONTROL  
OUTREACH  
NETWORK

# High Inspired O<sub>2</sub> Fraction

- Several studies have compared FiO<sub>2</sub> of 80% vs. 30%
- 5 RCTs
  - Mayzler (2005; Minerva Anesthesiol)
    - n=38; colorectal procedure for metastatic dz;
  - Pryor (2004; JAMA)
    - n=160; major abd surgery; SSI rate 2-fold higher in intervention group; high rates of obesity; SSI in 14d
  - Belda (2005; JAMA)
    - n=291; elective colorectal; O<sub>2</sub> for 6 hours; SSI in 14d
  - Greif (2000; NEJM)
    - n=500; elective colorectal; SSI in 15d
  - Myles (2007; Anesthesiology)
    - n=2002; non-CT surgery; SSI in 30d

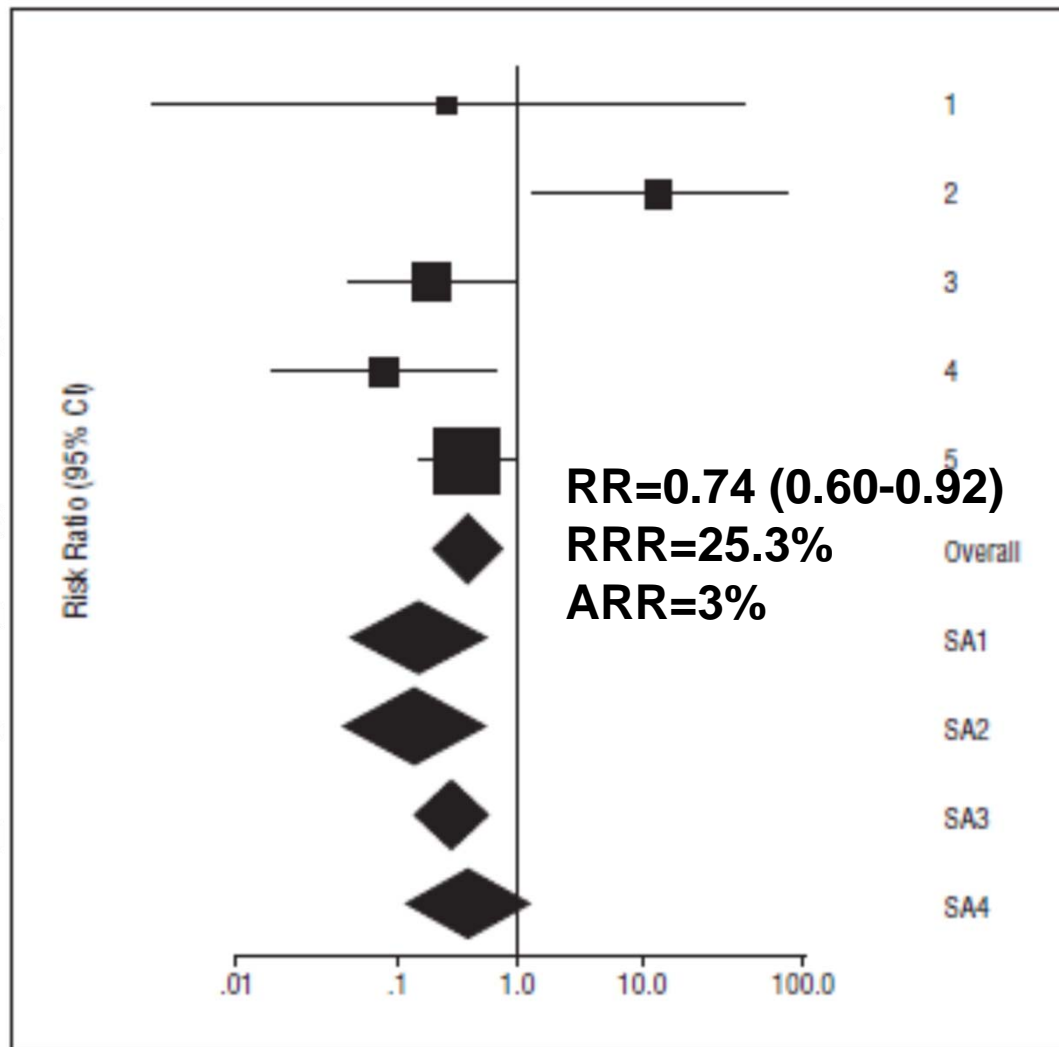
# High Inspired O<sub>2</sub> Fraction

- Recent meta-analysis reviewed 5 RCTs
  - Variation in methods noted
    - 3 included nitrous oxide mixture
    - 1 provided O<sub>2</sub> for 6 hours
    - 3 colorectal
    - Antibiotic prophylaxis not controlled for in all
- By fixed-effects method, data supports use of 80% FiO<sub>2</sub> for prevention of SSI



# High Inspired O<sub>2</sub> Fraction

- Received
- Variable
- 3
- 1
- 3
- A
- By fixed use of



RCTs

or in all  
ports  
SSI

# Harm?

- PROXI Trial
  - n=1400 patients undergoing acute or elective laparotomy
  - Randomized to 80% v. 30% FiO<sub>2</sub>
  - SSI dx in 14 days
- No difference in rates of SSI for two groups
  - Approx 20% for each group
  - Adjusted RR=0.91 (0.69 to 1.20)
- No difference in adverse outcomes between two groups

# Harm?

- PROXI Trial recently published

n = 1,400 patients undergoing acute or elective

Characteristic	80% Oxygen (n = 685)	30% Oxygen (n = 701)
Surgical procedure, No. (%)		
Colorectal procedures	303 (44.2)	330 (47.1)
Gynecological procedures	139 (20.3)	129 (18.4)
Small-bowel surgery	78 (11.4)	80 (11.4)
Appendectomy	61 (8.9)	63 (9.0)
Other <sup>b</sup>	104 (15.2)	99 (14.1)
Receiving adequate antibiotic prophylaxis, No. (%)	580 (84.7)	589 (84.0)
Receiving timely antibiotic prophylaxis, No. (%) <sup>e</sup>	432 (66.8)	448 (68.1)

- No difference in adverse outcomes between two groups

# Harm?

		80% Oxygen (n = 685)	30% Oxygen (n = 701)	
• PROXI Trial n = 1,400 patients	Adverse Event			
	Any	361 (52.7)	369 (52.6)	
Charac	Wound-related	61 (8.9)	77 (11.0)	
	Infection			30% Oxygen (n = 701)
Surgical procedure, No. (%)	Urinary tract	23 (3.4)	34 (4.9)	
	Other	79 (11.5)	83 (11.8)	
Colorectal procedures	Postoperative nausea or vomiting	136 (19.9)	135 (19.3)	330 (47.1)
Gynecological procedures				129 (18.4)
Small-bowel surgery	Respiratory	63 (9.2)	57 (8.1)	80 (11.4)
Appendectomy	Circulatory	57 (8.3)	67 (9.6)	63 (9.0)
Other <sup>b</sup>	Gastrointestinal tract	61 (8.9)	62 (8.8)	99 (14.1)
Receiving adequate antibiotic prophylaxis	Other	150 (21.9)	152 (21.7)	589 (84.0)
Receiving timely antibiotic prophylaxis	Any serious adverse event	165 (24.1)	154 (22.0)	448 (68.1)
• No difference between two groups	Sepsis	21 (3.1)	15 (2.1)	
	Other infection	29 (4.2)	34 (4.9)	between
	Respiratory	27 (3.9)	25 (3.6)	
	Circulatory	24 (3.5)	20 (2.9)	
	Gastrointestinal tract	53 (7.7)	46 (6.5)	
	Other	47 (6.9)	44 (6.3)	

# Skin Prep

- Use alcohol-containing skin prep (when possible)
- Add a disinfectant, but choice is unclear based on published data
- More to be said on this topic later...

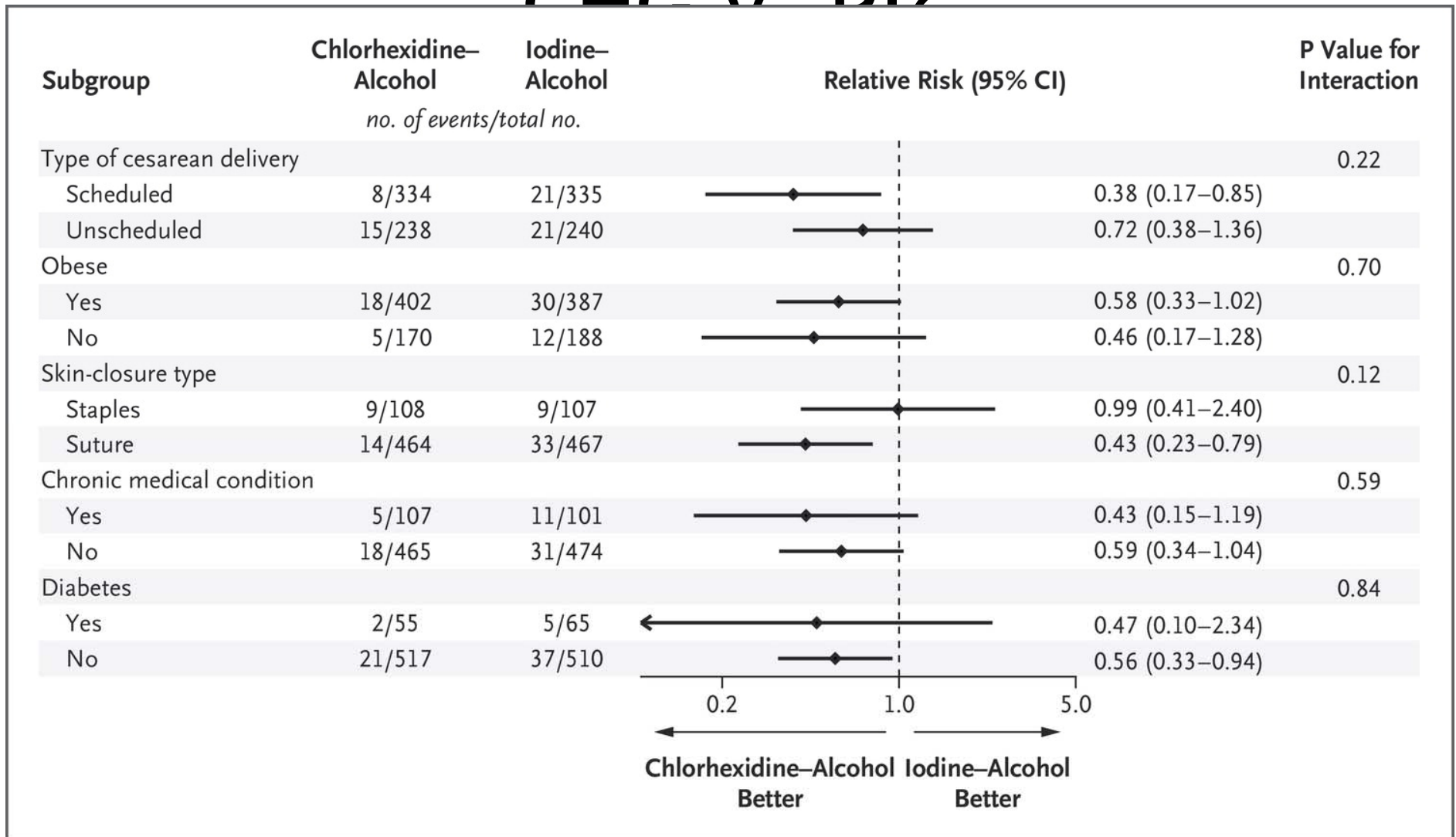
# CHG Uses in Infection Control

<i>Application</i>	<i>Evidence</i>
Skin antisepsis	
CVC site preparation	50% better than povidone-iodine (catheter colonization)
Surgical hand scrub	86-92% reduction in flora
Source control in ICUs	Reduction in skin flora; reduce risk of CLABSI 6-fold
Preoperative scrub	Superior to other antiseptics in reducing skin flora at surgical site
Impregnated devices	
Vascular catheter dressings	Reduction in catheter colonization (40-50%); decrease rate of CLABSI
Vascular catheters	Reduction in catheter colonization (55%); in BSI (40%) in high-risk groups

# CHG v. PI?

- Finally, RCT comparing CHG-ETOH vs. PI-ETOH
- 1,147 women undergoing CSEC
- Rate of SSI lower with CHG/EtOH (p=0.02)
  - CHG/EtOH - SSI rate=3.0
  - PI/EtOH - SSI rate=4.9

# CIC v. DI2





# FDA Warning: CHG

- FDA released a Safety Communication warning about potential for rare but serious allergic reactions to CHG
- Data
  - 1969-2015: 52 cases of anaphylaxis (2 deaths)
  - Big increase since 2010
- While need to monitor for these important reactions, this issue does not change recommendations about CHG

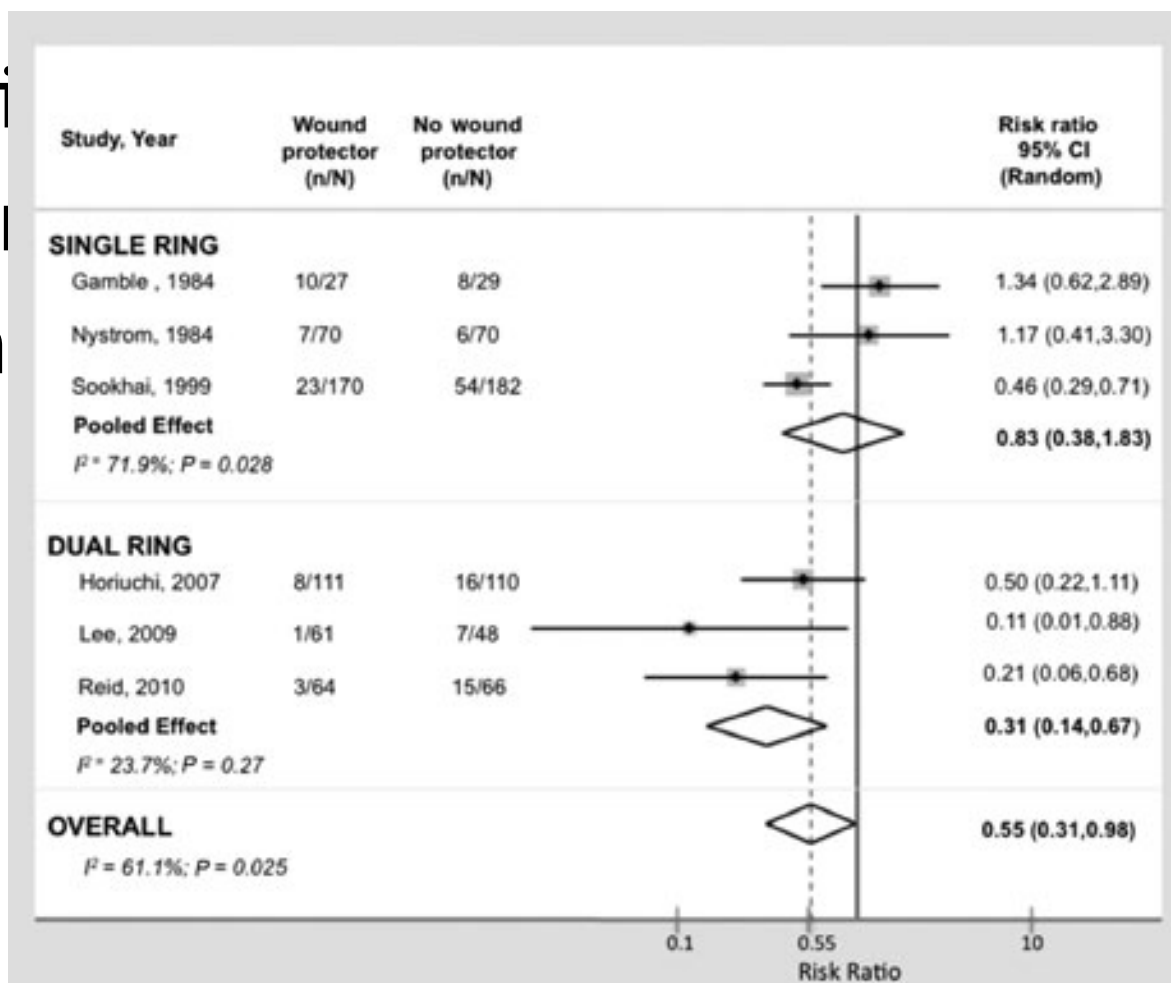
# Impervious Plastic Wound Protectors

- Plastic sheath that facilitates retraction
- Theoretically improves health of tissue
- GI and biliary tract procedures

# Impervious Plastic Wound Protectors

- Plastic
- Theor
- GI an

tion  
sue



# Surgical Safety Checklist

# Surgical Safety Checklist

- Checklists
  - Proven method for prevention of complications
    - Change system AND individual behavior
  - CLABSI
- New checklist for surgical care
  - 19 item surgical safety checklist
    - Sign in, Time out, Sign out
  - 8 institutions throughout world
  - Prospective, quasi-experimental study of patients before (n=3733) and after (n=3955) implementation
  - Non-cardiac surgery
  - During “Time-Out,” OR team had to confirm that prophylactic antibiotics have been administered  $\leq 60$  min before incision is made or that antibiotics are not indicated



# Surgical Safety Checklist

**Table 2.** Characteristics of Participating Hospitals.

Site	Location	No. of Beds	No. of Operating Rooms	Type
Prince Hamzah Hospital	Amman, Jordan	500	13	Public, urban
St. Stephen's Hospital	New Delhi, India	733	15	Charity, urban
University of Washington Medical Center	Seattle, Washington	410	24	Public, urban
St. Francis Designated District Hospital	Ifakara, Tanzania	371	3	District, rural
Philippine General Hospital	Manila, Philippines	1800	39	Public, urban
Toronto General Hospital	Toronto, Canada	744	19	Public, urban
St. Mary's Hospital*	London, England	541	16	Public, urban
Auckland City Hospital	Auckland, New Zealand	710	31	Public, urban

# Surgical Safety Checklist

Site No.	No. of Patients Enrolled		Surgical-Site Infection		Prophylactic Antibiotics Given Appropriately (N = 6802)		Death		Any Complication	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
<i>percent</i>										
1	524	598	4.0	2.0	98.1	96.9	1.0	0.0	11.6	7.0
2	357	351	2.0	1.7	56.9	76.9	1.1	0.3	7.8	6.3
3	497	486	5.8	4.3	83.8	87.7	0.8	1.4	13.5	9.7
4	520	545	3.1	2.6	80.0	81.8	1.0	0.6	7.5	5.5
5	370	330	20.5	3.6	29.8	96.2	1.4	0.0	21.4	5.5
6	496	476	4.0	4.0	25.4	50.6	3.6	1.7	10.1	9.7
7	525	585	9.5	5.8	42.5	91.7	2.1	1.7	12.4	8.0
8	444	584	4.1	2.4	18.2	77.6	1.4	0.3	6.1	3.6
Total	3733	3955	6.2	3.4	56.1	82.6	1.5	0.8	11.0	7.0
P value			<0.001		<0.001		0.003		<0.001	

# Other Interventions

- Maintain normothermia
- Surveillance
  - Use automated data
  - Feedback data to surgeons/surgical personnel
  - Provide education to surgeons and patients



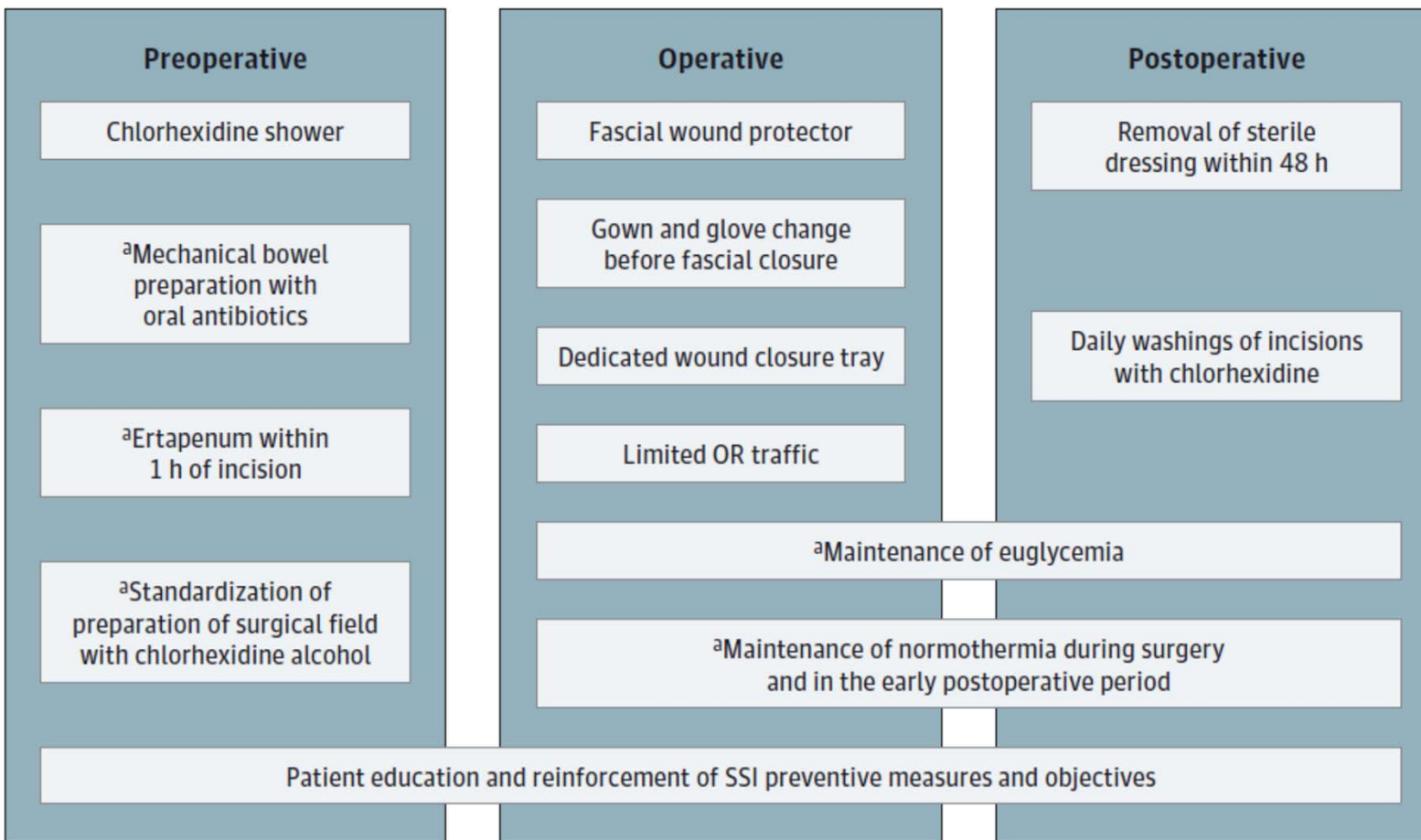
# Special Strategies - To Do or Not?

- “Duke” colorectal bundle
  - Glove change for closure?
- Screening and decolonization for *S. aureus*
- Antimicrobial sutures

# The Duke Colorectal Bundle

- High adverse outcomes following colorectal procedures (>20%)
  - ACS-NSQIP data
- Created and implemented a “bundle” of evidence-based and “common sense” interventions
  - Multidisciplinary
  - Monthly review meetings
  - Items included on a “checklist”

# Bundle Components



# Results

- Retrospective analysis of 559 randomly selected patients from 2008 through 2012
  - Propensity matched on multiple potential confounders (age, sex, BMI, DM, chemo, XRT, total op time, lap approach, rectal)
  - 212 patients in each group
    - No major differences in patient characteristics

# Results

	Prebundle (n=212)	Postbundle (n=212)	p-value
Superficial-incisional SSI	41 (19.3)	12 (5.7)	<0.001
Deep-incisional SSI	3 (1.4)	0	0.25
Organ-Space SSI	11 (5.2)	6 (2.8)	0.32
Wound disruption	5 (2.4)	3 (1.4)	0.72
Postop sepsis	18 (8.5)	5 (2.4)	0.009
LOS - med (IQR)	5.5 (4-8)	5.0 (3-7)	0.05
30-d readmit	32 (15.1)	19 (9.0)	0.14

# Successes/Challenges

- Bundle considered a success
  - Increased adherence to evidence-based and systematic practices
  - Key “implementation” components:
    - Multidisciplinary
    - Monthly review, open discussion
- Limitations
  - Retrospective, quasi-experimental
  - Elective procedures only
  - Bundle component vs. all?
- Challenges
  - What components to include?
  - Scheduling
  - Prioritization
  - Must have a surgeon “champion”

# Glove/Instrument Change

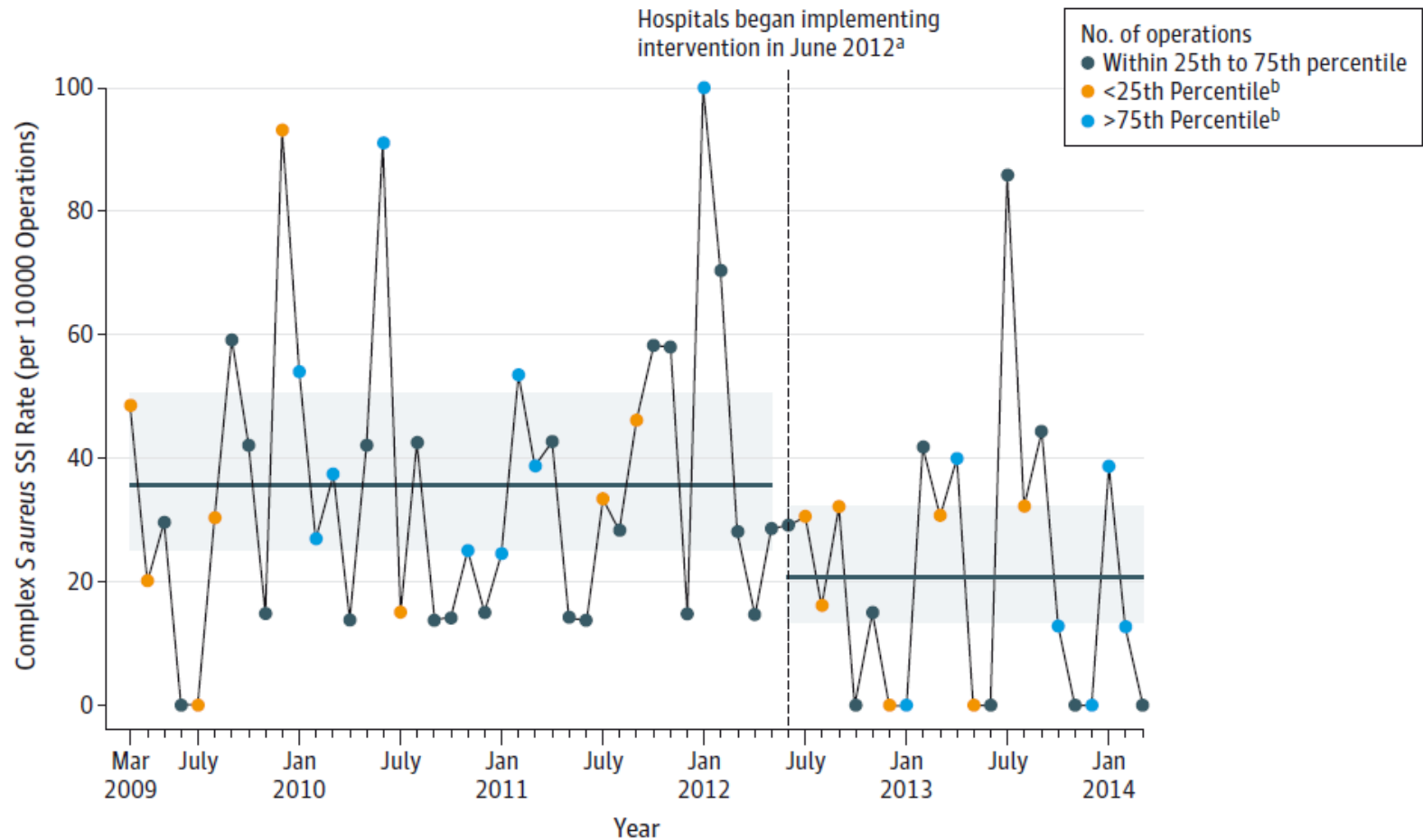
- ACS/SIS recommended changing gloves and instruments for closure in colorectal surgery
- Based on expert consensus
- Frankly, not a bad idea

# SA Screening/Decolonization

- If known to be colonized, should decolonize
  - ASHP, WHO, ACS, SHEA
- BUT
  - Should you screen??
- Controversial!



# SA Screening/Decolonization



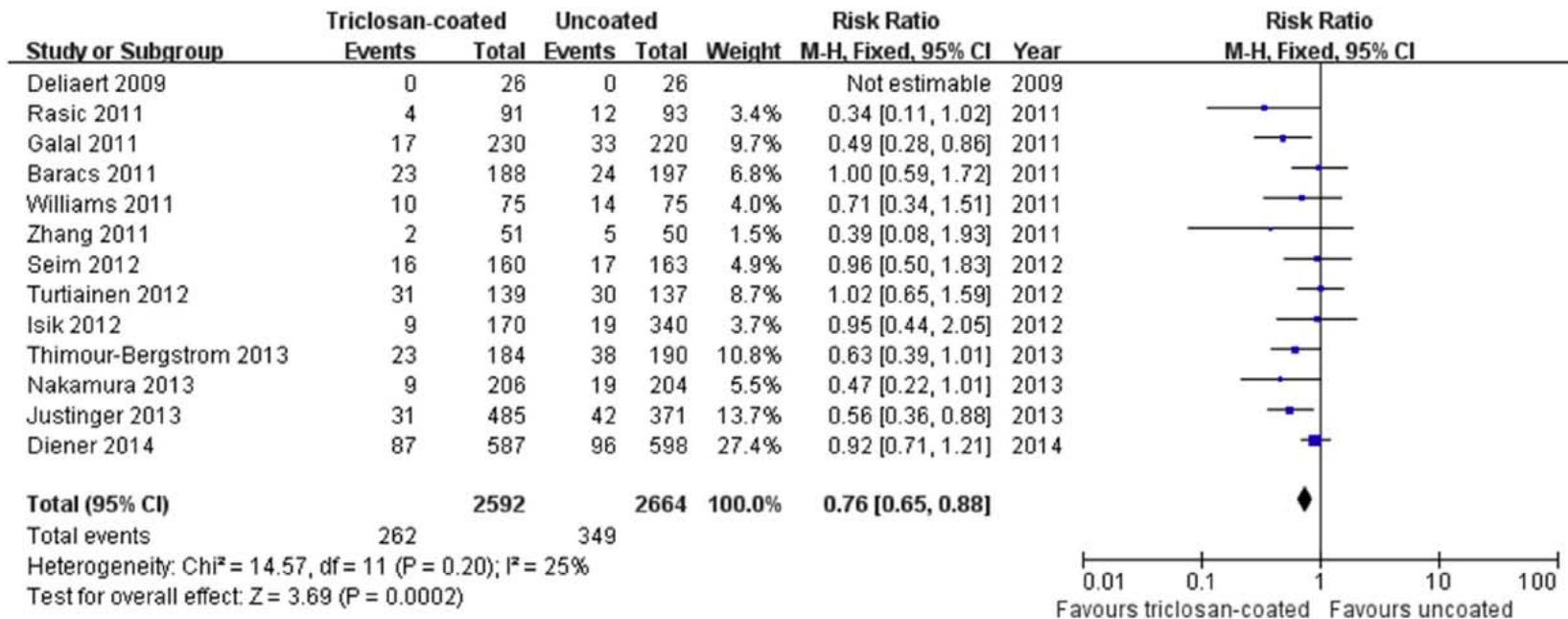
# SA Screening/Decolonization

- Many factors to consider
  - Baseline rate of *S. aureus* SSI
  - Adherence to basic practices
  - Ability to follow up protocol
  - Resources to implement protocol
  - How to screen? How to decolonize?
- Currently recommended as a “Special Approach”

# Antimicrobial Sutures

- Important:
  - Foreign devices increase the risk of SSI
    - Presence of sutures decreases inoculum required for SSI
      - $10^6$  to  $10^2$
- SHEA/IDSA guidelines - not recommended
- WHO and ACS guidelines - recommended for clean and clean-contaminated abdominal cases
  - Meta-analysis published in 2016 that included 6 additional RCTs

# Antimicrobial Sutures



# Unresolved

- CHG baths before surgery
- Intranasal CHG
- Antibiotic-impregnated, implantable sponges
  - Gentamicin

# One Last Thought about Interventions

- SCIP SSI measures have been largely removed
- Cynical view
  - All the gain in best practices via SCIP will gradually degrade
- So...
  - Need to remain vigilant for increases in SSI during and after transition
  - Can SCIP measures still be tracked??

# Implementation

- Based on 4 Es
  - Engage
    - Clear communication about why important
      - Ex: physician champions
  - Educate
    - The “what to do/not do”
      - Ex: Education for patients/family
  - Execute
    - Reduce barriers and improve adherence
      - Ex: QI methodology (six sigma, etc.)
  - Evaluate
    - Measurement
      - Ex: Longitudinal evaluation of outcomes and process

# Role of IP in Implementation

- Engage
  - Involve hospital leadership
  - Identify physician champions
  - Identify multidisciplinary teams
  - Evidence-based practices
  - Foster a culture of safety
- Educate
  - Patients, surgeons, leadership



# Role of IP in Implementation

- Execute
  - Quality improvement strategies
  - Maximize IT
  - Participate in a network/collaborative
  - Order sets
  - Protocols
  - Act on problems once identified!!
- Evaluate
  - Surveillance

# Take Home Points

- SSI is the most common and most costly HAI
- Many different strategies are required to reduce SSI risk to lowest extent possible
- IPs play a critical role
- Not every hospital needs to approach SSI prevention the same way
  - But all hospitals need to at least use the basic strategies

# Questions?