

Original Research Article

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A Study of Organisms Causing Surgical Site Infections and their Antimicrobial Susceptibility in a Tertiary Care Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Antimicrobial susceptibility, Surgical site infection, Antibiotic resistance

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Surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis refers to a brief course of antibiotic given during post surgery. Surgical site infections increase the hospital stay and prophylaxis has the potential to shorten the hospital stay. Surgical site infection is one of the most common post operative complication and causes significant post-operative morbidity and mortality. The objective of our study was to study the various microorganisms causing surgical site infection, to study their antibiotic susceptibility pattern. This was a postoperative retrospective series study, with 130 patients irrespective of age or gender, presented to the surgical ward of Saveetha Medical College (tertiary care hospital) and undergoing surgical intervention, conducted from Nov 2018 to Feb 2019. Out of 130 patients analysed the most prevalent microorganism is *E. coli*. The resistance of various microorganisms is studied. Carbapenems would be a better drug for gram negative coverage and vancomycin and linezolid would be a better drug for gram positive coverage.

Introduction

Surgical site infection is the infections of the tissues, organs or spaces exposed by surgeons during performance of an invasive procedure. SSI are characterized by a breach of mechanical / anatomical defence mechanism (barriers) and are associated with greater morbidity, mortality, increases cost of care. SSI can increase the length of time a patient stays in a hospital and thereby increase the cost of health care, not only the patient but his/her family also suffers.

This study was done to study the common micro organisms causing surgical site infections and to study the antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of those organisms.

Materials and Methods

Retrospective study carried out on 130 post operative surgical site patients. This study involved Department of surgery, Dept of Microbiology, Saveetha Medical Hospital, Thandalam. This study involved patients with SSI within the period of November 2018-February 2019.

Various samples received from these patients (pus, wound swab, drain, discharge from various post operative sites) sent to Microbiology lab for gram stain, Acid fast stain, culture and sensitivity were included in this study.

All these samples were processed in Microbiology lab through standard methods were analysed in our study for the common etiological agents and the antibiotic susceptibility pattern.

Results and Discussion

Retrospective study carried out by the Department of surgery and department of Microbiology on surgical site infections to analyse the common organisms that can be isolated from surgical site and to analyse the common antibiotics that would be effective against those organisms.

Various specimens were collected from 130 patients from the surgical wards of Saveetha medical hospital, Thandalam are listed below (Table 1, Figure 1) shows the details of various specimens collected.

The common microorganisms causing SSI in our tertiary care hospital are listed below

(Table 2, Figure 2). These microorganisms are the common organisms causing surgical site infections as per other studies done in different areas of interest.

There are wide range of antibiotics used for treatment of gram positive and gram negative organisms. The unwanted usage of antibiotics has resulted in increased resistance among the common microorganisms causing SSI which makes treatment of post operative patients difficult. The resistance patterns of common microorganisms causing SSI in our setting are listed below (Table 3).

The antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of most common microorganisms both gram positive and gram negative organisms causing SSI in our hospital are listed (Table 4). This study mainly focuses on the common gram positive and gram negative organism and the antibiotic coverage of those gram positive and gram negative organism.

In the present study showed carbapenems had a better coverage against all the common gram negative organisms. Vancomycin and linizolid had a better coverage against the common gram positive organisms causing surgical site infections.

Table.1 The common samples collected from SSI patients

Wound swab	67.6%
Pus cells	23.8%
Tissue cells	5.3%
Synovial fluid	0.7%
Bile C/S	0.7%
Breast discharge	0.7%
Pancreatic Pseudocyst	0.7%

Table.2 Etiological agents causing SSI

Microorganism	% of isolates
<i>E. coli</i>	26.1%
<i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i>	17.6%
<i>Staphylococcus aureus+MRSA</i>	12.3%
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	6.9%
<i>Actinoebacter baumannii</i>	5.3%
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	5.3%
<i>Enterococcus</i>	4.6%
<i>Citrobacter</i>	2.3%
CONS	1.5%
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	1.5%
<i>Enterobacter Cloacae</i>	1.5%
<i>Actinobacter SPP</i>	0.7%

Table.3 Antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of etiological agents causing SSI

Microorganism	Resistance
<i>E. coli</i>	Cu,A, Cz, Cot, Ctr, Cpm,Cip,G
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	A, Ctr, Cpm, Cot, AK, G, Cfs, Cip
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Cot, Cip, G
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	G, Cip
<i>Acitinoebacter baumannii</i>	Pit, Cfs, I, Mrs, Tgc
CONS	E, CD, Cip,G
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	P, Cox, Cot, Ctz
<i>Providentia staurtii</i>	G,AK, Ctr, Pit
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	A, Ctr, Cpm, I, Cot,Cl, G
MRSA	Cot, Cip, G, P, Of
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	G, Ctr, Cot, Tgc, Cl
<i>Citrobacter</i>	A, Cip, I
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	A, Ctr, Cpm, Cot, Cu, G, Cfs, Cip, Ct, I, Mrp

Table.4 Antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of etiological agents causing SSI

Microorganism	Sensitivity
<i>E. coli</i>	Caz, I, Mrp, AK, Cfs, Pit, Cof
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	A
<i>Staphylococcus aureus + MRSA</i>	Va, Lz, A, Of, E, CD
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Cpm, Caz, I, Mrp, Ak, Cfs, Pit, Cof
<i>Acitinoebacter baumannii</i>	Cpm, Caz, AK, Cof

Figure.1 The common specimens collected from SSI patients

- Wound Swab
- Pus cls
- Tissue cls
- Synovial fluid
- Bile C/S
- Breast discharge
- Pancreatic pseudocyst

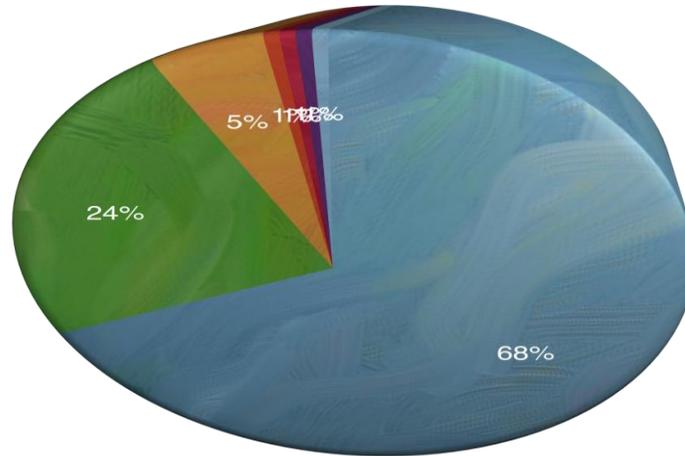
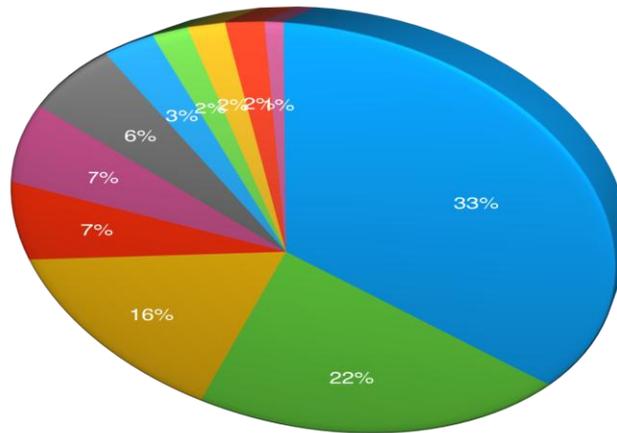


Figure.2 The common organisms collected from SSI patients

- *E.coli*
- *Acitinoebacter baumannii*
- *Citrobacter*
- *Enterobacter cloacae*
- *Klebsiella pneumoniae*
- *Proteus mirabilis*
- CONS
- *Providentia stuartii*
- *Staphylococcus+MRSA*
- *Enterococcus*
- *Morganella morganii*



Surgical site infection is becoming common in day to day practice. There is an increased rate of SSI observed in hospital settings.

This study mainly focuses on the common organisms associated with wound infections and their susceptibility pattern so that antibiotics can be started propylactically based on antibiogram and would reduce the duration of hospital stay and minimise the

cost. The study was conducted at Department of General Surgery, Department of Microbiology of Saveetha Medical College.

This is a retrospective study of 130 cases. Comparing among our case setting and of that done by Hemant Borse *et al.*, the most common micro-organism causing SSI is *E. coli* and in our next most common isolated from SSI is *Klebsiella* sps...in contrary to

their study where *Pseudomonas* was the next most commonest organism isolated in their hospital settings. In our study most of the gram negative microorganisms were sensitive to imipenem, amikacin in concordance with their study which concludes Imipenem and amikacin can be started prophylactically for patients before surgical procedures.

Comparing among our case setting performed on 130 patients and that of Vikrant Negi *et al.*, performed on 768 patients the most common organism was *Staphylococcus aureus* which was the fourth most common organism in our case setting. Most of the organisms were sensitive to vancomycin, teicoplanin, linezolid which were similar to our case setting. Majority of the Gram positive organisms were Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* were mainstay of treatment would be vancomycin and linezolid.

Comparing among our case setting performed on 130 patients and that of Mundhada *et al.*, performed on 100 patients, the most common organism was *Staphylococcus aureus* which was the fourth most common organism in our case setting. None of the strains were Methicillin resistant, but in our case setting some strains were Methicillin resistant.

Comparing among our case setting to that of done by Setty *et al.*, in a government tertiary care teaching hospital in Mysore, Karnataka, the most common organism causing SSI is *Staphylococcus aureus* which was the fourth most common organism in our case setting.

Among all the studies carried out on SSI the most commonly isolated organisms in various hospital settings were *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* sps, *Pseudomonas*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Acinetobacter*. Both MRSA and MSSA were isolated from those patients. Multi drug resistance is increasingly noted with all those isolates. On analysing the antibiogram of

those isolates carbapems would be a better drug for gram negative coverage and vancomycin and licizolid would be a better drug for gram positive coverage.

Though anaerobic organisms are common with wound infections this study mainly focuses on aerobic organisms.

In conclusion, this is a retrospective study carried out on 130 patients with SSI in Saveetha medical college and hospital, thandalam. The most common microorganism causing surgical site infection in our hospital setting was *E. coli*. The next most common organisms were *Klebsiella*, *pseudomonas* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

On analysing the antibiogram and their susceptibility pattern, carbapenems are preferred drug for gram negative coverage, vancomycin and linizolid are preferred for gram positive coverage. Starting these drugs prophylactically would reduce the risk of SSI, duration of post op stay and cost.

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