

Occupational Infections among Health Care Workers in a Secondary Care Hospital Saudi Arabia

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Keywords: Occupational infections; Health care workers; Seroconversion

Introduction

Health care workers (HCWs) are defined as all paid and unpaid persons working in health-care settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or to infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or contaminated air. HCWs might include (but are not limited to) physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the health-care facility, and persons (e.g. clerical, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administrative, billing and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from HCWs and patients [1,2].

While performing their duties, healthcare workers (HCWs) are frequently exposed to dangerous infectious agents. The risk of transmission of vaccine-preventable infections, both from patients to HCWs and from personnel to patients, other HCWs, and visitors is substantial [3,4]. Measles, rubella, varicella, hepatitis A and hepatitis B (HBV) are all vaccine-preventable diseases that are readily transmitted in healthcare facilities [5-9]. The mortality and morbidity

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Citation: Assiri AM, Hathout HM, Anwar MM, El Dalatony MM, Abdel Kader NM 2 FFXSDWLRQDO ,QIHFWRXV DPRQJ +HDOWK & D & DUH +RVSLWDO 6DXGL \$UDELD 2 FFXS OHG +HDOWK

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of hepatitis B vaccination implemented for all newly hired employees in the studied health care facility in KSA ensuring high antibodies titer indicating individual immunity; in addition to maintaining high level standard of infection control practices [29].

Conclusion

The most common occupational infection among studied healthcare workers was chicken pox. Nurses' group was the most affected occupational category during the study period as regards exposure to sharp injuries and air borne infections so, management policy to prevent occupational infectious diseases must focus on nurses.

References

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2. &HQWHUV IRU 'LVHdVH &RQWURO DQG 3UHYHQWLRQ &'& ,PPXQL]DWLRQ RI +HDOWK &DUH 3HUVRQQHO 5HFRPPHQGDWLRQV RI WKH \$GYLVRU\ &RPPLWWHH RQ ,PPXQL]DWLRQ 3UDFWLFHV \$&,3 0RUELGLW\ 0RUWDOLW\ :HHNO\ 5HSRUW 00:5
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