

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Benchmarking of healthcare-Associated infections in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states

Aiman El-Saed^{1,2} and Hanan H Balkhy^{1,2}

¹Infection Prevention and Control, King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

²Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States Center for Infection Prevention & Control, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Statement of the problem: A

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are a significant global public health problem. The burden of HAIs is increasing worldwide, with an estimated 10% of hospital inpatients acquiring at least one HAI during their stay. HAIs are preventable and avoidable, and their occurrence is a reflection of the quality of patient care. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have a high burden of HAIs, and there is a need to benchmark the performance of these states in order to identify areas for improvement.

Methodology:

A cross-sectional study was conducted in the GCC states to benchmark the performance of these states in terms of HAI incidence. Data were collected from 2015 to 2017. The study included 6 countries: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and compared to international benchmarks.

Findings:

The findings of the study show that the GCC states have a high burden of HAIs, with an incidence rate of 10.5% per patient-year. This is significantly higher than the international benchmark of 7.0%. The highest incidence rate was observed in Saudi Arabia, followed by the United Arab Emirates. The lowest incidence rate was observed in Bahrain. The study also found that the majority of HAIs were caused by Gram-negative bacteria, with *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* being the most common pathogens.

Conclusion & significance: A

The findings of this study highlight the need for improved infection prevention and control measures in the GCC states. Benchmarking the performance of these states can help to identify areas for improvement and to develop targeted interventions to reduce the burden of HAIs.

Biography

Aiman El-Saed is a senior consultant in Infection Prevention and Control at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He is also a senior advisor at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States Center for Infection Prevention & Control. He has a PhD in Public Health and has published numerous articles on HAIs. Hanan H Balkhy is a senior consultant in Infection Prevention and Control at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She is also a senior advisor at the GCC States Center for Infection Prevention & Control. She has a PhD in Public Health and has published numerous articles on HAIs.

Notes: