

ORAL PRESENTATION

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O001: Getting the unexpected: no association between hand hygiene and workload

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Introduction

A high compliance with hand hygiene is a cornerstone of any infection control program. However, a high workload and a lack of time are most commonly used arguments against an appropriate compliance.

Objectives

In order to assess the relationship between the hand hygiene events (HHE) and the workload, we correlated HHEs per patient-day (PD) with the staff time/PD (h), the nursing effort/PD (h) and the C-value indexing the workload, respectively.

Methods

All HHEs at a hematology ward (University Hospital Basel, Switzerland) were continuously recorded from 01.03.12 to 28.02.2013 using the Ingo-man Weco (Ophardt Hygienetechnik, Issum; Germany) and could be analyzed dispenser-, day-, shift-, localization-specifically. Daily data on patients, staff time (h), nursing effort (h), C-value ($1 - (\text{nursing effort} / \text{weighted staff time}) * 100$) were calculated with regard to the workday from the electronic patient documentation sheets. For statistics SPSS was used.

Results

During the one year investigation 208.184 HHE translating into 57 (± 10) HHE/PD were performed. HHE from Monday to Friday exceeded HHE during the weekends with 59 (± 10) versus 51 (± 9) /PD. HHE/PD were significantly associated with the staff time with $r=0.37$ ($p=0.01$) and with the nursing effort with $r=0.41$ ($p=0.01$), respectively. These associations could be verified during workdays as well as during the weekends. In contrary, HHE/PD did not depend on workload in

general indexed by the C-value with $r=-0.04$. However, during Monday and Friday HHE/PD seemed to correlate even inversely with the C-value ($r=0.20$; $p=0.01$).

Conclusion

HHE/PD were associated with the staff time and the nursing effort indicating a constant compliance regardless the workload. This hypothesis was confirmed by the lack of a positive association between the C-value and the HHE/PD. Thus compliance seemed not to be affected by workload at the hematology ward enrolled in this investigation.

Disclosure of interest

None declared.

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