



Legionnaires' disease: an increasing risk

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Even if the pathogen of Legionnaires' disease has been discovered thirty years ago there are many unanswered questions about its aetiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation and prevention.

As a matter of fact, Legionnaires' disease, as with many others infectious diseases, represents a perfect example of a multidisciplinary approach involving both medical and engineering aspects, in a variety of settings such as hospitals, hotels and thermal facilities. Issues such as these will be debated within the present meeting.

Furthermore the development of new technology has heightened the implications relating to the increased risk for peoples general health and particularly for in-hospital patients.

I guess we should point out the role of molecular biology in diagnostics, the possible existence of healthy carriers, the value of the frequent discovery of the pathogen in the environment and, lastly, the efficacy of preventative measures in hospitals and especially in high-risk wards.

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