

STUDIES IN THE US ON COMPARATIVE BARRIER PERFORMANCE OF GLOVES

<i>Studies in the US</i>	<i>Percentage of Failure</i>		
	Latex	Vinyl	Nitrile
<i>Korniewicz (1990)</i>	7	63	n.a
<i>Klein (1990)</i>	< 1 ^a	22 ^a	n.a.
	< 1 ^b	56 ^b	n.a
<i>Olsen (1993)</i>	4.2- 7.9 ^c	43	n.a.
<i>Douglas (1997)</i>	1.1 ^c	25-32 ^d	n.a.
<i>Rego (1999)</i>	0-4	26-61 ^d	1-3

^a No alcohol contact

^b Pretreatment with 70% alcohol

^c Latex Powder-free ,

^d Standard Vinyl

n.a. Not available

The research findings show:

- Latex and nitrile gloves are much superior in barrier performance compared with vinyl gloves particularly under in-use conditions
- Barrier performance remains the single most important function of gloves to protect against transmission of viruses and bacteria when in contact with blood and other bodily fluids