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EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS

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The causative agents of hospital-acquired infections can range in structure from viruses to single-celled organisms. The causative agents of hospital-acquired infections are most often bacteria, and in rare cases, viruses and fungi.

Most nosocomial infections are anthroponoses. The source of anthroponotic nosocomial infections and some zooanthroponoses can be patients, medical workers, relatives involved in patient care, and visitors. In recent years, persons involved in patient care have been ranked third after patients and medical workers.

Mechanisms and routes of transmission of hospital-acquired infections: Fecal-oral, airborne, transmissible, contact-household, parenteral, vertical, and alimentary.

It is important to organize work on early identification and prevention of sources of infectious agents: early and maximally complete identification of patients and carriers among clients and medical personnel, correct triage of patients upon admission, identification of patients with purulent-inflammatory and other infectious diseases, limiting the flow of patients to the physiological department of the maternity hospital, "clean" and purulent surgical departments, timely isolation of patients with nosocomial infections and their transfer to the appropriate departments and wards, organization of "filter" activities among medical personnel to identify patients.

In the prevention of hospital-acquired infections, the use of disposable devices (syringes, blood, infusion systems) plays an important role in preventing artificial contamination. However, not all medical devices are intended for single use. It is necessary to establish central sterilization departments and check their reliability using physical, chemical and bacteriological tests. It is necessary to monitor compliance with the disinfection procedure, organization, and use of disinfectants from the moment they arrive at the hospital to the use of working solutions. When disinfectant solutions are stored incorrectly and when solutions with reduced concentration are used, they lose their effectiveness. Chamber disinfection is also important in maternity facilities, neonatal care departments, and surgical departments. To prevent the spread of hospital-acquired infections, it is important to establish control over the activities of food units, the processing and sale of food products, especially the sale of dairy and meat products, egg products, salads, and vinaigrettes. Medical personnel working with blood (nurses, surgeons, obstetricians and gynecologists, dentists, clinical and biochemical laboratories, and blood transfusion station employees) should be vaccinated against hepatitis B. Medical personnel should also be required to strictly observe hygiene rules. A simple procedure such as thorough hand washing with soap can reduce the incidence of infection by 20-50%.

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