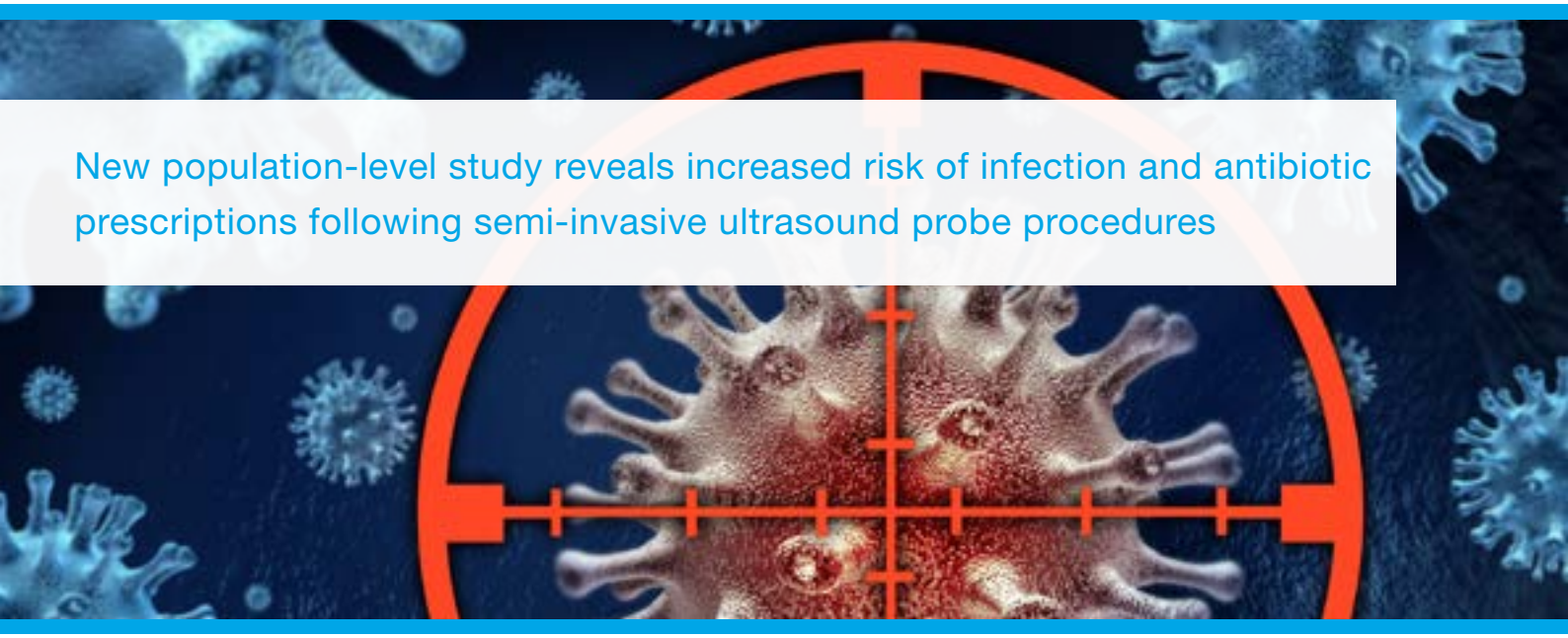
How safe
are your ultrasound probes?

You don't want your patients on antibiotics, fighting infection because an ultrasound probe was not high level disinfected



New population-level study reveals increased risk of infection and antibiotic prescriptions following semi-invasive ultrasound probe procedures

Study highlights the importance of maintaining proper high level disinfection processes for endocavitary procedures to avoid increased risk of infection

The first population-level study of its kind conducted by Health Protection Scotland and NHS Scotland has demonstrated a greater risk of positive microbiological reports and antibiotic prescriptions within 30 days for adults who had undergone semi-invasive ultrasound procedures (SIUP) when high level disinfection was not used as standard of care.[1]

During the study period from 2010 to 2016, low level disinfection was the primary method used for the disinfection of endocavitary probes.

The study found that in the 30 days after a transvaginal ultrasound scan, patients were 41% (HR=1.41) more likely to have positive bacterial cultures and 26% (HR=1.26) more likely to be prescribed antibiotics than similar patients who underwent gynaecological procedures without ultrasound ($p<0.001$).

For transrectal scans, patients were 3.4 (HR=3.4) times more likely to have positive bacterial cultures and 75% (HR=1.75) more likely to be prescribed antibiotics ($p<0.001$).

The study authors strongly recommend adherence to the current NHS Scotland guidance which came into effect in 2016. It calls for high level disinfection of endocavitary ultrasound probes.[2]

In its conclusion, the new study stated: "Analysis of linked national datasets demonstrated a greater risk of positive microbiological reports and community antibiotic prescriptions within 30 days for Scottish adults who had undergone SIUP procedures in Scotland. This indicates that, prior to the publication of NHS Scotland guidance advocating high level disinfection, the re-use of semi-invasive ultrasound probes without high level disinfection posed an increased risk of infection."

"... failure to comply with guidance recommending high level disinfection of semi-invasive ultrasound probes will continue to result in an unacceptable risk of harm to patients."

Official guidance and standards are helping to prevent the risk of ultrasound infections caused by cross-contamination

In line with growing international concerns, official guidance and standards are being released around the world to help prevent the risk of ultrasound infections caused by cross-contamination.

The Spaulding Classification forms the basis for multiple US guidelines.

HLD is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the *minimum standard* in ultrasound probe reprocessing for critical and semi-critical procedures (i.e. intracavitary and surface ultrasound probes that contact mucous membranes or non-intact skin).[3]

The Joint Commision (TJC), states that "Semi-critical devices that contact mucous membranes or non-intact skin should minimally undergo High Level Disinfection.[4]

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that a reusable medical device be properly reprocessed between patients to prevent infection, and also applies the Spaulding Classification.

Ensure you comply

- The FDA requirements are legally binding
- The CDC and other guidelines are enforced by multiple organisations including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and The Joint Commission (TJC)
- Following the correct probe disinfection/sterilization requirements ensures you maintain the highest standards in patient safety
- Compliance with the TJC's Infection Prevention and Control Standard is an important factor in maintaining your healthcare facility accreditation
- Compliance is required for CMS health care reimbursement

trophon® EPR is an effective high level disinfection solution for ultrasound probes that can reduce infection risks and increase compliance

trophon is a safe, versatile and simple solution that supports healthcare facilities in their fight against ultrasound probe cross-contamination.

When it comes to efficacy, trophon EPR inactivates drug resistant pathogens, spores and pathogens that cause sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

trophon EPR also inactivates the mandated subset of microorganisms, as required by US regulations and is proven to also eliminate an extended range of infectious pathogens.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