

# and cleansing agent in accident and emergency

Riyat, MS; Quinton, DN

## **Abstract:**

**OBJECTIVE:** To investigate the bacterial cleanliness of tap water in a large accident and emergency (A&E) department for its possible use in the cleansing and irrigation of open traumatic wounds. **METHODS:** Tap water samples were collected from different areas within the department and analysed on two separate occasions for coliforms, *S aureus*, clostridia, pseudomonas, and beta haemolytic streptococci. **RESULTS:** Pathogenic bacteria were not isolated from the tap water samples within the A&E department. **CONCLUSIONS:** Tap water of drinking quality can be used to irrigate open traumatic wounds.