Not all antimicrobial incise drapes are created equal.

Test methods that directly apply the drape to the skin and measure skin flora are very difficult to correlate with real suppression at the skin surface. But a time-kill study clearly reveals the difference between drapes.

The objective of this study was to measure the antimicrobial activity of three different antimicrobial incise drapes, using an in vitro time-kill method. A 3M™ Steri-Drape™ Incise Drape, with no antimicrobial, was used as a control.

Conclusions:

- 3M™ Ioban™ 2 Anitmicrobial Incise Drapes were significantly better at reducing the microbial counts when compared with ISO Drape® Incise Drape featuring Microban® Antimicrobial Protection and MCD ACTI-Gard® for all microorganisms tested at 90 minutes.
- ACTI-Gard drape was not significantly better than Steri-Drape 2 in reducing any of the microorganism tested at all time points tested.
- Microban drape was not significantly better than Steri-Drape 2 in reducing any of the microorganism tested at all time points tested.

Fig. 18