What is the Role of Stethoscope in Transmitting Infection at a Tertiary Care Saudi Center?

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Background: It has been proven that stethoscopes can carry several nosocomial isolates, in previous studies. We initiate a study at our institution to find the magnitude of stethoscopes in transmitting nosocomial isolates between patients.

Methods: Randomly a health care worker (HCW) in the hospital was given a questionnaire. The HCW was asked to give his/her stethoscope to be swabbed and cultured “Diaphragm of the stethoscope”.

Results: 151 stethoscopes were collected “the study is still ongoing”. The health care were divided into male (69) and female (82). The total percentage of contamination was 47% (72/151). Consultants were 11 (81.8% contaminated). Residents were 21 (66.6% contaminated). Nurses were 51 (21.5% contaminated). Medical students were 15 (40% contaminated). The most common organism is coagulase-negative staphylococcus at 66/72 (91.6%). The second commonest organism was Diptheroids (27.7%). 45.8% (33/72) of HCWs with contaminated stethoscopes had more than one organism per diaphragm.

Discussion: The diaphragm of the stethoscopes can work as a carrier of nosocomial isolates. Our results is 47.7% of stethoscopes are contaminated despite the recommendation of cleaning diaphragm of stethoscopes between patients. We recommend that disinfecting medical instrument should be mandatory and closely supervised.

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Changes in the Incidence of Central Venous Catheter Related Infection in Surgical Patients Receiving Total Parenteral Nutrition

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Background: In patients receiving Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), central venous catheter related infection (CRI) represents a serious complication which conduct to increased morbidity and cost of hospital stay. The aim of this study was to assess if there was any change regarding the incidence of CRI during the last decade, comparing two consecutive 5-year periods.

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