

Control of Non-Surgical Wound Related Infection in Surgical Ward: An Important Issue in Surgical Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Infection is not an uncommon problem in the clinical practice. If it affects the hospitalized patient, the serious unwanted consequences can be expected. Control of infection control is the basic consideration in clinical nursing. In surgical ward, the great consideration is usually given to the good wound care and control of wound infection. Nevertheless, the nosocomial infection might exist in several other forms in surgical ward and this must be the important recognition for the surgical nursing.

Keywords: nurse, surgery, ward, infection control

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INTRODUCTION

Control of infection control is the basic consideration in the clinical nursing. In surgical ward, the great consideration is usually given to the good wound care and control of wound infection. Nevertheless, the nosocomial infection might exist in several other forms in surgical ward and this must be the important recognition for the surgical nursing. In this short commentary review article, the authors discuss on this important topic and summarize the important report on this issue.

CONTROL OF INFECTION IN SURGICAL WARD: IMPORTANT CONCERN IN SURGICAL NURSING

The roles of a nurse in infection control are accepted in general. The application of the standards infection control in clinical wards including surgical ward is needed. The existence of the surgical wound infection is usually a big quality indicator for patient care. However, it should be noted that there are also other forms of nosocomial infections in the surgical ward

in the hospitals. Regarding non-surgical wound related infection, it is important to give emphasis on infection control policies in hospitals. Indeed, infection control is an important issue in nursing care concept. The standard guidelines such as WHO guidelines should be followed. In fact, a recent research report showed that many nurses neglected to follow the standard guidelines [1].

Focusing on the non-surgical wound related infection is surgery ward; there are several kinds of problem. The first example is the catheter related infection. This is a common problem in surgical patients that required long term use of catheter. However, more serious concern should be given to the infection that has a trend of outbreak. Air borne disease and infection due to fecal contamination in surgical ward are not uncommon but usually overlooked. According to the study by Sherlund *et al.* hospital-acquired pneumonia in an emergency department of surgery is not uncommon and needs good preventive action [2]. Focusing on

nosocomial gastrointestinal problem, *Nosocomial diarrhea* outbreak due to *Clostridium difficile* in surgical ward is possible [3]. Pazos *et al.* noted that “Surveillance, together with restriction of antibiotic use was effective for control” is the best preventive action [3]. Finally, the control of the mosquito must be the rule. In the hospital the tropical countries, mosquito vector are not uncommon [4] and it might be the source for emergence of vector borne diseases such as dengue and Zika virus infection [5]. Some important reports in the international database regarding infectious diseases in the surgical ward are shown in Table 1 [6–8]. It can be seen that the good infection control requires good clinical practice and control of the environment in the ward. Indeed, the environmental hygiene model could well explain the problem of nosocomial infection in the surgical ward. The infection risk varies according to patient's characteristics and environmental parameters [9]. The contaminated environment can promote the infection; hence, the good environmental sanitation in the surgical ward is required.

Table 1. Some important reports on infectious diseases in the surgical ward.

Authors	Details
Tezer Tekçe <i>et al.</i> [6]	Tezer Tekçe <i>et al.</i> reported on an outbreak of <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> surgical site infections in a cardiovascular surgery department. Tezer Tekçe <i>et al.</i> concluded that “Although a definite source for the outbreak could not be identified, probably lack of adherence to hand hygiene practices during surgical dressings, contamination, and cross contamination led to this outbreak [6].”
Aggarwal <i>et al.</i> [7]	Aggarwal <i>et al.</i> reported an outbreak of colistin-resistant <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (CRK) in surgical polytrauma intensive care unit (ICU) in India [7]. Aggarwal <i>et al.</i> mentioned that “There was an outbreak of CRK in our ICU that could be contained with infection control measures [7].”
Mu <i>et al.</i> [8]	Mu <i>et al.</i> reported an outbreak of surgical site infections in a neurosurgical ward in China [8]. Mu <i>et al.</i> concluded that “The use of surgical may be the cause of this surgical site infection outbreak [8].”

CONCLUSION

The control of nosocomial infection must be the rule in clinical nursing practice. The infection can occur at any ward including to surgical ward. Although the nosocomial wound infection is the big concern in surgical ward, there is a need to concern on other possible form of nosocomial infections such as fecal borne infection, vector borne infection and air borne infection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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