

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. ~~A method for reducing infection at a site in a subject, wherein said method comprising administering to the site an aqueous solution that comprises chlorhexidine at a concentration of 1% or less, and wherein the site is selected from~~

- ~~—— a) blood,~~
- ~~—— b) a urogenital tract,~~
- ~~—— c) a respiratory tract,~~
- ~~—— d) an intraperitoneal site,~~
- ~~—— e) an ocular site,~~
- ~~—— f) the colon,~~
- ~~—— g) the sinuses,~~
- ~~—— h) an intra-articular site,~~
- ~~—— i) a mediastinal site,~~
- ~~—— and~~
- ~~—— j) a cerebrospinal site.~~

2. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of chlorhexidine is about 0.05% or less.~~

3. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the chlorhexidine is chlorhexidine gluconate.~~

4. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a second agent that is selected from anti-bacterial agents, anti-viral agents, fungicidal agents, chemotherapy agents, anesthetic agents, agents that reduce bleeding, and diagnostic agents.~~

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5. ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising applying suction to the site.~~

6. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein chlorhexidine is administered to the site via a sustained release material containing the chlorhexidine.~~

7. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the blood via intravenous injection.~~

8. ~~The method of claim 7, wherein an isotonic solution containing chlorhexidine is prepared less than 5 minutes before that solution is administered by intravenous injection.~~

9. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the respiratory tract via inhalation of vapor and/or an aerosol.~~

10. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the ocular site as an emulsion, solution, suspension, or ointment.~~

11. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the sinuses via a nasal irrigation system, a nasal lavage, a nasal douche, or a neti pot.~~

12. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the intra-articular site via an intra-articular injection.~~

13. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the cerebrospinal site via a cerebrospinal injection or a cerebrospinal irrigation system.~~

14. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered as a tablet taken orally, microcapsule spheres, nanoparticles, a time controlled delivery system, a frozen block, a plain aqueous solution, an isotonic solution, or an implantable time release delivery system.~~

15. ~~An indwelling medical device having incorporated therein chlorhexidine.~~

16. ~~The device, according to claim 15, selected from bandages, dressings, sutures, implants and catheters.~~

17. ~~The device, according to claim 15, wherein chlorhexidine is incorporated via a coating at the surface of the device.~~

18. A system for minimally invasive surgery (MIS) wherein said system comprises a tube that is adapted for receiving a delivery of a solution comprising chlorhexidine gluconate

solution, wherein said tube is adapted for receiving chlorhexidine from a reservoir containing a chlorhexidine~~said~~ solution and said tube is further adapted to deliver the chlorhexidine gluconate solution to ~~the~~ a site in a subject where surgery is being performed, wherein said system further comprises at least one tube for an optical component and/or for removal of fluids; wherein said system further comprises a reservoir containing a solution of 0.1% or less of chlorhexidine gluconate; wherein said reservoir is operably connected to said tube; and wherein said chlorhexidine gluconate solution consists of an aqueous solution of chlorhexidine gluconate and water.

~~19. — A kit comprising a medical device of claim 15.~~

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the concentration of chlorhexidine gluconate is about 0.05% or less.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the reservoir is a bag.

4. The system according to claim 1, which is a sterile closed system.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of chlorhexidine gluconate is from 0.02% to 0.1%.