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<th>Podcast Series</th>
<th>Reynolds Geriatrics Series • USMLE Step 1 Prep</th>
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<tr>
<td>Episode Title</td>
<td><em>The Little Spore that Could, Question 9</em></td>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>Allison Boemer, Fernando Bolivar, Nicholas Duncan, Philip Hamby, Wesley Lane, William (Bill) McCunniff, Daniel Patterson, Mahnaz Rahman, Hannah Tran</td>
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**Recording Date**
April 12, 2010

**USMLE Question Number:** 9  
**Pg #:** 26  
A patient being treated with clindamycin for aspiration pneumonia develops diarrhea. The stool contains a toxin that kills cultured epithelial cells. Stool culture grows an anaerobic gram positive rod. The same organism is cultured from his bedpan. Which of the following is most likely to sterilize the bedpan?

(A) Boiling for 45 minutes  
(B) Exposure to benzalkonium chloride for 1 hour  
(C) Exposure to ethyl alcohol for 1 hour  
(D) Exposure to saturated steam (121°C) for 15 minutes  
(E) Heating in an oven at 150°C for 30 minutes

**Learning Objectives**

*The listener should be able to:*

1. Recognize the classical presentation and predisposing factors of *Clostridium difficile*
2. Recognize the pathogenicity of spore forming rods
3. Identify methods used to sterilize hospital equipment after suspected contamination by spore forming bacteria

**Key Teaching Points**

*Clostridium* is a common hospital acquired infection after treatment with broad spectrum antibiotics such as clindamycin.
Steam is one of the few methods of effectively killing bacterial spores on hospital equipment.

USMLE Test source:  

Keywords
Geriatrics, USMLE step exam, Clostridium difficile, C. diff, benzalkonium chloride, sporicide, sporicides, sporicidal, pseudomenbranous colitis, nosocomial infection, hospital acquired infection, watery diarrhea, ethyl alcohol, clindamycin, broad spectrum antibiotic, sterilization, cultured epithelial cells, STEP1, high yield, preparation,

References


http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/186458-overview