Hospital Acquired Infectious Diseases

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Objectives

- Nosocomial infection (HAI)
- CDC hot list
- Common nosocomial pathogens
- Modes of transmission
- Antibiotic-resistant nosocomial pathogens
- Control of nosocomial infections

Introduction for Nosocomial Infections

- Acquired during hospital stay
- Asymptomatic and symptomatic patient can be considered infected
- Infection may be carried by:
 - Healthcare workers
 - Family members
- New antibiotic research is decreasing
- Account for 5% to 10% infection rates in USA
- > 40% in other developing countries
- Huge \$\$ cost involved in treatment



Types of nosocomial infections

- The CDC has classified 13 types of nosocomial infections based on biological and clinical data:
 - UTI
 - Surgical sites
 - Gastroenteritis
 - Meningitis
 - Respiratory infections
- Increasing rates occur because of cancer therapy, organ transplants, immunotherapy, invasive diagnostic techniques
- Not so good news! HAI have increased 17% to 30% in last 5 years

Types of nosocomial infections

- Bacteria are responsible for about 90% of infections
- Protozoans, fungi, viruses and mycobacteria are less contributing compared to bacterial infections
- Out of these- these are of "concern"
 - Enterococci
 - P. aeruginosa
 - S. aureus
 - ►E. coli



Commonly isolated nosocomial pathogens found in health care facilities

- Acinetobacter baumannii
- Clostridium difficile
- Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)
- 🗩 Escherichia coli
- Klebsiella pneumonia
- Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus
- Psuedomonas aeruginosa
- Staphylococcus aureus
- Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci

Virulence factors

- Virulence factors:
 - Innate ability of bacteria to survive and thrive
 - Invade the host
 - Cause disease
- Adherence Factors
 - Many pathogenic bacteria colonize mucosal sites by using pili(fimbriae) to adhere to cells
- Toxins
 - Endotoxins
 - Part of cell wall of gram negative bacteria
 - Create fever and inflammation
 - Exotoxins
 - Secreted by bacteria causing inhibition of immune responses
 - E-coli and C-Diff
- Destructive enzymes- break down cell walls
- Immune modulators- break down the host's immunoglobulins using proteases

S. aureus

- Staphylococcus genus is considered one of the most important pathogens
- Gram-positive cocci, non-spore forming, catalase- and coagulase-positive, immotile, facultatively anaerobe
- Mainly colonizes in nasal passages and skin



S. aureus

- 20% individuals have persistent colonization of S. aureus
- Decreased immunity and immunocompetent patients
- S. aureus infects not only the superficial but also the deep tissues
 - Toxin-mediated diseases of S. aureus include:
 - Food poisoning
 - Toxic shock syndrome
 - Scalded skin syndrome
- Virulence mechanisms of S. aureus include:
 - Toxins
 - Enzymes
 - Immune modulators



S. aureus

- In hospitals these infections can be fatal:
 - Bacteremia or sepsis when bacteria spread to the bloodstream
 - Pneumonia, which predominantly affects people with underlying lung disease including those on mechanical ventilators
 - Endocarditis (infection of the heart valves), which can lead to heart failure or stroke
 - Osteomyelitis (bone infection), which can be caused by staph bacteria traveling in the bloodstream

E-coli

- E. coli is an emerging nosocomial pathogen
- E. coli is Gram-negative and oxidase-negative facultative anaerobe bacteria
- Colonize in GI tract of human beings and other animals



E-coli

- E. coli is responsible for a number of diseases:
 - UTI
 - Septicemia
 - Pneumonia
 - Neonatal meningitis (Group B Streptococci)
 - Peritonitis
 - Gastroenteritis
- Virulence factors are endotoxins, capsule, adhesions and type 3 secretion systems
- Specialized virulence factors are seen in cases of UTI and gastroenteritis

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)

- Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci
- 17 different species of Enterococci
- Resistant to Vancomycin
 - Used to treat infections caused by enterococci
- Normally present in the human intestines and in the female genital tract
- Can sometimes cause infections
- Most Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci infections occur in hospitals

Enterococci

- 2nd leading cause of hospital acquired infections worldwide
 - Nursing home admissions?
- 20%–30% of all infections in the USA
- Facultative anaerobic Gram-positive enteric microbes
- Part of normal microbiota in female genital tract and gastrointestinal tract as well
- Involved in the blood-borne infections; UTI, wound infections, and surgical procedures infections
- Virulence factors include extracellular surface proteins, cytolysin, adhesions, hemolysins, gelatinase, extracellular superoxide and aggregation substances



Clostridium difficile (C. difficile)

- Nosocomial pathogen which mainly causes diarrhea worldwide
- Gram-positive bacillus
- Anaerobic and spore-forming bacteria
- Colonizes in intestinal tract and serves as part of normal microbiota
- Diseases caused by toxins produced by C. difficile:
 - Colitis 15%–25% cases
 - Diarrhea
- Major virulence factors for C. difficile are toxins, fimbriae, capsule and hydrolytic enzymes





Modes of transmission

- S. aureus
 - Infected individuals' skin or contact via shared items and surfaces like door handles, benches, towels and taps
- E. coli
 - Transmitted through person to person, environment or contaminated water and food
- Vancomycin-resistant enterococci
 - Patients with diarrhea
 - Room items such as surfaces and equipment's act as reservoirs
 - Can survive on theses surfaces for days or weeks

Modes of transmission

- Klebsiella pneumonia
 - Transmitted by person-to-person contact
 - Healthcare professionals do not wash or clean hands after checking a contaminated patient
 - Ventilators, catheters or exposed wounds can be the source of its transmission
 - Transmitted through stool , patients' hands and pharynx
- P. aeruginosa
 - Common reservoirs include breast pumps, incubators, sinks and hands of hospital staff and hand soaps

Modes of transmission

C. difficile

Spores of C. difficile can hold for months
Infected intestinal patients are major sites acted as reservoirs

Inanimate objects such as door knobs, stethoscopes, ventilators, etc

Hospital staff along with hospital settings are also part of the problem

- Multi-drug-resistant nosocomial organisms include
 - MRSA
 - Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci
 - P. aeruginosa
 - K. pneumonia
 - C. difficile shows natural resistance
- 50% to 60% of hospital-acquired infections are caused by resistant pathogens
- Improper use of antibiotics is the major cause of this drug resistance

- MRSA
 - β-Lactamase antibiotics including penicillin became resistant in the 1940s
 - Resistance of penicillin due to its improper use
 - Staphylococcal species have penicillinase enzyme that makes penicillin infective
 - Penicillinase-resistant antibiotics were developed such as cephalosporin's and methicillin's
 - By the 1960s, methicillin-resistant species of S. aureus were first reported
 - Resistance was due to the modification of penicillin-binding proteins
 - \blacktriangleright β -lactam antibiotics along with their derivatives are now ineffective

- <u>V</u>ancomycin-<u>R</u>esistant <u>E</u>nterococci
 - Resistance in the enterococcal species due to the vanA and vanB genes
 - Part of plasmid and would spread resistance to other microbes
 - Enterococci are resistant to many different classes of antibiotics which include:
 - Penicillin
 - Ampicillin
 - Aminoglycosides
 - Tetracycline's
 - Carbapenem
 - Fluoroquinolones
 - Macrolides
 - Linezolid, daptomycin, and tigecycline current treatment options

- *P. aeruginosa* is becoming resistant due to different mechanisms
 - These mechanisms include:
 - Restricted uptake of drug
 - Modification and altered targets sites for antibiotics
- Due to this increasing resistance, complications are seen in these infections
- Ineffective drugs showing resistance:
 - Cephalosporin's
 - Trimethoprim
 - Macrolides
 - Chloramphenicol
 - Tetracycline's
 - Fluoroquinolones
- Current treatment combination of Cephalosporins and Aminoglycoside

- Klebsiella pneumonia
 - Resistance to β -lactam antibiotics
 - 3rd and 4th generation Cephalosporin's show resistance for K. pneumonia
 - Treatment with combination therapy Aminoglycosides and Imipenem
- C. difficile
 - Increased use of broad-spectrum antibiotics is associated diseases resistance
 - Improper antibiotic use was the cause of increasing infections of C. difficile
 - Treatment with Vancomycin

Control of nosocomial infections

- Need statistics on antimicrobial susceptibility
- Resistant organisms make it extremely difficult to devise a proper plan for control
- Each hospital has variant strains making it difficult to compare and share information
- Different healthcare settings at some hospitals don't share data

Need to know the types of microorganism involved in infection

- Infectious organisms are heterogeneous in nature which makes them different from one another
- Compare the infection rates
 - Type of healthcare settings is important and services they provide
 - Admissions from nursing homes
- Management of infections differs greatly between institutions

Development of infection control programs

- Guidelines for the sterilization and disinfection
- Guidelines for the prevention of catheter-associated UTI
- Create protocols that reduce the transmission of nosocomial infections
- Surveillance of nosocomial infections along with investigation of major outbreaks

CDC Helps with this

Training of healthcare professionals is extremely important for the control and prevention of infection

Surveillance of nosocomial infections

- Ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data
- Control the infections by evaluating the efficacy of treatment and clusters of breakout infections
- Surveillance can lead to better infection control practices
- People practice better infection control practices if they are being 'watched"

Summary

- Even with the best antibiotics, nosocomial infections are still uncontrollable
- Control of organisms responsible for nosocomial infections is much needed as they cause great economic as well as production loss
- Transmission of these infections in the hospital settings through healthcare workers can be avoided by the use of infection control practices
- Improper and frequent use of antibiotics is an important cause of drugresistant organisms that are difficult to treat
- Hospitals should devise the infection control programs through which infection rates can be compared and controlled
- A well-managed surveillance methodology is required
- Best practice should be shared among hospitals to stop the spread of nosocomial infections.

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