

Candida auris outbreak challenges & lessons learned

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Candida auris (C. auris) is an emerging fungal (yeast-like) pathogen which has caused infections and hospital outbreaks on several continents. In one of the hospitals in UAE, an outbreak of candida auris. Candida auris (C. Auris) is an emerging fungal (yeast-like) pathogen which has caused infections and hospital outbreaks on several continents. In one of the hospitals in UAE, an outbreak of candida auris happened and data was used for the following objectives:

- To Identify possible risk factors that might contribute for Candida auris infections.
- To understand the causes of C. Auris transmission.
- To determine the possible interventions to prevent its spread.

Methods:

- The study period was from Nov 2018 – Feb 2019, wherein surveillance of intensive care unit (ICU) and inpatient ward were carried out to assess patient colonization & environmental contamination.
- Colonization study was by screening patients for C. Auris colonization at two sites (axilla, groin). Environmental sampling was collected using cotton

swab with media on inanimate objects in patient care area (thermometers and vital signs machine).

- Interventions in bundle were carried out including isolation precautions (cohorting of patients), chlorhexidine (CHG) bath of patients, decontamination of environmental surfaces with sporicidal disinfectant, fogging with hydrogen peroxide disinfectant were undertaken. Of positive patients was done on monthly bases. In addition, awareness about basic prevention and control of infection practices such as hand hygiene and use of Personal Protective Equipment were reinforced.

Rescreening of positive patients was performed on monthly bases.

Conclusion, basic prevention and control of infection practice and multiple interventions were effective to control further transmission and it is difficult to eradicate candida auris in colonized cases

Biography (150 word limit)

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