

Asymptomatic *C. difficile* ups risk for other hospital patients

April 11 2017



(HealthDay)—Asymptomatic carriers of toxigenic *Clostridium difficile*

in hospitals increase infection risk in other patients, according to a study published in the April issue of *Gastroenterology*.

Thomas Blixt, M.D., from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, and colleagues screened all patients for toxigenic *C. difficile* in the intestine upon [hospital admission](#) (from Oct. 1, 2012, to Jan. 31, 2013) to assess the rate of *C. difficile* infection in exposed and unexposed patients, as well as transmission factors.

The researchers found that *C. difficile* infection was detected in 2.6 percent of patients not exposed to carriers and in 4.6 percent of patients exposed to [asymptomatic carriers](#) at the ward level (odds ratio for infection if exposed to carrier, 1.79). There was a correlation between amount of exposure and risk of infection, from 2.2 percent in the lowest quartile to 4.2 percent in the highest quartile of exposed patients (P = 0.026). There was an additive effect on the risk of contracting *C. difficile* when load of exposure to carriers and length of stay were combined.

"In a population-based prospective cohort study in Denmark, we found that asymptomatic carriers of toxigenic *C. difficile* in hospitals increase risk of infection in other [patients](#)," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2017 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Asymptomatic *C. difficile* ups risk for other hospital patients (2017, April 11) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-04-asymptomatic-difficile-ups-hospital-patients.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.