

Identification of pathogenic and non-pathogenic skin flora on equipment used by the Manchester University football team in the fall of 2012

The purpose of this study is to quantify and identify the type of skin flora found on Manchester University football equipment, focusing solely on *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Streptococcus mitis* and *Streptococcus pyogenes*. Several types of media were used to identify the different strains of bacteria, including mannitol salt agar, brain-heart infusion, blood agar and 10% mannose. The anticipated outcome of this research would be that the non-pathogenic types of bacteria could be found on all equipment, due to the strains being part of the normal flora, while the pathogenic types would be sparse and contained to the equipment in which the bacteria would more than likely be found, i.e. because *Streptococcus mitis* is an oral bacteria, it should only be identified in the mouthguards. The findings may be useful in team sanitation, safety, and prevention of bacteria spread between team mates.