



## Hospital Infections Down

About Luis Fábregas

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Dr. Muto said a recently established system to control infections in Presby's cardiothoracic intensive care unit continuously releases hydrogen peroxide vapor into rooms.

People can't feel or taste the vapor but it is toxic to bacteria and viruses that typically lurk in a hospital room, Muto said.

"If you have a cleaner environment, the patients won't have the increased risk of being exposed to bacteria," she said.

Hospital infections represent a serious threat to patients, the report said, and slightly more than 12 percent of patients with infections end up dying.

By contrast, the mortality rate for patients without infection was 2 percent. The report cautioned that the influence of infections on mortality rates is unknown. Deaths can be influenced by a patient's specific medical condition.