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Pattern in microorganism and their sensitivities in cancer patient with febrile neutropenia

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Infection is a continuous and significant problem in cancer patients. Cancer causes both direct and indirect effect on a patient's immune system. Many factors increase the susceptibility of immunosuppressed cancer patients to infection which includes neutropenia during aggressive therapy, altered gut flora because of frequent antibiotic administration, disruption of skin and damage of epithelial surfaces by cytotoxic agents. We determine the pattern of microorganisms and their drug sensitivities in febrile neutropenia patients because fever during chemotherapy-induced neutropenia may be the only indication of a severe underlying infection. Data were collected prospectively from all neutropenic patients admitted during the year 2012 at Children Cancer Hospital. Out of 150 patients, 72% cultures were positive. A total of 51% were Gram positive bacteria and 22% were Gram negative bacteria in which coagulase-negative staphylococci were the most common Gram positives isolated in blood. There was emerging resistance to all commonly used antibiotics including Co-trimoxazole, Ceftriaxone, Tetracycline, Cefixime, Cloxacillin, and Erythromycin. In our study, we observed that the microbial pattern has been shifted from Gram negative to Gram positive bacterial infections as trend of resistance from commonly use antibiotics is increasing. Due to this fact, second line of drugs is used as first line in these patients.

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Assessment of different wards of Taluka Hospital Pano Akil, Sukkur Sindh

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Airborne microorganisms cause respiratory tract infections which spread by different sources such as droplet nuclei, dust particles, contaminated surfaces, moist conditions, sputum spitting on floors and walls of the wards. In order to check air contamination of different wards of Taluka Hospital, Pano Akil (District Sukkur, Sindh) both passive and active air sampling were applied according to the standard methods. According to these results, female ward exhibited highest colony count (559.33) followed by male ward (476), and OT (353.33), respectively. In active sampling, male ward exhibited highest colony count (564) followed by OT (430), and female ward (372), respectively. The wards of Taluka Hospital, Pano Akil showed highest colony count and are highly contaminated as compared to acceptable levels. The most common bacteria identified in Taluka Hospital, Pano Akil were *Bacillus subtilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Streptobacilli*. Gram positive bacteria were found high in range as compared to Gram negative bacteria. The evidence sought in this study based on both active and passive sampling suggests that the observed air contamination in the wards was significantly higher than the acceptable levels. Hence, it can be deduced that the public sector hospital wards under study exhibited high level of air contamination that could be linked to unhygienic conditions and lack of commitment. It was also observed, that the air contamination in the wards under observation was persistent as there was no significant difference in the observed air contamination on each visit; hence the contamination was persistently higher.

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