HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS IN A PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

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Introduction Healthcare-associated infections (HAI) are a common cause of higher morbidity, mortality and longer stay in PICU.

Objective Characterisation of HAI: tracheobronchitis, pneumonia, bloodstream infection (BSI) and urinary tract infection (UTI) in our PICU, for a 12 month period (2013).

Methods Retrospective review of clinical data from patients admitted ≥48 h, using a modified patient-based HELICS protocol. HAI was defined according to the Centre for Disease Control.

Results From a total of 450 admissions, 233 patients were included. Mean age was 6.7 years (0–18), mean length of stay was 6.6 days (3–67) and the majority had antibiotic on admission (87%). Seventy one patients (31%) were mechanically ventilated, 41% had CVC and 33% a urinary catheter.

Fifteen children had a total of 21 HAI (9%): 16 respiratory infections - 13 pneumonias and 3 tracheobronchitis (19,8 and 4,6/1000 days of ventilation, respectively), 2 primary BSI – one related to CVC (1,4/1000 days of CVC) and 3 UTI (2,9/1000 days of urinary catheter). The most common pathogens were Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Enterobacter cloacae in respiratory infections. Staphylococcus hominis and Candida parapsilosis were identified in BSI and Escherichia coli, Enterococcus faecalis, Candida parapsilosis in UTI. Mean length of stay was 26.9 days in the HAI group versus 5.2 days in non HAI group. There was no HAI related mortality.

Discussion The incidence of HAI was similar to other European Units. We found a higher rate of respiratory infections than that of a previous study in our PICU, emphasising the importance of monitoring and preventive measures.

PO-0331 THE EFFECTS OF INCREASED AWARENESS ON MEDICATION ERROR DISCLOSURES

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Background Communicating medication errors is a crucial part of patient care. Children are exposed up to three times the rate of potentially dangerous adverse drug events. A previous evaluation of disclosure of medication errors identified barriers in communicating these errors.

Methods Two presentations on medication errors and how to improve their communication with patient/family were presented to the PICU team. A Medication Error Data Entry Form was used to collect the number and type of medication errors (only type C through I require immediate notification to the MD). Communication to family was documented in a separate form.

Results Thirty-four medication errors were recorded over a 4-month period (2 months before and 2 months after education). Fifty-three percent were type A errors (circumstances or events that have the capacity to cause error) while the remaining were type C (an error occurred that reached the patient but did not cause patient harm) (Table 1).

Abstract PO-0331 Table 1

While the fellows did not participate in the communication of errors to patient/family before education, they did in 60% of the notifications afterwards. The two barriers to communication were “family was not available” (43%) and “error did not cause side effects” (57%).

Conclusion This study demonstrates that despite the effort to increase awareness of medication errors disclosure there was not an improvement in communicating of medication errors to the patient/family. A more systematic and aggressive approach to education on communication may be required to properly address and improve the disclosure of medication errors.

PO-0332 BARRIERS TO DISCLOSURE OF MEDICATION ERRORS

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Background Medication administration error is the most frequent error in paediatrics and one of the leading causes of death. Adverse event reporting is critical to improving patient...
safety but challenging in our field, and not without barriers. The purpose of this analysis was to determine how often medications errors get communicated to patients and/or families and to identify the barriers perceived by healthcare providers to disclose these errors.

**Methods** A survey was distributed to the critical care team. The questions were answered anonymously, with the only identifier being their position in the critical care team.

**Results** A 76% response was obtained, eight attendings (44.4%), 5 nurses-RNs (27.8%), 3 nurse practitioners- NPs (16.7%), and 3 fellows (16.7%) returned the survey. The group that ‘always’ reported communication of medicine errors was the attendings (42%), followed by RNs (40%), NPs (25%), and the fellows (0%) (Figure 1). The most often perceived obstacle to communicating was family not being available (Figure 2).

**Conclusion** This analysis demonstrated that communication of medication errors does not happen consistently. In addition, the most common obstacle identified was the absence of family when the event occurs. This is most likely a challenge that is more unique to the paediatric population. The culture of open communication is critical in creating a safer medical environment; therefore, it is a skill that must be implemented into the medical education.

**Abstract PO-0333 Figure 1** Frequency of communication of medication errors to the patient/family

**Abstract PO-0332 Figure 2** Barriers encountered in communicating medication errors to a patient/family

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**Background and aims** Critical illness results in muscle wasting, typically within the first week of admission. However, its quantification is difficult. Ultrasonographical evaluation has already been tested in adult patients. Here we aim to assess of the accuracy of this methodology in critically ill children.

**Methods** Two independent investigators made ultrasonographical assessments of muscle thickness. A linear array commercial real time ultrasound scanner (Vivid S6) was used with a 12-MHz transducer. The transducer was placed perpendicularly to the long axis of the tight on three fifths of the distance from the anterior superior iliac spine to the superior patellar border. An excess of contact gel was applied to minimise image distortion. During the first week of critical illness we hypothesised a reduction in muscle size of 30% based on literature of critically ill adult patients.

**Results** A group of 43 patients (newborns to 4-years old children) were included in the study. The average muscle thickness was 1.67 cm (SD: 0.52 cm). Hence 30% reduction would equal 0.50 cm. The intra-observer variability, as expressed by the limits of agreement (± 1.96 SD, containing 95% of the samples for normally distributed samples), was 0.61 cm for operator 1 and 0.83 cm for operator 2. Both distributions are visualised in a Bland-Altman plot in Figure 1. Combining both operator data revealed an observer variability of 0.72 cm. The median absolute inter-observer variability was 0.085 cm [IQR 0.040–0.20 cm].

**Conclusions** Although the inter-observer variability among the two operators is acceptable, the intra-observer variability may be too large with respect to the limited expected muscle reduction. Therefore, ultrasonographical analyses of muscle wasting need more standardisation for use in critically ill children.