Five important updates in *C. difficile* infection (CDI) management

The following updates were adapted from Dr. John G. Bartlett’s 8/26/13 article on Medscape.com.

1. A new U.S. CDC study found that 75% of patients admitted to a hospital or nursing home were already colonized with *C. difficile* at the time of admission. This knowledge has important ramifications for infection control practices.

2. Fidaxomicin is now the second drug approved by the U.S. FDA for the treatment of CDI. While it may be relatively costly, it has global cure rates superior to those of vancomycin.

3. Doctors in the Netherlands have trained a beagle to detect CDI based on the odor of p-cresol, the phenolic compound that is thought to be associated with *C. difficile*. The beagle’s performance in the trial was near perfect.

4. Surgeons at the University of Pittsburgh have reported a new surgical approach to treating severe *C. difficile* infection, called “diverting loop ileostomy with colonic vancomycin lavage,” which has lower mortality rates than the standard colectomy procedure.

5. Stool transplants for patients with multiple relapses of CDI are becoming more widely accepted, thanks to more research and relaxed FDA requirements.