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Healthcare associated infection /nosocomial infection

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Abstract

Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs), also known as nosocomial infections (NIs), are currently one of the most important challenges for modern medicine. Patients with HAIs might have prolonged hospital stays and high mortality, thus not only threatening the safety of patients but also causing a significant waste of social and economic resources, representing an important public health problem threatening human health. Although the real global burden of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) is unknown because of the difficulty in gathering reliable data, it has been estimated that, at any time, over 1.4 million patients worldwide are suffering from infections acquired in healthcare facilities (HCFs). HAIs affect all countries, irrespective of their level of development, and can affect patients, healthcare workers (HCWs), and visitors. For example, in the USA it has been estimated that 1.7–2 million patients suffer HAIs and nearly 90,000 patients die each year (CDC, 2009). The overall annual direct medical costs of HAI to US hospitals are in the range \$28–45 billion per year. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control estimates that, on any given day, about 80,000 patients (1 in 18 patients) have at least one HAI resulting in at least 37,000 deaths per year in European countries (ECDC, 2013). The incidence of HAIs in the developed world is between 5% and 10%, while in developing countries the risk of HAIs is 2–20 times higher than in developed countries and the proportion of patients affected by HAIs can exceed over 25% in developing countries (WHO, 2011). For babies who are born in hospital, infections are responsible for 4–56% of all-cause deaths in the neonatal period. In high-income countries, up to 30% of patients are affected by at least one HAI in intensive care units. Nosocomial infection surveillance is an important basis for controlling the occurrence and development of HAIs. Hospitals should detect HAI cases and outbreaks of HAIs in a timely manner, analyse causes and take effective prevention and control measures. Timely reporting of nosocomial infection cases is of great significance for preventing nosocomial infection outbreaks and improving the quality of hospital management. However, due to the wide coverage and complexity of HAIs, a large amount of data needs to be analysed statistically, and traditional manual surveillance is inaccurate and inefficient and has been unable to meet the actual needs of HAI management (all data taken from pubmed and manual of infection control fourth edition)

Biography

Dalia Hassan Hassan is an infection control officer in hospital organization, she has a master degree in infection control and prevention from Beirut Arab University (BAU). She completed her PhD in microbiology (BAU) and also has a degree in biomedical science from Lebanese International University (LIU). I have 13 years of experience in infection control. She started recently as a clinical instructor for infection control department in Beirut Arab University.

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