

Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA) - CAF + Neutralizing contact plates:

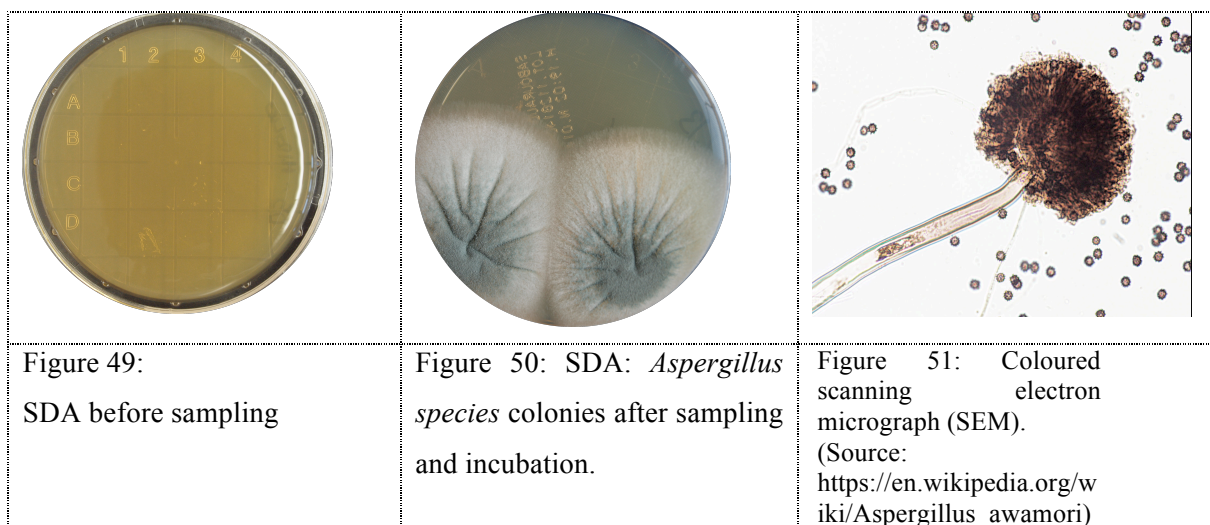
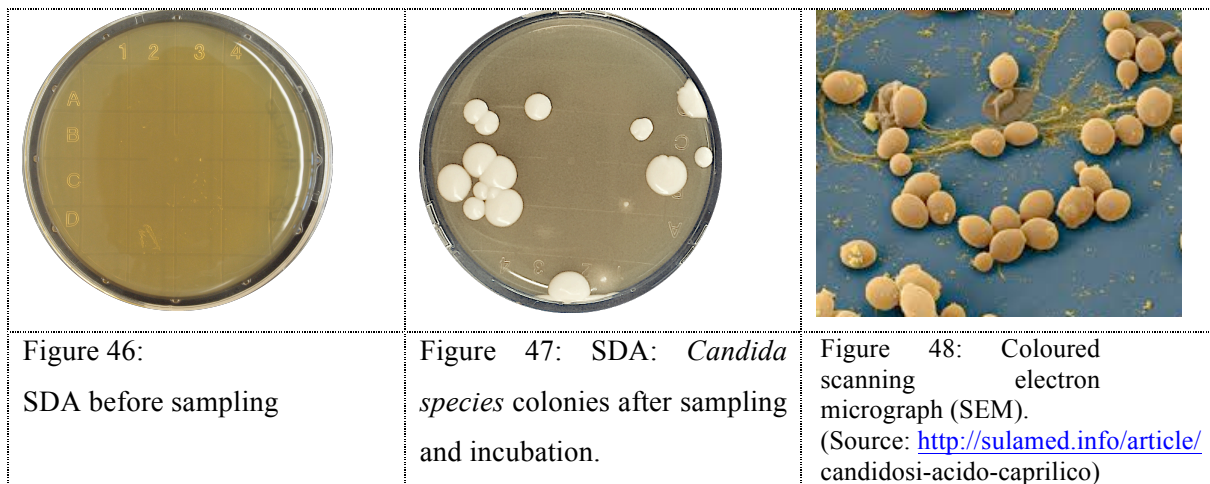
selective medium for yeasts (*Candida species*) and moulds (e.g. *Aspergillus species*) isolation with inactivation of disinfectants.

Composition:

Ingredients	Grams/Litre
Glucose / Dextrose	40.0
Meat Extract	10.0
Cloramfenicolo (CAF)	0.05
Agar	15.0
Final pH 5.6 ± 0.2	

Sabouraud Dextrose Agar è impiegato per l'isolamento dei lieviti patogeni, *Candida albicans*, e dei funghi patogeni opportunisti (*Aspergillus species*).

I lieviti possono essere identificati con test biochimici.



Clostridium difficile Selective Agar:
selective medium for *Clostridium difficile*

Composition:

Ingredients	Grams/Litre
Proteose Peptone	40.0
Disodium hydrogen phosphate	5.0
Potassium dihydrogen phosphate	1.0
Magnesium sulphate	0.1
Sodium chloride	2.0
Fructose	6.0
D-cycloserine	250.0 mg/ litre
Cefoxitin	8.0 mg/ litre
Agar	15.0
Final pH 7.4 ± 0.2	

Anaerobic Equipment:

anaerobe atmosphere generation bags, anaerobe indicator test and anaerobic jar.

For the detection of *Clostridium difficile* is used Latex test (Liofilchem).

Clostridium are relatively large, Gram-positive, rod-shaped bacteria that can undergo only anaerobic metabolism. Most *Clostridium* cannot grow aerobic conditions and can even be killed by exposure to O₂; however, they form endospores that are able to survive long periods of exposure to air and other adverse environmental conditions.



Figure 51: *Clostridium difficile* Agar before sampling

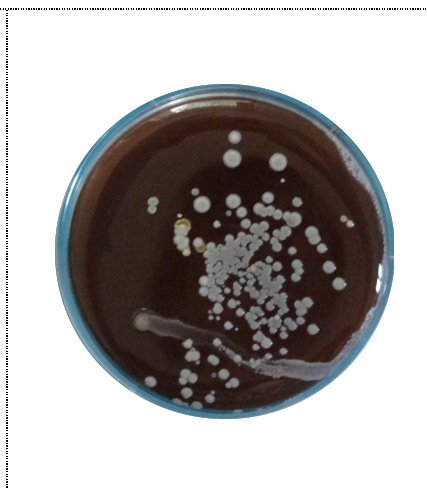


Figure 52: *Clostridium difficile* Agar: *Clostridium* species colonies after sampling and anaerobic incubation. For the generation of a CO₂ rich atmosphere Carbon dioxide generating system (Oxoid)

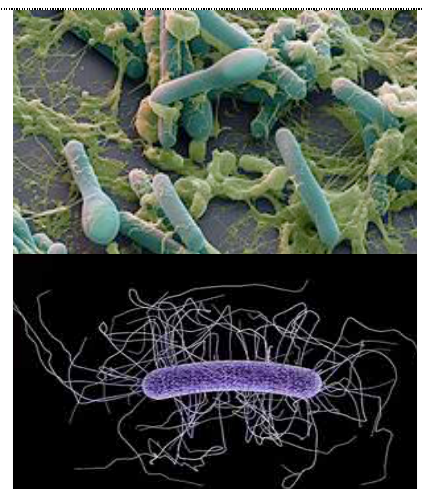


Figure 53: Coloured scanning electron micrograph (SEM). (Source: *Clostridium* spore capsulated (up)– vegetative form motile anaerobic (down) Oxidase negative Catalase negative Hemolysis negative)



Figure 54: Reagents Latex test
(Source: <http://www.liofilchem.net/it/>)

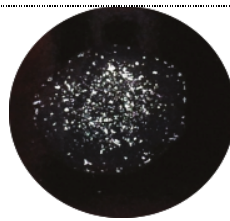


Figure 55: Result positive Latex Agglutination Test for confirming *Clostridium*

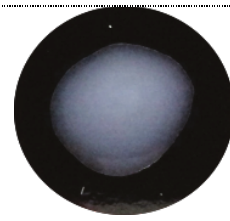


Figure 56: Result negative Latex Agglutination Test

Herellea Agar Contact Plate (Lickson):

Selective medium for gram-negatives isolation *Acinetobacter* species.

Composition:

Ingredients	Grams/Litre
Tryptone	15.0
Peptone di soia	5.0
Sodio cloruro	5.0
Lattosio	10.0
Maltosio	10.0
Sali biliari n.3	1.25
Porpora di bromocresolo	0.02
Agar	15.0
Final pH 6.8 ± 0.2	

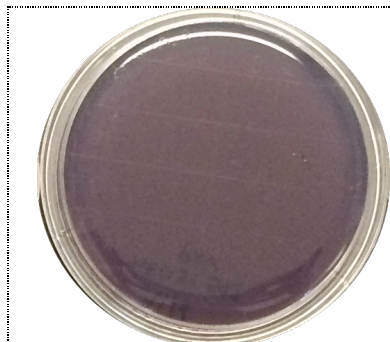


Figure 57: Herellea Agar before sampling



Figure 58: Herellea Agar: *Acinetobacter* species colonies after sampling and incubation.



Figure 59: *Acinetobacter* Gram negative coccobacilli strictly aerobic Nonmotile Catalase + Oxidase
(Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2016/11/detection-multidrug-resistant-pathogens-europe>)

Herellea Agar according to the formula of Mandel, Wright and Mc Kinnon, is a differential medium suitable for the isolation of negative Grams bacteria and for the differentiation of fermenters from non fermenters. It is indicated for the isolation of *Acinetobacter* species: two carbohydrates (lactose and maltose) and a pH indicator (purple cresol bromide) are present in the formula, which is yellow when there is acidification of the medium.

Acinetobacter is not fermenting and gives colonies of the same color like medium, sometimes leaking towards a more intense color of the medium, while fermenting enterobacteria give yellow colonies surrounded by a yellow sun. Gram positive bacteria are inhibited by bile salts n. 3.

Microbial Typing

Identification system is a standardized identification system which uses 23 miniaturized biochemical tests (strip) and a data base for the microbial code.

The microbial identification uses this strip, that consists of a microtube containing 23 dehydrated substrates. These tests are inoculated with a bacterial suspension which reconstitutes the media. During incubation at 36°C, metabolism produces colour changes that are either spontaneous or revealed by the addition of reagents.

The reaction are read and the identification is obtained by referring to interpretation table, the Analytical Profile Index.

For *Enterobacteriaceae* API 20 E (bioMérieux)

For *Enterobacteriaceae* ENTEROTUBE II (Liofilchem)

For *Pseudomonas species* OSI/FERM TUBE (Liofilchem)

For *Staphylococcus species* API STAPH (bioMérieux)

For *Candida species* API 20 AUX (bioMérieux)

Test Antibiogram (ABG)

Kirby –Bauer Method is used to check the antibiographical susceptibility (defined Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing or AST) of probiotic-cleaning's *Bacillus* isolates from test surfaces.

Kirby –Bauer Method is based on agar-diffusion technique [135].

The effectiveness of an antibiotic in sensitivity testing is based on the size of the zone of inhibition that surrounds a disk that has been impregnated with a specific concentration of the antibiotic.

The zone of inhibition varies with the diffusibility of the antibiotic and the value of the diameter is evaluated by Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute (CLSI) reference criteria [136].

The disk diffusion susceptibility method is performed by applying a bacterial inoculum of approximately 1.0×10^6 CFU/mL to the surface of a large (90 mm diameter) Mueller-Hinton agar plate. Up to 12 commercially-prepared antibiotic disks with known antibiotic concentration are placed on the inoculated agar surface (Figure 60). Plates are incubated for 24 h at 35°C prior to determination of results. The zones of growth inhibition around each of the antibiotic disks are measured to the nearest millimeter. The diameter of the zone is related to the susceptibility of the isolate and to the diffusion rate of the antibiotic through the agar medium. The zone diameters of each antibiotic are interpreted using the criteria published by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, formerly the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards or NCCLS).

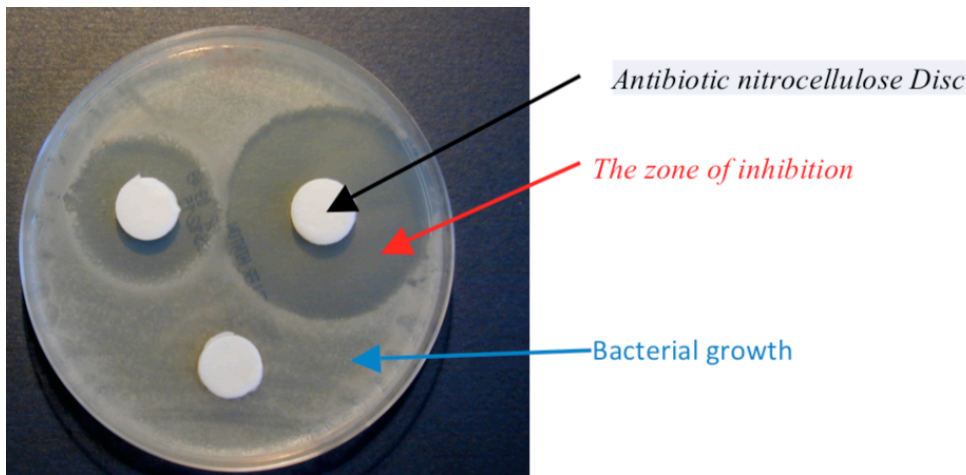


Figure 60: Results after incubation on Mueller-Hinton agar plate. It is evident the two zones of inhibition related to the diffusion rate of the antibiotic.

The AST is defined internationally by the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) and the interpretation of results includes three levels: resistance (R), susceptibility (S), or intermediate susceptibility (I) of the test microorganism against the each antibiotic.

The nitrocellulose disks imbided with a known concentration of antibiotics (Oxoid) shown in the following table:

Table 5: Interpretation: According to performance standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing the zone diameters in mm:

Antimicrobial agent	Potency	Resistent (R)	Intermediate (I)	Susceptible (S)
Penicillin	P 10U	≤28		≥29
Cephalothin	CF 30µg	≤14	15÷17	≥18
Cefoperazone	CFP 30µg	≤15	16÷20	≥21
Netilmicin	NET 10µg	≤12	13÷14	≥15
Gentamicin	G 10µg	≤12	13÷14	≥15
Clindamycin	CC 2µg	≤14	15÷20	≥21
Erythromycin	E 15µg	≤13	14÷22	≥23
Nalidoxic Acid	NA 30µg	≤13	14÷18	≥19
Chloramphenicol	C 30µg	≤12	13÷17	≥18

References: The parzial table is obtained from document M100-S20 (M02-A10) Clinical and laboratory Standard Institute. (Source: Oxoid <http://www.oxoid.com/pdf/uk/2013-CLSIFDA-table-update.pdf>)

“*in vitro*” trials

The bacterial reduction “*in vitro*” effectiveness of probiotic cleaning is estimated with following preliminary test:

according to European Standard EN 13697 [XI] to test, 0,5 ml of bacterial suspension was added in 4,5 ml of 1% probiotic cleaning solution (1/100) at room temperature. Later, 200 µl of this solution are captured at different intervals (7 hours), and added in 2 ml of a diluent, made up of Lecithin, Histidine and Tween. At last, 1 ml of these last solutions was transferred on a Petri dishes with TSA agar in order to record the minimum time of exposure after which no growth occurred.

The inoculated plates are incubated at 36° C for 24 hours.

The test is repeated with 3% Bovine Fetal Serum and once with 0.3% of Albumin added to the probiotic solution. Total Vital Count (TVC) was simultaneously measured with inoculums of 1 ml broth at 36° C.

Microorganisms for antibacterial testing:

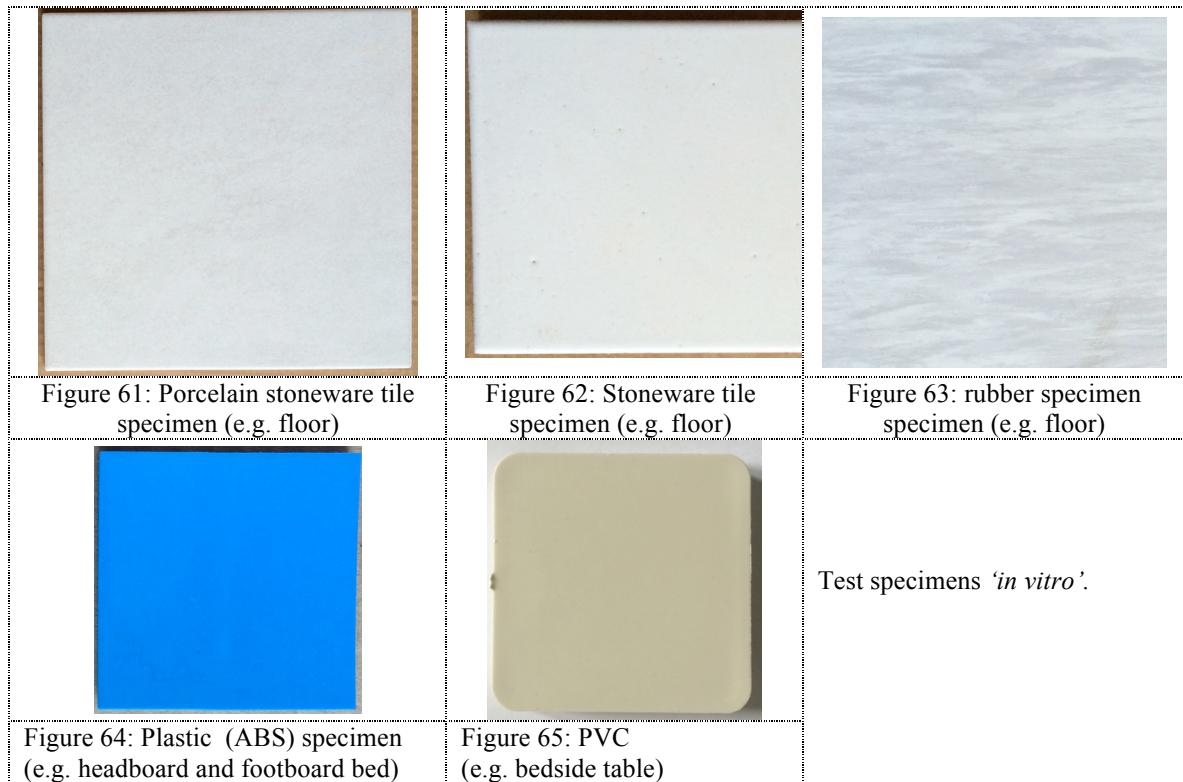
- Bacillus species spore –forming isolated from probiotic cleaning products;
- Strains pathogens as follow:

Table 6: ATCC strains

ATCC microbial strain	ATCC*	Microbial group	Batch / Expiration date	Concentration:
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	ATCC* 6538	G + bacteria	Lotto 485-307-1 Exp. 02/2018	6.4x10 ⁶ cfu/g
<i>Enterococcus hirae</i>	ATCC* 8043	G + bacteria	Lotto 491-403-1 Exp. 02/2018	5.0x10 ⁶ cfu/g
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	ATCC* 9027	G - bacteria	Lotto 484-715-1 Exp. 04/2018	6.6x10 ⁶ cfu/g
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	ATCC* 8739	G - bacteria	Lotto 483-582-1 Exp. 07/2018	4.7x10 ⁶ cfu/g
<i>Candida albicans</i>	ATCC*10231	Lievito / Yeast	Lotto 392-505-1 Exp. 01/2018	6.9x10 ⁵ cfu/g
<i>Aspergillus brasiliensis</i>	ATCC*16404	Muffa/ Molds	Lotto 392-505-1 Exp. 02/2018	6.0x10 ⁵ cfu/g

*ATCC (*American Type Collection Control*) (Microbiologics:Biolife):

They are represented the test specimens ‘*in vitro*’ in order to evaluation the effectiveness of inhibition by competition exclusion of probiotic cleaning



Calculation microbial reduction:

$$\text{Red} = (N \times 10^{-1}) / N_a$$

Where:

Red = reduction of vitality

N = bacterial test suspension count

N_a = test bacterial count after the contact time

Field trials: Microbiological surfaces sampling in patient rooms

The microbiological sampling of the surfaces are performed for a period of 30 months in several occupied patient rooms (see Table 3 especially Medicine Department and Table 4 for critical point) with the hygienic services (bathroom). The rooms are identical as far as the layout and the furnishings are concerned. A specific protocol of cleansing was associated to one room for each Unit.

Sanitation procedures are carried out by using microfiber mops and cleaning cloth colour-coded according to the type of target surface. The wet cleaning is a phase with aqueous solutions of either the probiotic-based or the chemical-based solutions. Both solutions are fresh prepared before each use. The microfiber cloths are soaked into the solution and stored inside clean containers until use. Mopping phases are performed by the same trained operator in order to exclude or minimize the introduction of potential variables in the implementation of procedures. Floors are treated with a concentration range of 14.44 to 17.33 g of solution per square meter (ppm/m²). Hand/body-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, bed frames, tables and chairs or sink, toilet and other bathroom fixtures, are treated with 2 g of solution per room or per bathroom (ppm/m²), respectively. Each measure is done in duplicate or in triplicate.

The probiotic-based sanitation solution contained 1% spores (30 x 10⁶ CFU/mL) of probiotic bacteria (ATCC *Bacillus species*) added with ionic surfactants (0.6%), anionic surfactants (0.8%) and enzyme (0.02%) (FloorCleaner PIP-60160; InteriorCleaner PIP-60140 and SanitaryCleaner PIP-60150).

In order to estimate the ability of disinfectants to remove microorganisms compared to probiotic cleaning from the surfaces, the superficial microbiological load was measured at:

- After 7 hours the chemical cleaning procedures, *Microbial Level* (T₀);
- After 7 hours the probiotic cleaning procedure, *Microbial Level* (T₁; T₂; T₃; T_{1+n}).

18232 samples (microbiological samplings) are performed following MEM methodology, tested using Rodac plates (55mm ϕ) containing TSA medium added with Lecitina, Istitidina and Tween and for detection of pathogenic strains (BPA, MAC, Cetrimide, Herella, SDA and Clostridium Agar). The plates are placed against the surface to sample, applying a light pressure for 30 seconds. All the sample plates and the control plate are incubated at 36°C for 48 h and, then, 25 °C for another 24 h.

The TMC was recorded in cfu/100cm². Subsequently, the percentage of microbial load reduction is calculated [--].

Only 13003 are samples obtained under the protocol H7, that they have been subjected to this elaboration with the application of the protocol 7/7 days.

Finally, the microbiological identification is carried out. The microorganisms are isolated after the growing on the plates and are initially identified through the Gram stain.

Then the microorganisms are coated with a selective medium, and identified using biochemical tests (API – bioMerieux and Enterotube –Liofilchem). 270 identifications are carried out.

The surfaces points that are controlled in this study are are given in Table 4.

Ethics Statement

The trials in the all Hospitals and RSAs are approved by the Ethics Committee which has given its consent and stated that a formal authorization was not necessary because the probiotic products would not be directly administered to patients but exploited for cleaning of hospital surfaces only.

This experimental study initially included the use of probiotics skin-care formulations, which for the non-consensus of the Ethics Committee were not used by the patients.

The aim was that probiotic cosmetics could restore the skin microbioma, counteracting any potential pathogens [109].

Indeed many potentially pathogenic bacteria living as commensals in the human skin microbiome.

Patient-to-patient transmission of MRSA within healthcare settings primarily occurs via carriage on the hands of healthcare workers [137].

The hygiene of the skin and body with probiotic cosmetics can be able to reduce the pathogenic microbial load on contaminated hand skin, as a strategy for preventing the spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from hands skin of the patients [138]

5. Results:

'in vitro' trials

Table 7: The effectiveness of laboratory probiotic cleaning /sanitation procedure in removing microbial loads on inanimate surfaces (product Floor probiotic cleaning) :

Organisms tests	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> <i>Enterococcus hirae</i>		<i>Escherichia Coli</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>		<i>Candida albicans</i> <i>Aspergillus brasiliensis</i>		Mean % reduction (pre-postcleaning)
	cfu/100cm ²						
Materials kind	T ₀ Bacterial inoculum	T ₁	T ₀ Bacterial inoculum	T ₁	T ₀ Bacterial inoculum	T ₁	
1. Porcelain stoneware	1,0x10 ⁶	8,0x10 ⁴	1,2x10 ⁶	7,0x10 ⁴	5,5x10 ⁵	2,5x10 ⁴	93,87%
2. Stoneware	1,0x10 ⁶	1,8x10 ⁴	1,2x10 ⁶	2,5x10 ⁴	5,5x10 ⁵	2,8x10 ⁴	97,01%
3. Rubber	1,0x10 ⁶	1,0x10 ⁵	1,2x10 ⁶	9,8x10 ³	5,5x10 ⁵	1,0x10 ⁵	90,33%
4. Plastic	1,0x10 ⁶	5,0x10 ³	1,2x10 ⁶	5,6x10 ³	5,5x10 ⁵	1,0x10 ⁴	99,07%
5. PVC	1,0x10 ⁶	3,0x10 ⁴	1,2x10 ⁶	2,9x10 ⁴	5,5x10 ⁵	7,0x10 ⁴	93,95%

Table 8: The effectiveness of laboratory probiotic cleaning /sanitation procedure in removing microbial loads on inanimate surfaces (product Floor probiotic cleaning) :

Materials kind	Strain G+ <i>Staphylococcus</i>	Strain G- <i>Enterobacteri</i>	Fungi Group <i>Candida / Aspergillus</i>
1. Porcelain stoneware	92,00%	94,17%	95,45%
2. Stoneware	98,20%	97,92%	94,91%
3. Rubber	90,00%	99,18%	81,82%
4. Plastic	99,50%	99,53%	98,18%
5. PVC	97,00%	97,58%	87,27%

Explanation of results:

The results obtained 'in vitro' indicated that the probiotic-based product results in a significant lowering of specific bacterial load in a contaminated-controlled conditions. The different types of material did not show differences in efficacy against ATCC pathogens.

The percentage of inhibition of microbial pathogens growth is between 81,8% and 95,45%.

Field trials:

Interpretation of environmental surface monitoring

Elaboration experimental data: Elaboration microbiological data by mathematic method.

The Elaboration of the experimental data includes the analysis of 32058 samples on Excel file.

Each sample included:

- Time and date of the sample
- Hospital or nursing home
- Sampling point
- Sanitized material (surface)
- Department of the sampling point
- Microorganism that has been sampled
- Colony forming units - CFUs (if in the same sample more than one microorganism was considered, these may appear on different lines or on different columns in the same line)

Each measure for sample has been repeated 2 or 3 times (respectively contact plate in duplicate or triplicate) depending on the case, with no specific rule.

The main objectives of this analysis are:

1. Extracting the temporal series that represents the evolution of the number of CFUs of each single sampling point in time
2. Designing a classification algorithm for a single series (classified YES/NO – that is, classified as witnessing the effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression, or not)
3. Performing simple descriptive statistics of the set of series (general evaluation of data, strict classification of 60-30-2 series and loose classification of 90-10-5 series).

Strict classification: a series is classified 'YES' if and only if we measure at least 90 percent of decrease of CFUs from initial count of at least 2 units and with no more than 10 percent of outlier observations

Loose classification: a series is classified 'YES' if and only if we measure at least 60 percent of decrease of CFUs from initial count of at least 5 units and with no more than 30 percent of outlier observations

18232 samples (microbiological samplings) are performed following MEM methodology, tested using Rodac plates, but only 13003 are samples obtained under the protocol H7, that they have been subjected to this elaboration with the application of the protocol 7/7 days.

Table 9.1: Generic number total independent of Hospitals and RSAs	
1(Yes)	0(No)
996	303

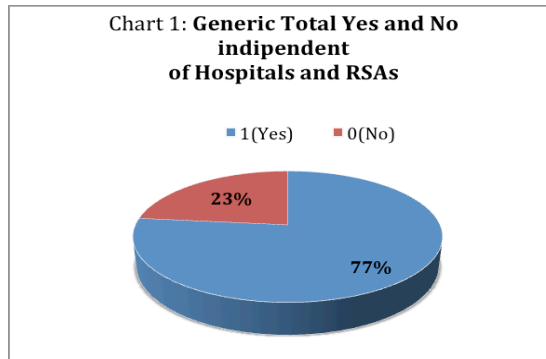


Table 9.2 (60_30_2): Generic number total independent of Hospitals and RSAs	
1(Yes)	0(No)
1219	80

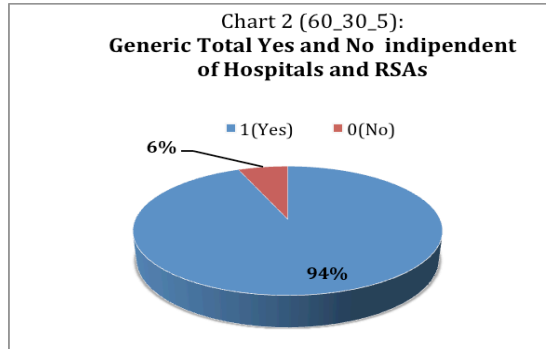
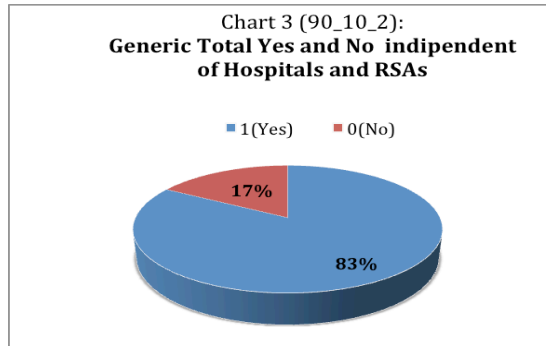


Table 9.3 (90_10_2): Generic number total independent of Hospitals and RSAs	
1(Yes)	0(No)
1082	217



Explanation of results of the Table 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results generic total (all results examined) are independent of the structure type (Hospital or RSA).

Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the 'Yes' series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the 'No' series (ineffectiveness).

Table 9.4:	
Total of Material kind	
308	stoneware tiles floor
146	marble floor
21	rubber floor
238	plastic (bedside table hand touch)
219	metal / steel (hand touch)
48	PVC (hand touch)
286	vitreous china (washbasin)

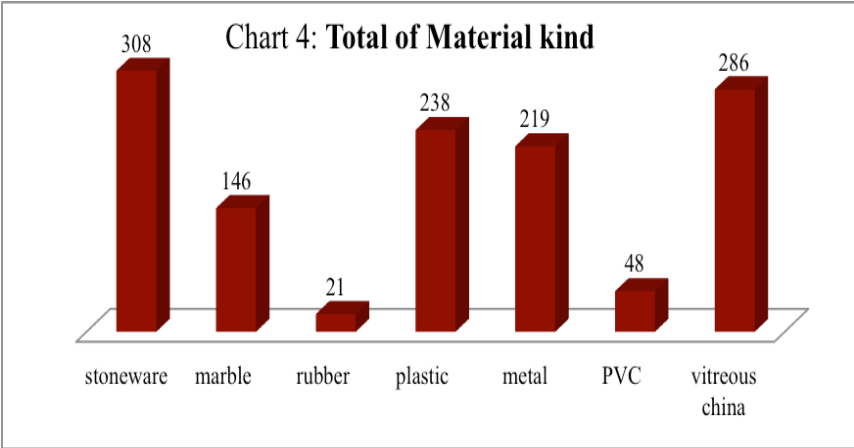


Table 9.5 (60_30_5):		
Total of Material kind		
280	28	stoneware tiles floor
138	8	marble floor
17	4	rubber floor
232	6	plastic (bedside table hand touch)
213	6	metal / steel (hand touch)
43	5	PVC (hand touch)
265	21	vitreous china (washbasin)

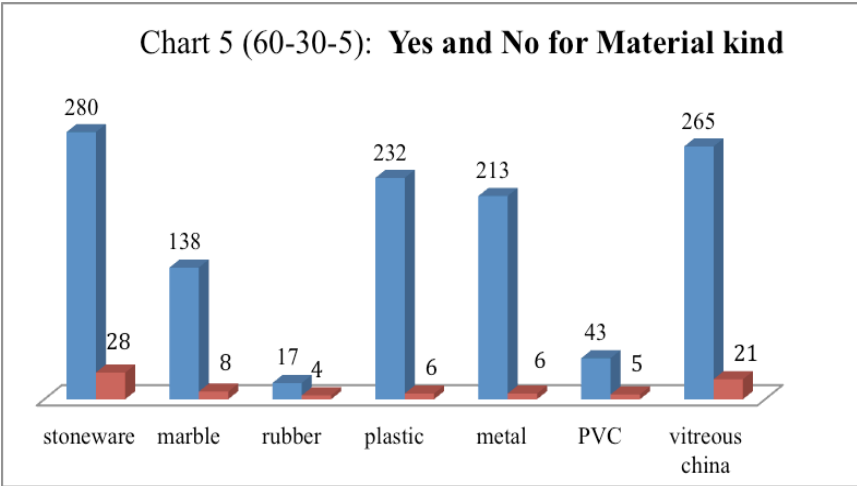
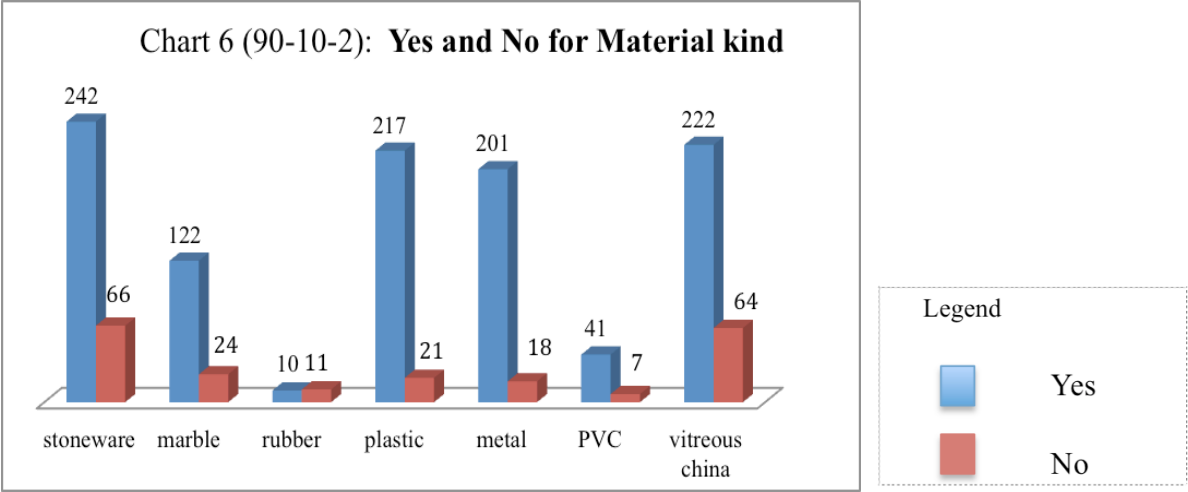


Chart 5

Table 9.6 (90_10_2): Total of Material kind		
242	66	stoneware tiles floor
122	24	marble floor
10	11	rubber floor
217	21	plastic (bedside table hand touch)
201	18	metal / steel (hand touch)
41	7	PVC (hand touch)
222	64	vitreous china (washbasin)



Explanation of results of the Table 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results obtained in relation to the type of material are independent of the test material. Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the ‘Yes’ series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the ‘No’ series (ineffectiveness).

The effectiveness of the rubber is low compared to other types of materials, while is evident especially high efficacy has in stoneware.

Table 9.7: Total Hospitals and RSAs	
North Hospital 1	66
North Hospital 2	20
North Hospital 3	60
North Hospital 4	90
North Hospital 5	86
North Hospital 6	12
North Hospital 7	264
North Hospital 8	76
North Hospital 9	48
North Hospital 10	64
North Hospital 11	117
North RSA 1	44
North RSA 2	56
North RSA 3	41
North RSA 4	43
North RSA 5	16
North RSA 6	75
South Hospital 1	33
South Hospital 2	72
South RSA 1	16

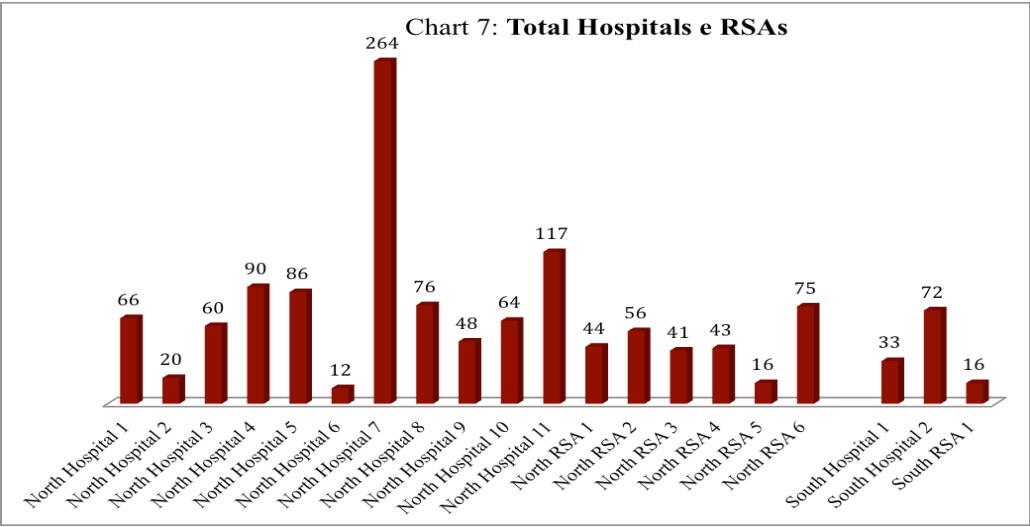


Table 9.8 (60_30_5): Total Hospitals and RSAs		
North Hospital 1	60	6
North Hospital 2	18	2
North Hospital 3	59	1
North Hospital 4	89	1
North Hospital 5	68	18
North Hospital 6	8	4
North Hospital 7	258	6
North Hospital 8	72	4
North Hospital 9	46	2
North Hospital 10	60	4
North Hospital 11	112	5
North RSA 1	43	1
North RSA 2	53	3
North RSA 3	39	2
North RSA 4	41	2
North RSA 5	12	4
North RSA 6	71	4
South Hospital 1	31	2
South Hospital 2	64	8
South RSA 1	15	1

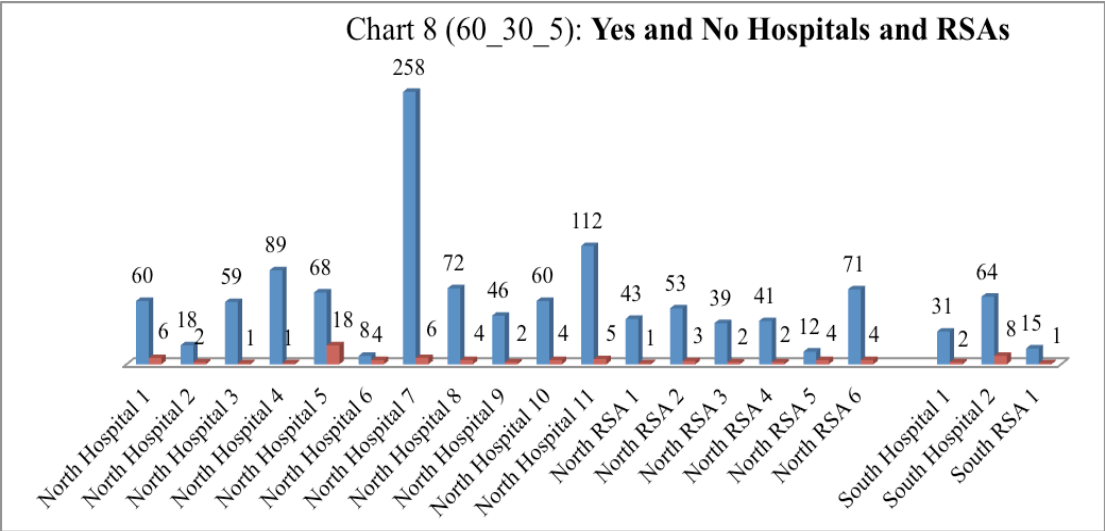


Table 9.9 (90_10_2): Total Hospitals and RSAs		
North Hospital 1	58	8
North Hospital 2	14	6
North Hospital 3	47	13
North Hospital 4	72	18
North Hospital 5	43	35
North Hospital 6	8	4
North Hospital 7	244	20
North Hospital 8	72	4
North Hospital 9	44	4
North Hospital 10	56	8
North Hospital 11	108	9
North RSA 1	37	7
North RSA 2	46	10
North RSA 3	29	12
North RSA 4	37	6
North RSA 5	12	4
North RSA 6	60	15
South Hospital 1	29	4
South Hospital 2	55	17
South RSA 1	11	5

Explanation of results of the Table 9.7, 9.8 and 9.9:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results obtained in relation to both Hospital and RSA:

Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the ‘Yes’ series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the ‘No’ series (ineffectiveness).

It is evident especially high efficacy has in North Hospital 7, because It is new hospital not yet microbiologically colonized and constructed using materials such as epoxy (e.g. epoxy flooring).

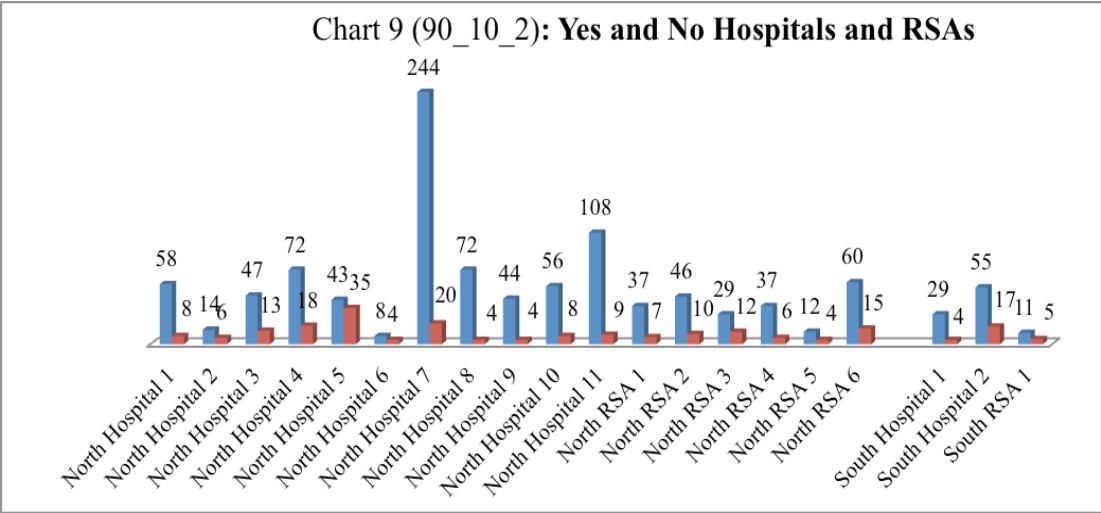


Table 9.10: Total Typing microorganisms	
75	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (coagulase +) (Alert pathogen)
39	<i>Staphylococcus coagulase +</i> (typing <i>St. epidermidis</i>)
31	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>
11	<i>Staphylococcus hominis</i>
9	<i>Staphylococcus xylosus</i>
140	<i>Staphylococcus spp coagulase -</i> (CoNS)
27	<i>Micrococcus spp</i>
209	<i>Enterobacteri</i>
54	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (Alert pathogen)
3	<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>
3	<i>Enterobacter gergoviae</i>
88	<i>Klebsiella spp</i>
3	<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>
18	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (Alert pathogen)
11	<i>Serratia spp</i>
3	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>
11	<i>Citrobacter</i>
12	<i>Proteus spp</i>
7	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>
3	<i>Providencia stuartii</i>
3	<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>
128	<i>Pseudomonas spp</i>
8	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Alert pathogen)
4	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>
1	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>
27	<i>Pseudomonas stutzeri</i>
83	<i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>
121	<i>Candida spp</i>
17	<i>Candida albicans</i> (Alert pathogen)
7	<i>Candida krusei</i>
3	<i>Candida tropicalis</i>
3	<i>Rhodotorula rubra</i>
6	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>
34	<i>Muffe not typing</i>
42	<i>Penicillium spp</i>
28	<i>Aspergillus spp</i> (Alert pathogen)
27	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> (Alert pathogen)

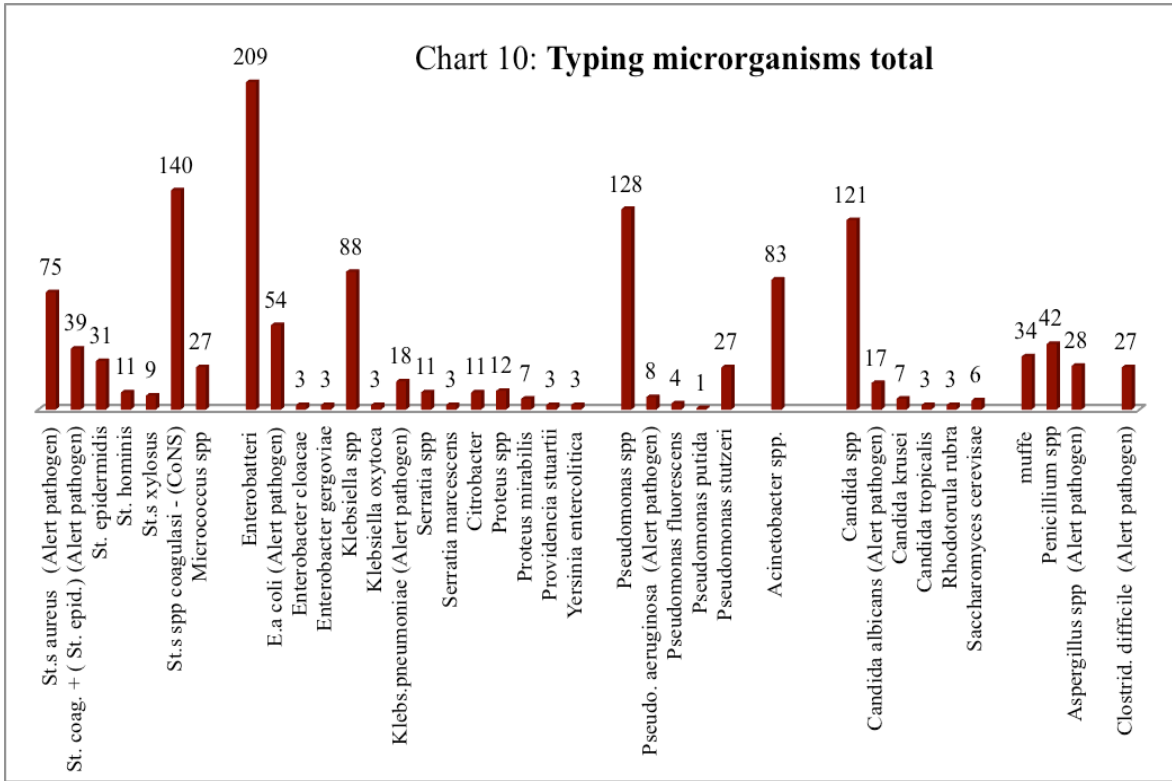


Table 9.11 (60_30_5): Yea and No Typing microorganisms		
75	0	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (coagulase +) (Alert pathogen)
27	12	<i>Staphylococcus coagulase +</i> (typing <i>St. epidermidis</i>)
27	4	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>
11	0	<i>Staphylococcus hominis</i>
9	0	<i>Staphylococcus xylosus</i>
87	53	<i>Staphylococcus spp coagulase -</i> (CoNS)
27	0	<i>Micrococcus spp</i>
203	6	<i>Enterobacteri</i>
54	0	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (Alert pathogen)
3	0	<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>
3	0	<i>Enterobacter gergoviae</i>
88	0	<i>Klebsiella spp</i>
3	0	<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>
18	0	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (Alert pathogen)
11	0	<i>Serratia spp</i>
3	0	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>
11	0	<i>Citrobacter</i>
12	0	<i>Proteus spp</i>
7	0	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>
3	0	<i>Providencia stuartii</i>
3	0	<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>
128	0	<i>Pseudomonas spp</i>
8	0	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Alert pathogen)
4	0	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>
1	0	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>
27	0	<i>Pseudomonas stutzeri</i>
83	0	<i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>
119	2	<i>Candida spp</i>
16	1	<i>Candida albicans</i> (Alert pathogen)
7	0	<i>Candida krusei</i>
3	0	<i>Candida tropicalis</i>
3	0	<i>Rhodotorula rubra</i>
6	0	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>
33	1	<i>Muffe not typing</i>
42	0	<i>Penicillium spp</i>
28	0	<i>Aspergillus spp</i> (Alert pathogen)
26	1	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> (Alert pathogen)

Chart 11 (60_30_5): Yes and No Typing microorganisms

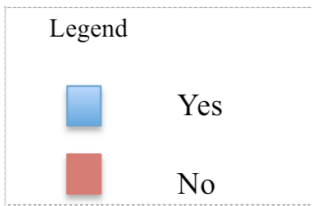
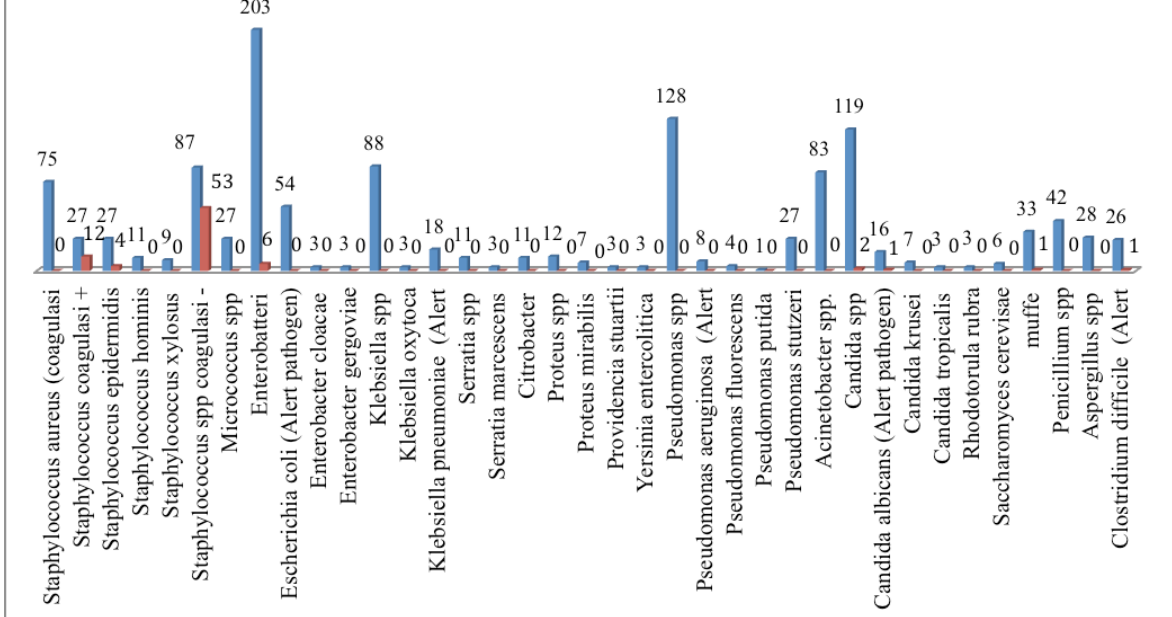
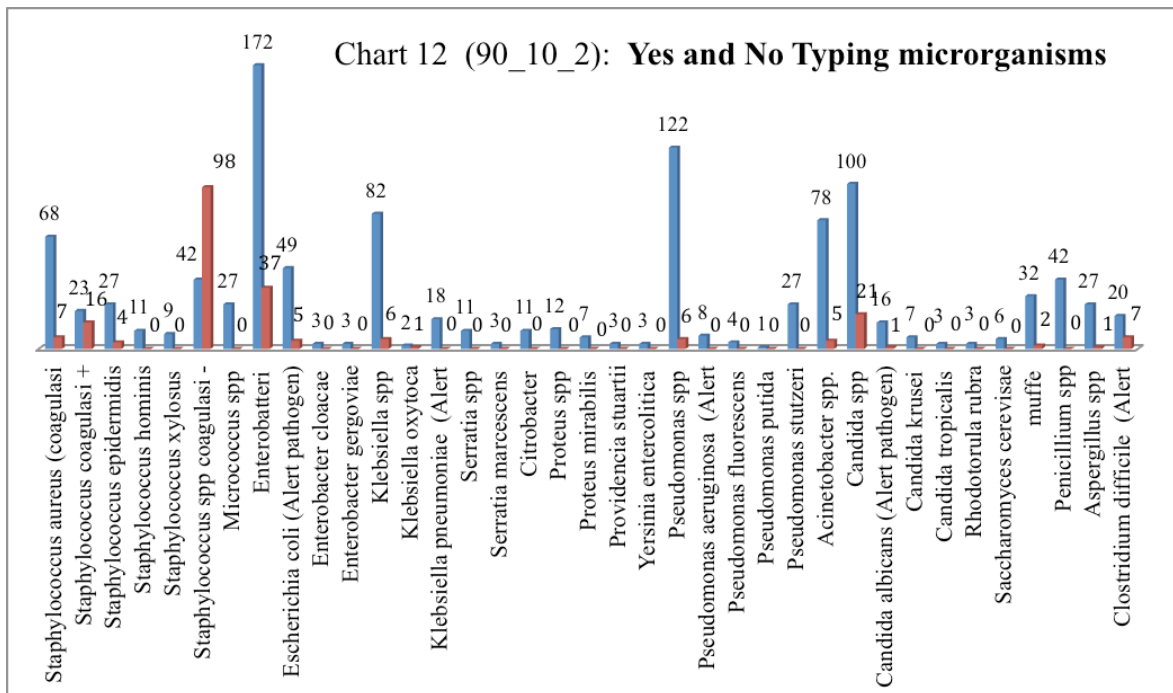


Table 9.12 (90_10_2): Yea and No Typing microorganisms		
68	7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (coagulase +) (Alert pathogen)
23	16	<i>Staphylococcus coagulase +</i> (typing <i>St. epidermidis</i>)
27	4	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>
11	0	<i>Staphylococcus hominis</i>
9	0	<i>Staphylococcus xylosus</i>
42	98	<i>Staphylococcus spp coagulase -</i> (CoNS)
27	0	<i>Micrococcus spp</i>
172	37	<i>Enterobacteri</i>
49	5	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (Alert pathogen)
3	0	<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>
3	0	<i>Enterobacter gergoviae</i>
82	6	<i>Klebsiella spp</i>
2	1	<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>
18	0	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (Alert pathogen)
11	0	<i>Serratia spp</i>
3	0	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>
11	0	<i>Citrobacter</i>
12	0	<i>Proteus spp</i>
7	0	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>
3	0	<i>Providencia stuartii</i>
3	0	<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>
122	6	<i>Pseudomonas spp</i>
8	0	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Alert pathogen)
4	0	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>
1	0	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>
27	0	<i>Pseudomonas stutzeri</i>
78	5	<i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>
100	21	<i>Candida spp</i>
16	1	<i>Candida albicans</i> (Alert pathogen)
7	0	<i>Candida krusei</i>
3	0	<i>Candida tropicalis</i>
3	0	<i>Rhodotorula rubra</i>
6	0	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>
32	2	<i>Muffe not typing</i>
42	0	<i>Penicillium spp</i>
27	1	<i>Aspergillus spp</i> (Alert pathogen)
20	7	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> (Alert pathogen)



Explanation of results of the Table 9.10, 9.11 and 9.12 Typing microorganisms:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results obtained after microbial identification of the surviving species present on the surfaces both to T_0 (traditional protocol) and $T_{1(1+n)}$ (probiotic cleaning protocol). Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the 'Yes' series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the 'No' series (ineffectiveness).

In general it is evident the the activity of compression occurs to all pathogens present on the sampling points microbiologically monitored.

The probiotic Bacillus check to reduction of the pathogens, also those Alert organism, such as *S. aureus*.

It is noted that the values of *Enterobacteriaceae* are high, because it corresponds to many repeated sampling. This is to evaluate the reduction of Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae [CRE], now an emerging problem.

Table 9.13: Total place independent			
North		South	
	1178		121

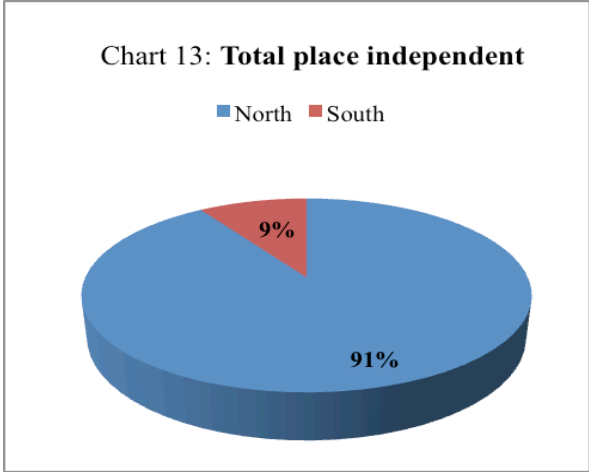


Table 9.14 (60_30_5): Total Yes and No place independent			
North		South	
1(Yes)	1109	1(Yes)	110
0(No)	69	0(No)	11

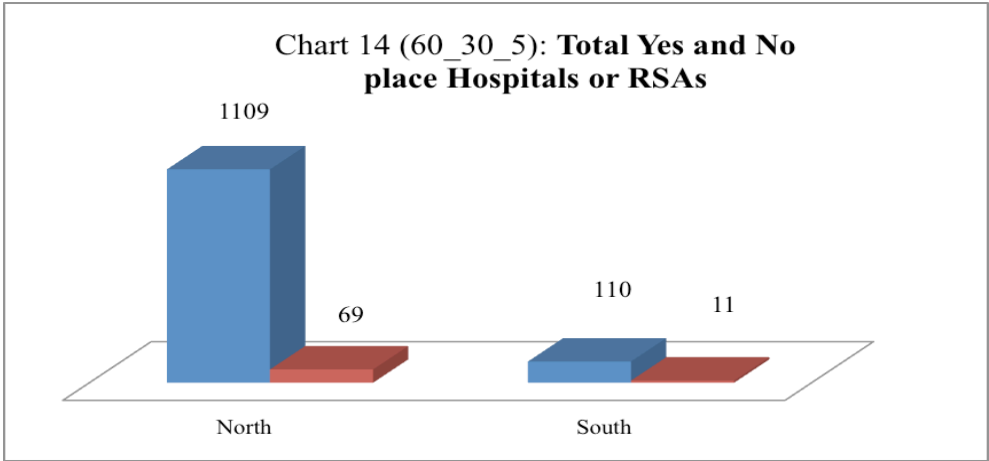
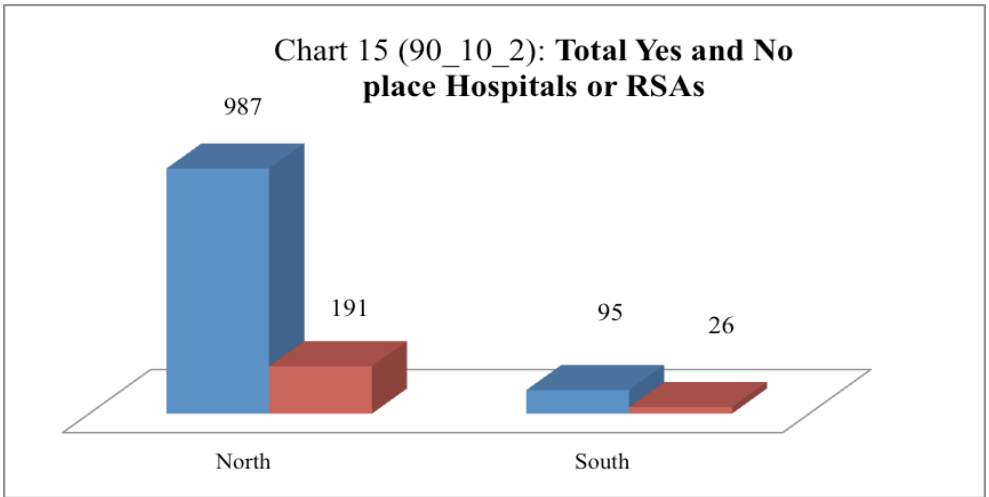


Table 9.15 (90_10_2): Total Yes and No place independent			
North		South	
1(Yes)	987	1(Yes)	95
0(No)	191	0(No)	26



Explanation of results of the Table 9.13, 9.14 and 9.15:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results obtained are independent of the place where they are both hospitals or RSAs. No difference between north and south

Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the ‘Yes’ series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the ‘No’ series (ineffectiveness).

Table 9.16: Total of microorganisms strains	
305	Staphylococcus Spp.
27	Micrococcus Spp.
428	Enterobacteriaceae
168	Pseudomonas Spp.
83	Acinetobacter Spp.
157	Candida Spp.
104	Muffe
27	Clostridium difficile

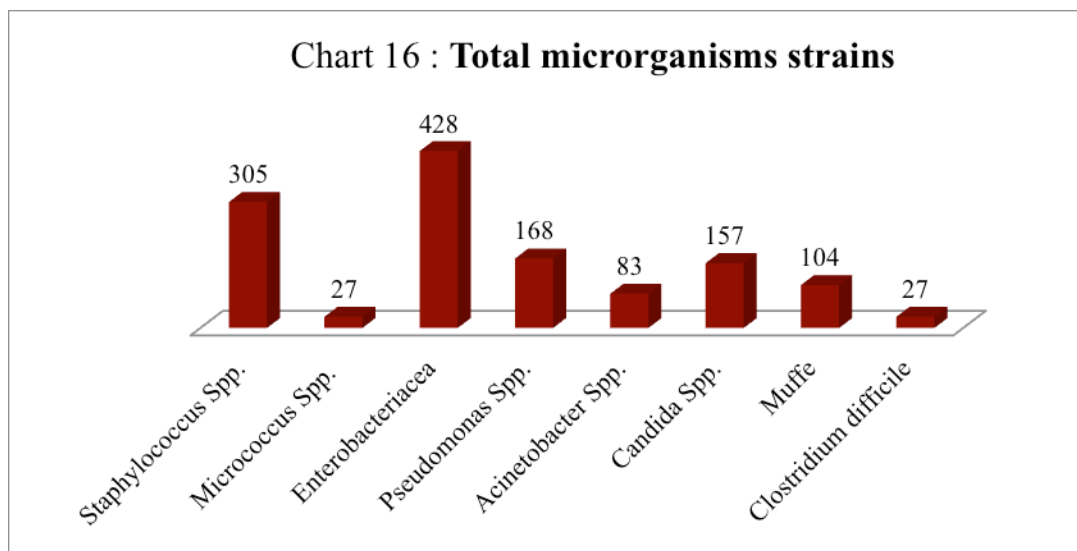


Table 9.17 (60_30_5): Yes and No for microorganisms strains		
236	69	Staphylococcus Spp.
27	0	Micrococcus Spp.
422	6	Enterobacteriaceae
168	0	Pseudomonas Spp.
83	0	Acinetobacter Spp.
154	3	Candida Spp.
103	1	Muffe
26	1	Clostridium difficile

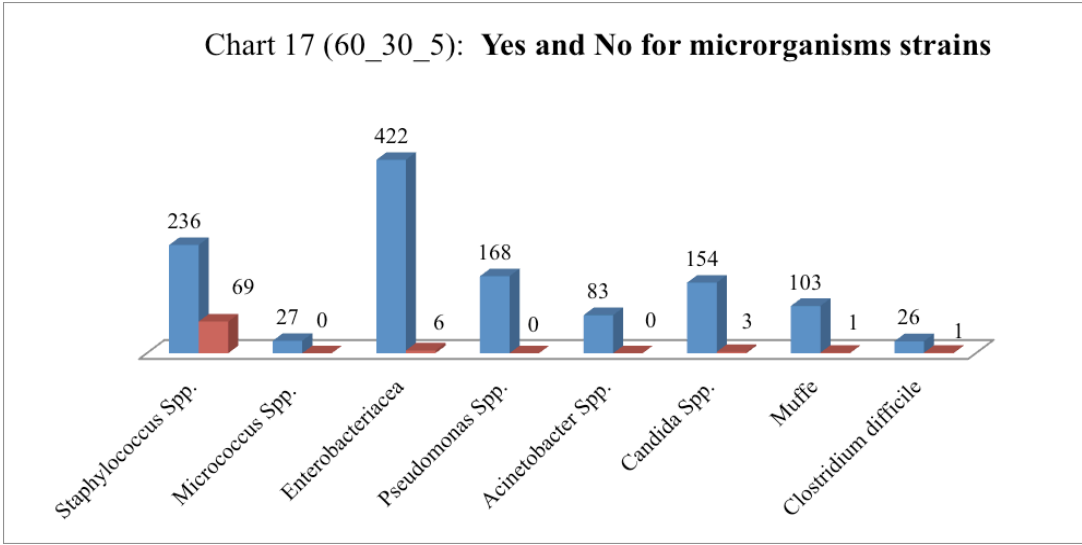
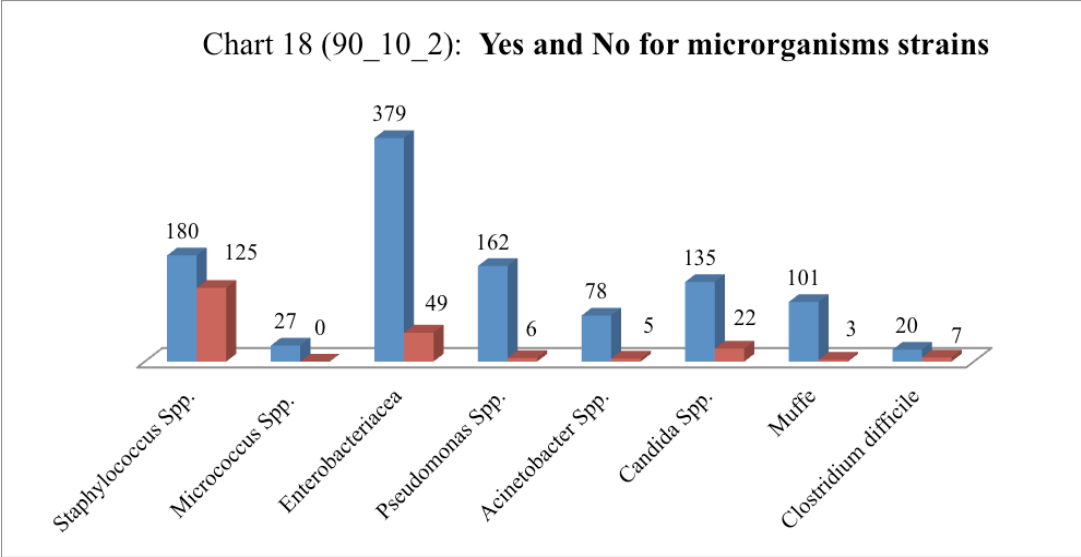


Table 9.18 (90_10_2): Yes and No for microganisms strains		
180	125	Staphylococcus Spp.
27	0	Micrococcus Spp.
379	49	Enterobacteriacea
162	6	Pseudomonas Spp.
78	5	Acinetobacter Spp.
135	22	Candida Spp.
101	3	Muffe
20	7	Clostridium difficile



Explanation of results of the Table 9.16, 9.17 and 9.18 that shown the microganisms strains:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results obtained by analyzing the groups of microorganisms:

Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the ‘Yes’ series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the ‘No’ series (ineffectiveness).

In general it is evident the the activity of inhibition of microbial growth occurs to all pathogens present on the test surfaces.

The probiotic bacillus prove to be capable of compression in accordance with the principle of competitive exclusion.

Table 9.19 :	
Total sampling points	
178	Corridor floor
291	Hospital room floor
31	Toilet floor of the hospital room
62	Internal handle toilet
52	Hospital room washbasin
87	Bedside table
23	Headboard bed
51	Footboard bed
134	Siderail bed hospital
23	Internal open-door button
8	Room light switch
23	Worktop
21	Multiparameter monitor keyboard
21	Pulmonary Monitor Keyboard
23	Infusion pump keypad
11	Keyboard workstation
15	Telephon_cordless

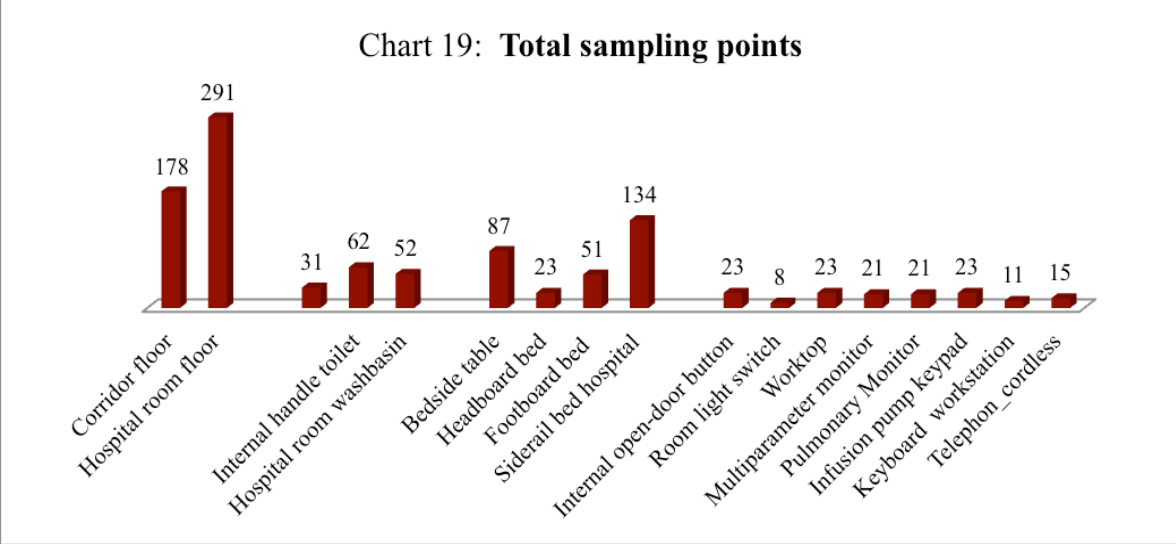


Table 9.20 (60_30_5):

Yes and No for sampling points

162	16	Corridor floor
272	19	Hospital room floor
25	8	Toilet floor of the hospital room
56	2	Internal handle toilet
48	6	Hospital room washbasin
81	6	Bedside table
23	0	Headboard bed
47	4	Footboard bed
128	6	Siderail bed hospital
22	1	Internal open-door button
7	1	Room light switch
22	1	Worktop
21	0	Multiparameter monitor keyboard
20	1	Pulmonary Monitor Keyboard
23	0	Infusion pump keypad
11	0	Keyboard workstation
13	2	Telephon_cordless

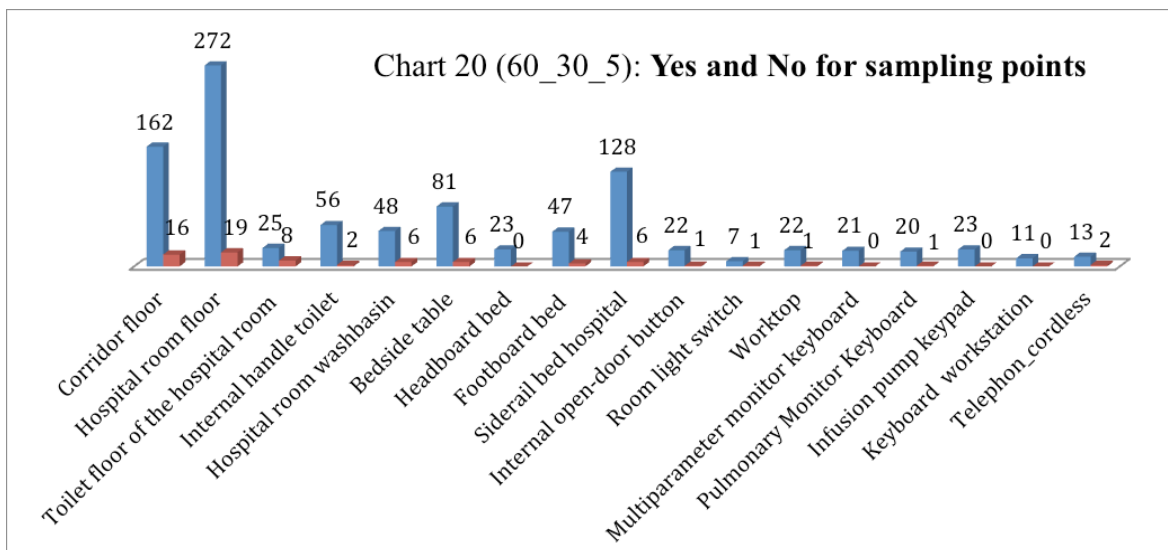
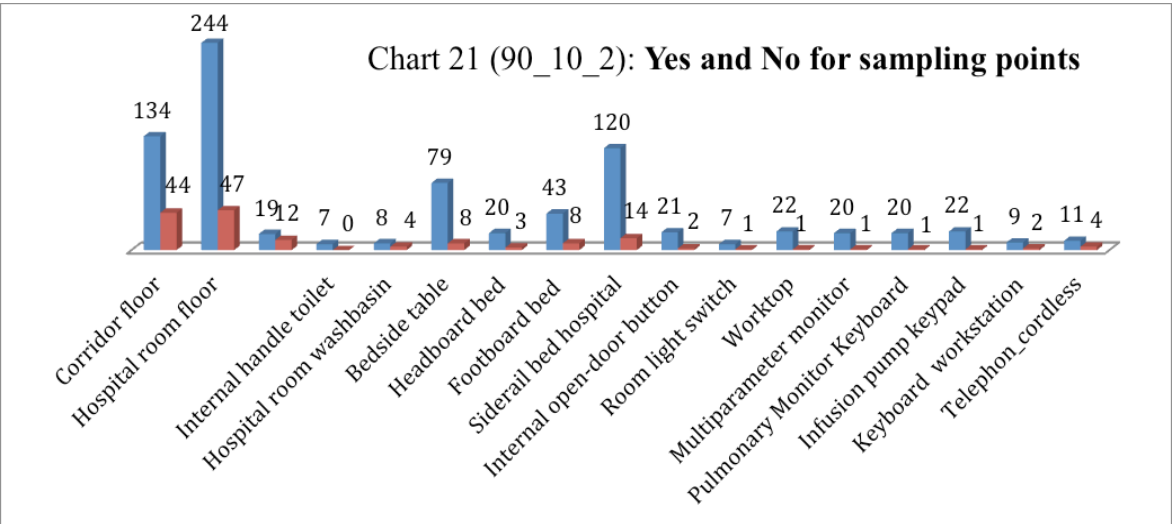


Table 9.21 (90_10_2): Yes and No for sampling points		
134	44	Corridor floor
244	47	Hospital room floor
19	12	Toilet floor of the hospital room
7	0	Internal handle toilet
8	4	Hospital room washbasin
79	8	Bedside table
20	3	Headboard bed
43	8	Footboard bed
120	14	Siderail bed hospital
21	2	Internal open-door button
7	1	Room light switch
22	1	Worktop
20	1	Multiparameter monitor keyboard
20	1	Pulmonary Monitor Keyboard
22	1	Infusion pump keypad
9	2	Keyboard workstation
11	4	Telephon_cordless



Explanation of results of the Table 9.19, 9.20 and 9.21 Sampling points:

on field after probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants the results obtained by analyzing the sampling points:

Both loose classification (60-30-5) and strict classification (90-10-2) indicated that the ‘Yes’ series (effectiveness of microbial inhibition, reduction or compression) is high compared to the ‘No’ series (ineffectiveness).

In general it is evident the the activity of inhibition of microbial growth have to all control points. The probiotic bacillus prove to be capable of compression in accordance with the principle of competitive exclusion.

Results antibiograms on *Bacillus* isolated on filed:

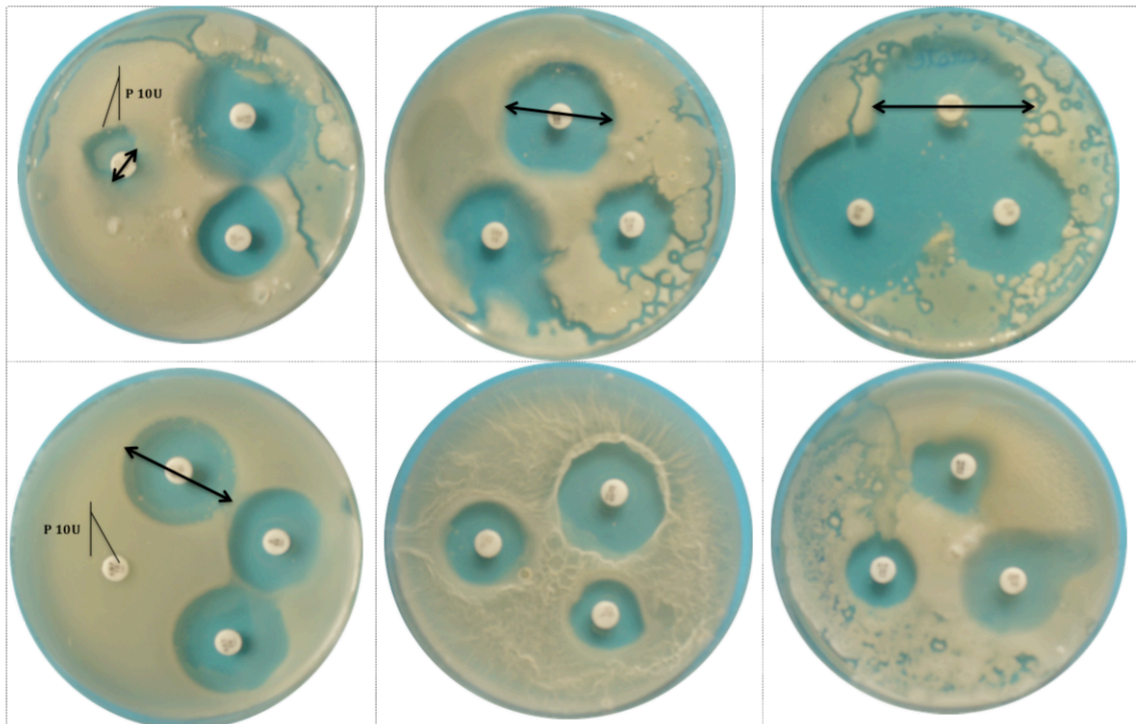


Figure 66: *Bacillus* colonies are isolated for each sampling time after probiotic-based cleaning procedure.

Bacillus isolates are tested by antibiotic susceptibility test against 12 different antibiotics.

It is shown the zones of inhibition that are measured, to establish bacterial susceptibility or resistance according to CLSI references.

Table 9.22 <i>Bacillus</i> colony isolated from TSA medium	β-lactams			Aminoglycosides		Lincosamides
	P 10U	CF 30µg	CFP 30µg	NET 10µg	G 10µg	CC 2µg
Colony <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> ATCC 6633	7	30	20	28	25	25
Colony <i>Bacillus</i> wild type	12	20	19	30	25	20
Colony <i>Bacillus</i> product probiotic Interior	10	10	14	19	19	15
Colony <i>Bacillus</i> product probiotic Floor	14	24	19	30	24	18
Colony <i>Bacillus</i> product probiotic Washsink	20	23	20	30	28	25
Colony 1 <i>Bacillus</i> Δt 2 years	4	23	23	25	19	18
Colony 1 <i>Bacillus</i> Δt 18 months	15	30	20	32	25	16
Colony 1 <i>Bacillus</i> Δt 1 year	0	32	30	29	25	12
Colony 1 <i>Bacillus</i> Δt 6 months	3	28	24	30	26	18

Explanation of results: *On field* *Bacillus* they have developed and acquired no resistance to antibiotics except for their natural resistance (genetic) to penicillin.

The zone diameters in mm obtained demonstrate that the *Bacillus* bacteria are susceptible against the test antibiotic, such as CF, CFP, NET and CC.

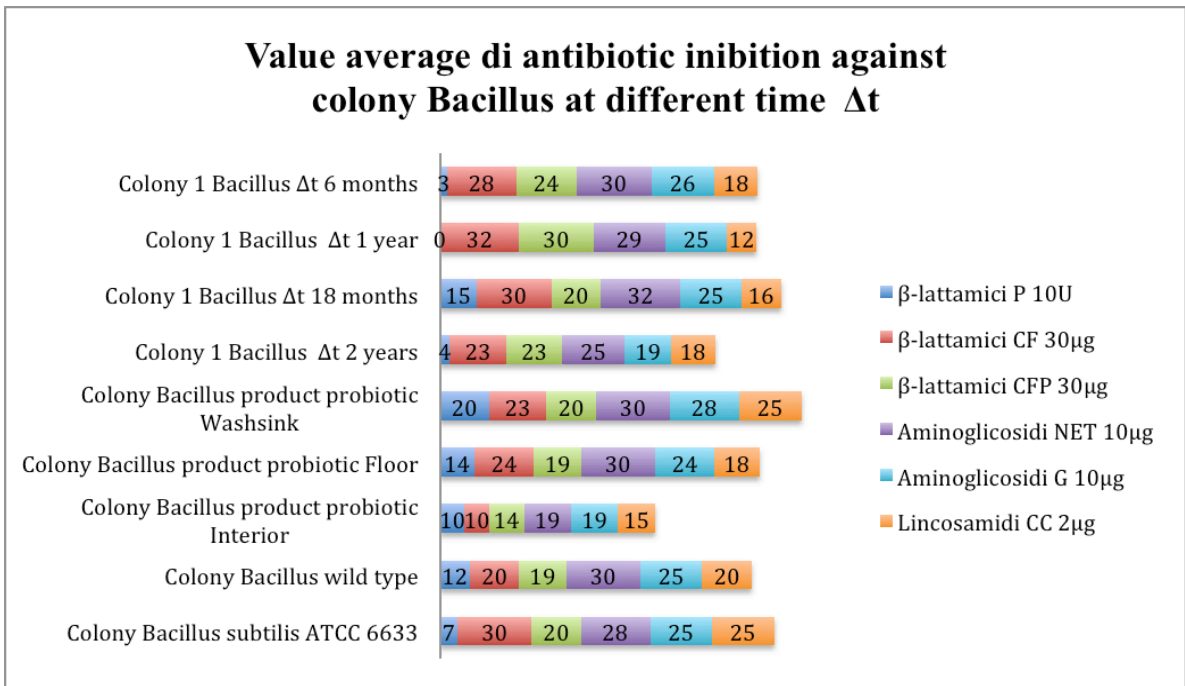


Chart 22: Results obtained for antibiotal inhibition of *Bacillus* colonies are isolated for each sampling time after probiotic-based cleaning procedure.

Table 5.23 Strains microoganisms	chimic sanitizer	probiotic cleaning	% Total Reduction
	cfu/m ²	cfu/m ²	
<i>Staphylococcus spp</i>	9750	1470	85%
<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	2301	460	80%
<i>Pseudomonas spp</i>	929	121	87%
<i>Candida spp</i>	1513	378	75%
Average Value Reduction (%)			81,75%

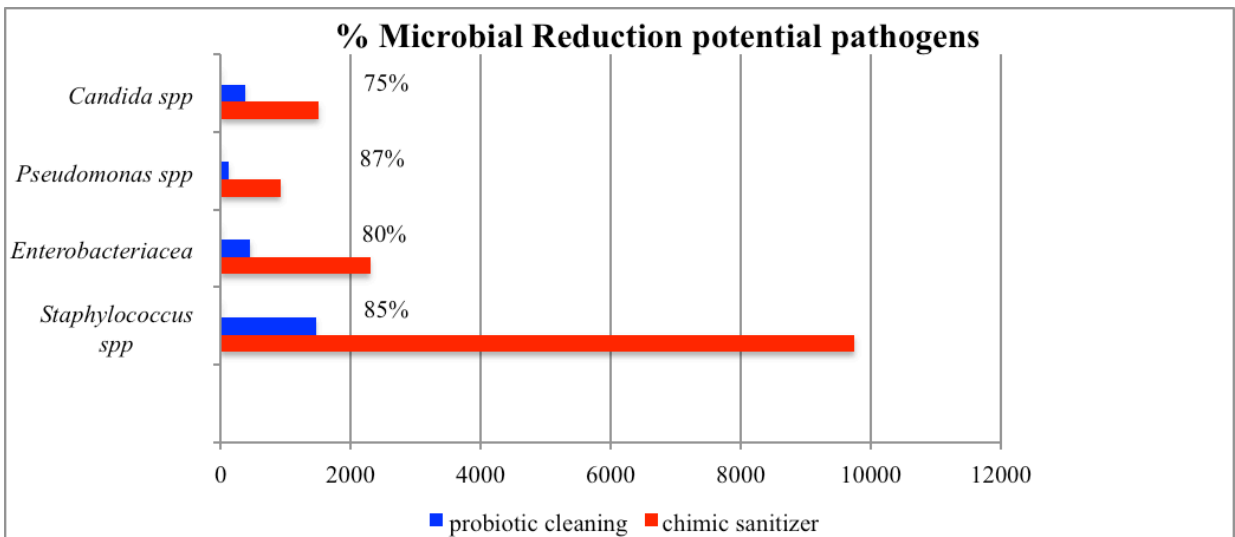


Chart 23: Percentual overall reduction of the alert organisms (pathogens) with the use of probiotic detergents compared to traditional methods of cleaning with the use of chemicals.

The charge of pathogens on average decreases of 75% ÷ 87%.

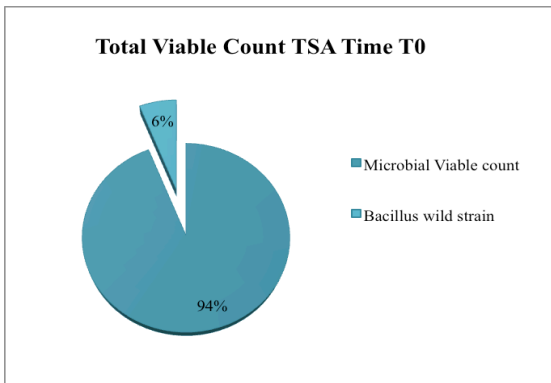


Chart 24

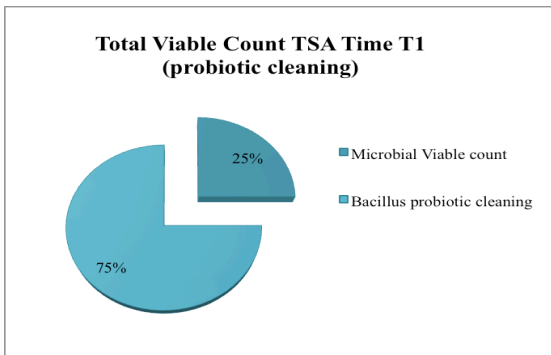


Chart 25

Explanation of results: Composition of the Microbial Viable total count:

on field before probiotic-based cleaning procedure was composed of 6% of wild *Bacillus* and 94% of potential hospital pathogens.

After probiotic cleaning there was a biostabilization with 25% potentially pathogenic and 75% probiotic *Bacillus* (safe bacteria).

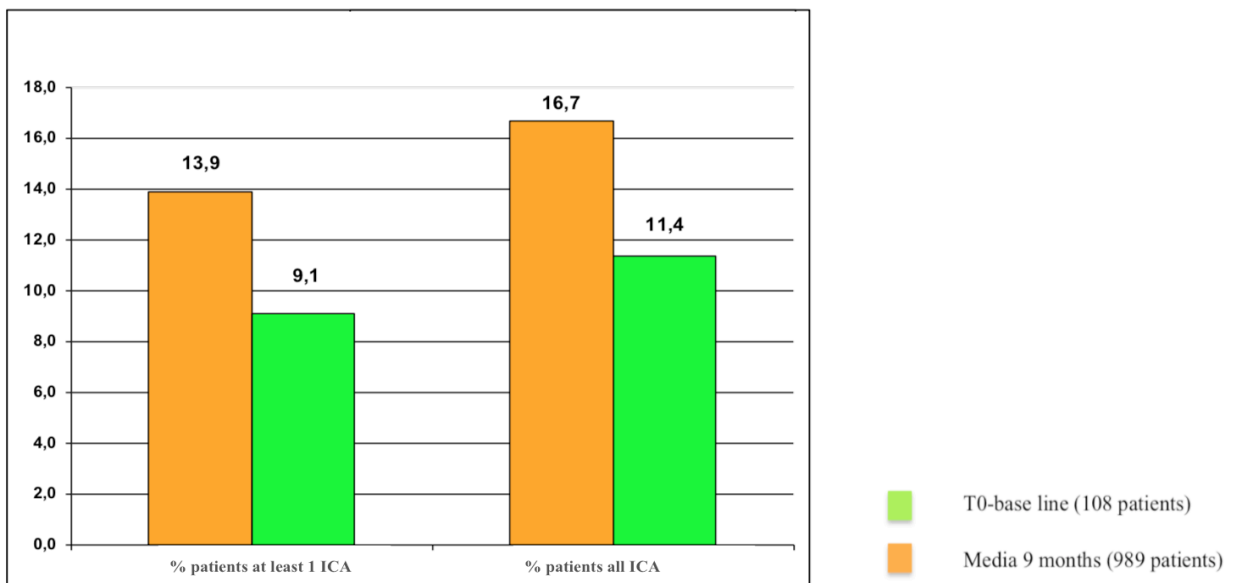


Chart 26: Reduction infection T0-base line (108 patients) compared with 989 patients observed (subjected to diagnostic examinations and hospital surveillance) to assess the presence of any infections acquired during hospitalization for a period of 9 months. The data show a possible correlation between microbiological contamination of environment and care-associated infections (ICAs).

The probiotics are able to reduce the growth of specific pathogenic microbial species.

6 Discussion:

The study is carried out in occupied rooms of an inpatient division of 13 public hospitals (11 North Hospitals and 2 South Hospitals) and 7 RSAs (6 North Hospitals and 1 South Hospital). Nine kinds of material (surfaces) per room are analyzed (Table 2) by plate contact before and after the probiotic-based cleaning procedure in comparison with traditional chlorine-based chemical disinfectants.

The microbiological screening targeted the most common HAI-related microorganisms known to reside on surfaces, such as *Staphylococcus species* (alert organism: *St. aureus*), *Enterobacteriaceae* (alert organism: *Escherichia coli*), *Pseudomonas species* (alert organism: *Ps. aeruginosa*), *Acinetobacter species* (alert organism: *Acinetobacter baumannii*) and *Candida species* (alert organism: *Candida albicans* and alert organism *Clostridium difficile*).

The results obtained 'in vitro' (under contamination-controlled conditions) show that their effectiveness is not influenced by the type of surface treated.

The results in field are evaluated for 30 months within patient wards in several departments (such as medicine, geriatrics, long-term care, etc.) in 13 Italian hospitals and 4 nursing homes in Italy with approximately 18,232 microbial surface samples collected by technique count plate.

All samples by microbiological samplings are performed following MEM methodology, but only 13,003 are samples obtained under the H7 protocol (7 hours after cleaning), which have been subjected to a mathematical process with the application of the 7/7 days protocol (cleaning performed all days).

The experimental study indicates that the use of probiotic microorganisms significantly reduces the pathogenic microbial load on contaminated surfaces, and that the effect is more prolonged and stable than that exerted by chemical disinfectants. An impact on the microbial surface remodeling in the nosocomial environment and reduction of infectious events has been demonstrated in correlation with species that mostly colonize the surface.

Consequently, surveillance of infections has shown a reduction in infectious events during the surface treatment with probiotic cleaning.

This study confirm the correlation between microbiological contamination of the environment and care-associated infections (HAIs) in public and the private facilities.

The present work investigated the effectiveness of a probiotic-based sanitation procedure for hard surfaces in both a contamination-controlled laboratory setup and in a real setting consisting of a hospital study-model. This study was based on the hypothesis that probiotic bacteria, defined as a preparation of viable microorganisms that bring a benefit to the host's health (19), could colonize surfaces and counteract the proliferation of other bacterial species (13), including those recognized as potential pathogens for humans.

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs), which are the most frequent complications in healthcare facilities (1), represent a primary case of unwanted human side-effects related to direct or indirect contact with potential pathogens.

The evidence for a proof-of-principle application of this strategy comes from our results obtained in contamination-controlled settings in which we exploited commercially available pathogenic strains such as *Staphylococcus species*, *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Pseudomonas species*, *Acinetobacter species*, *Candida species* and *Clostridium difficile*.

The procedure resulted in a significant reduction in the referenced pathogen populations used, pointing towards the potential feasibility of this method in a real setting.

Our observations with the probiotic-based procedure indicate that its effectiveness in reducing and maintaining a low pathogen load was significantly more pronounced than that of a chemical-based disinfectant on all tested surfaces over time. The pathogen-lowering results of the probiotic-based treatment could be explained as an effect due to bio-stabilization.

The results indicated that i) a probiotic-based sanitation procedure was significantly more effective (up to about 80%) in reducing potentially pathogenic microbial loads than a traditional chlorine-based chemical protocol, and ii) the reduced microbial load was stably maintained at low levels throughout the 24 hours after the application, despite the presence of continuous and multiple sources of microbial re-contaminations due to external natural contributors such as patients, visitors, hospital staff and moving materials.

7 Conclusion:

The experimental study provides evidence that the strategy of bio-stabilization of the probiotic-based products are a reliable alternative to traditional chemical disinfection of surfaces, in particular in the correlation between microbiological contamination of the environment and care –associated infection (ICAs).

Although many disease control centers and the overall healthcare sector are aware of problems with resistant pathogens, new sustainable solutions and adequate monitoring techniques have not yet been implemented. This research clearly indicates the importance of monitoring pathogens throughout the healthcare sector public and private and it presents an innovative and sustainable solution to resistant pathogens. The use of probiotic cleansing has proven experimentally to be more effective than conventional disinfection in the control of long-term infections.

Acknowledgements

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