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Abstract

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Major: Nursing

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Examination of Microbes on Nursing Students' Shoes

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There have been research studies identifying the various microbes located on items found around hospitals, like stethoscopes, but there was insignificant data about bacteria grown on healthcare workers' shoes. Many nursing students wear their nursing shoes out of the clinical setting and into other public or private places like ones home. This action potentiates the transfer of different microbes from the nursing students' shoes to the new environment they walk through, which in turn exposes that environment and those in it to microbes that can cause infection and illnesses. The overall purpose of this qualitative study is to identify the types of microbes brought home by nursing students from the various clinical settings. The identification process was done through swabbing both street shoes and clinical shoes from volunteers from WIU's School of Nursing, then growing the bacteria culture on nutrient and MacConkey Agar. Once the cultures were incubated for 48-hours, various microscope slides were gram stained and spore stained and then viewed under a microscope for microbial identification. The results of this research study demonstrated that the street shoes swabbed grew far more bacteria than that of the clinical shoes that were swabbed. There was also a correlation that both the clinical and street shoes swabbed from the Junior WIU School of nursing class grew more bacteria than that of the Senior WIU Nursing Classes' shoes. In conclusion, bacteria was grown on both the street and clinical shoes and one should be cognizant about where they are wearing these shoes.