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### **Frequency analysis of bacteria isolated in conjunctivitis, keratitis and endophthalmitis.**

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Purpose: To evaluate the frequency of the most common bacteria isolated in ocular infections (conjunctivitis, keratitis, endophthalmitis) and to analyze the frequency changes during the last fifteen years.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of the results of bacteria identification in patients with a clinical diagnosis of conjunctivitis (n=8442), keratitis (n=3779) and endophthalmitis (n=584) from January 1985 to May 2000 in the External Eye Diseases Laboratory of the Department of Ophthalmology of the at Federal University of São Paulo. We evaluate the frequency of each bacterial type per year and the relative frequency of each bacterial type during the last fifteen years.

Results: For conjunctivitis, the most frequent bacterium isolated was coagulase positive Staphylococcus – S. aureus, followed by coagulase negative Staphylococcus (CNS) and Gram positive Bacillus. S. aureus frequency decreased during these fifteen years, and coagulase negative Staphylococcus and Gram positive Bacillus increased. For keratitis, S. aureus, CNS and Streptococcus were the most frequent isolated bacteria. By sequential analysis, S. aureus frequency decreased, while CNS and Streptococcus frequencies increased. For endophthalmitis, S. aureus was the most frequent bacterium isolated, followed by CNS and Streptococcus. During the studied period, the S. aureus frequency decreased.

Conclusion: The relation between total number of isolated bacteria and total number of exams performed in the laboratory was equivalent during the last fifteen years in cases of conjunctivitis, keratitis and endophthalmitis, with no statistical significance. S. aureus as an etiologic agent for conjunctivitis, keratitis and endophthalmitis is decreasing while other bacteria presented an increased incidence.