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Close long-term contacts between individuals with discordant colonisation status of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae do not result in bacterial transmission

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Running title

No transmission of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae

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Sir,

invasive medical devices and antibiotic treatment have been identified as the most important factors for acquisition of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) in hospitals [1]. To contain the spread of CRE, barrier/contact precautions have been most frequently performed [2]. However, patient isolation obviously has disadvantages, e.g. increased number of adverse events and a negative impact on patient mental well-being, including higher scores for depression and anxiety [3,4]. The residence of a CRE colonised patient together with a non-colonised healthy individual in the same room would remain the only risk factor when both undergo contact isolation. Here we investigated two CRE colonised patients, each accompanied by a relative during their stay at the early rehabilitation ward of the hospital of Ingolstadt (ERWIN).

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