

NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS AND THE ROLE OF INFECTION CONTROL

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Nosocomial infections are an important cause of morbidity and mortality in pediatric patients. The highest rates being in patients in intensive care units, immunocompromised patients and those undergoing surgical procedures. Risk factors include intrinsic and extrinsic factors. The major intrinsic factors are: age, birth weight, underlying diseases and immune status. The extrinsic risk factors are invasive devices and procedures, transmission of the pathogens via the hands of healthcare workers and using antimicrobials in judiciously, with the emergence of antimicrobials-resistant pathogens. Preventing nosocomial infections requires understanding and fully implementing guideline recommendations for the prevention of infections. Preventing nosocomial infections will reduce the prevalence of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens, improve patient outcomes, and reduce health care costs.

Key words: Nosocomial infections ▪ Paediatrics ▪ Controls