

PROPORTION OF THREE TYPES OF HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS AMONG HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN SRI LANKA

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Health care associated infections (HCAIs) are one of the major problems in health care settings in Sri Lanka. The aims of this study were to determine the proportion of urinary tract infections (UTIs), respiratory tract infections (RTIs), surgical site infections (SSIs), and to evaluate the association of medical devices and duration of hospitalization predispose to HCAIs in Sri Lanka. Data extraction sheets were used as the study instrument and were filled with information obtained from bed head tickets and the laboratory reports. Four hundred and twenty three bed head tickets of the patients who had stayed more than 48 hours or readmitted to the hospital in surgical, medical, pediatric and gynecology wards were considered as the study population. Out of 423 patients, a total of 71(16.8%) had been diagnosed as having HCAIs. The predominant type of HCAIs was RTIs (5.7 %) followed by UTIs (5%), SSIs (4%) and other infections (4%). The highest percentage of UTIs was seen in surgical wards (38.1%) whereas RTIs were reported in medical wards (45.8%). SSIs were only detected in surgical wards. Altogether 21.18 % of males and 16.36% of females were reported to have HCAIs. Males reported to acquire higher percentages of SSIs (4.4%), UTIs (5.9%), and RTIs (5.9%) and other infections (4.9%) compared to females who presented with 3.6%, 4.09%, 5.4% and 3.2% of above infections, respectively. Patients aged more than 60 years were the most susceptible age group for harboring HCAIs (24.46%). The association between the proportion of HCAIs with high usage of medical devices ($p<0.05$) and the association between proportion of HCAIs with the long stay in the hospital ($p<0.05$) were statistically significant. The study concludes that a considerable proportion of study population acquire HCAIs while admitted in the hospital.