

Original article

Postoperative Nosocomial Infections and Antimicrobial Resistant Pattern of Bacteria Isolated Among Patients Admitted at Ad-din Women's Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.

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Abstract:

Objective: To find out the causative agents and antibiotic resistant pattern of organisms isolated from surgical site wound infection. **Place of study:** This study was carried out in microbiology department, Ad-din Women's Medical Collage, Moghbazar Dhaka. **Method of study:** The was carried out from January to December 2011 in microbiology department Ad-din women's medical college hospital. One hundred and thirty three clinically suspected surgical site wound infection cases were included in the study. Wound swab sample from surgical site was collected by sterile cotton swab. All the samples were immediately sent to the microbiology laboratory. Culture and sensitivity were done by standard bacteriological method. **Result:** Out of 133 SSIs cases, 82(51.57%) were culture positive. Out of 82 culture positive cases, 38(45.23%) were Gram positive and 46 (54.76%) were Gram negative. Predominant organisms were *Esch.coli* 20(23.80%)and *Staphylococcus aureus* 20 (23.80%). Most of the organisms were resistant to Cephalosporin group while Carbapenem, Colistin, Piperacillin Tazobactam and Amikacin showed low level of resistance. Quinolones were more effective against Gram positive than Gram negative bacteria. Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* were 11 (55%). **Conclusion :** *Esch.coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were the major pathogen isolated from SSIs in our study. Cephalosporins were least effective drug. Carbapenem is the most effective drugs. For prevention of SSIs reinforcement of infection control policy for the health care worker is very important.

Introduction:

Surgical site infections (SSI) are the third most frequently reported nosocomial infections accounting for 14 to 16% of all infections in hospitalized patients. Surgical site infection is defined as an infection that occurs at the incision site within thirty days after surgery.¹ Infection of

the surgical site remains a complication of surgical procedures resulting in increased cost, morbidity and mortality.² In fact wound infection adds approximately more than 6000 US dollars to the hospital cost and more than 7 days hospital stay with consequent delay in work return.^{3,4} The risk of developing a surgical site infection

depends upon the balance between the factors determining the number of bacteria contaminating the site and the factors determining the resistance of the site against the infection.⁵ Despite improvements in operating room practices, instrument sterilization methods, better surgical technique and best efforts by the practitioners, surgical site infections (SSIs) remain a major cause of nosocomial (hospital acquired) infections and rates are increasing globally^{6,7}. The most common organism involved is *Staphylococcus* as it is most common normal flora of skin⁸. Major problem faced by the surgeon, is the wound infection caused by multi drug resistant bacteria. Organisms include both Gram positive cocci and Gram negative bacilli^{9,3}. Infection of the surgical site can be tackled properly by isolation and identification of bacteria causing infection and their susceptibility pattern to different antimicrobial agents so that these can be treated with appropriate antibiotics¹⁰. The emerging antibiotic resistant bacteria such as MRSA (Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), ESBL (Extended Spectrum of Beta lactamase) and their abilities for rapid evolution against antibiotics have increased the need for continuous monitoring and reporting of resistance and susceptibility pattern. Microbiologists have a role in providing guidance to the surgeon regarding the use of proper prophylactic antibiotic.

Materials and Method :

This retrospective study was carried out in the Department of Microbiology, Ad-din Women's Medical College, Dhaka, from January to December 2011. A total 159 wound swab/pus were included in this study. Sample was collected by sterile tipped cotton swab, and the samples were sent to the microbiology laboratory immediately. The samples were inoculated on to blood agar and MacConkey's agar media, incubated aerobically at 37°C for 24 hours. Those plates showing no growth were incubated for another 24 hours. Isolated organisms were identified by their colony morphology, staining characteristics and other relevant biochemical tests as per

standard methods.^{11,12} All bacterial isolates were tested for antimicrobial susceptibility by the disc diffusion method against different antimicrobial agents.¹³ Mueller Hinton agar media was used for antibiotic susceptibility testing for all bacteria and blood agar media was used only for *Streptococcus* spp. For screening of Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) oxacillin disc was used. Within 30 minutes of applying the discs all plates were incubated aerobically at 35 °C for 16 to 18 hrs.¹⁴ *Staphylococcus aureus* resistant to oxacillin is considered as MRSA.

Results:

Table I: Rate of culture positive wound swab from different department

| Department | No. of sample | No. of positive culture | No. of isolates | Gram positive bacteria | Gram negative bacteria |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| OBG | 133 | 62(47.61%) | 62 | 31(50%) | 31(50%) |
| General Surgery | 26 | 20(76.92%) | 22 | 07 (31.81%) | 15(68.18%) |
| Total | 159 | 82 (51.57%) | 84 | 38(45.23%) | 46(54.76%) |

Table I shows that out of 159 samples, 133 were from SSI of patients from Gynae and Obstetric department and 26 were SSI of patients from General surgery department. Among 133 samples had undergone gynaecological and obstetric operation, 62 (46.61%) were culture positive and out of 26 samples who under went general surgical operation, 20 (76.92%) were culture positive. Among total 159 cases 82 were culture positive, from 82 culture positive cases total number of isolates were 84. Out of 84 isolates, Gram positive organisms were 38 (45.23%) and Gram negative organisms were 46 (54.76%).

Table II: Type of organisms isolated from surgical site wound infection in Gynae and Obstetric department.

| Organisms isolated | Number of organisms(percentage) |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Staph.aureus</i> | 16 (25.80%) |
| <i>Coagulase negative Staphylococcus</i> | 14 (23.58%) |
| <i>Esch.coli</i> | 11 (17.74%) |
| <i>Pseudomonas spp.</i> | 09 (14.51%) |
| <i>Acinetobacter spp.</i> | 07 (11.29%) |
| <i>Klebsiella spp.</i> | 03 (4.83%) |
| <i>Proteus spp.</i> | 01 (1.61%) |
| <i>Enterococcus spp.</i> | 01 (1.51%) |
| Total | 62 |

Table II shows that, out of 62 isolates from Gynae and Obs SSI patients, *Staphylococcus aureus* 16 (25.80%), *CoNS* 14 (23.58%), *Esch.coli* 11 (17.74%), *Pseudomonas spp.* 09(14.51%). *Acinetobacter spp.* 07(11.29%), *Klebsiella spp.* 03(4.83%) *Proteus* and *Enterococcus spp.* 01 (1.61%) was recovered.

Table III : Organisms isolated from SSI of General surgery department

| Organisms | Number |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Esch.coli</i> | 09 (40.90%) |
| <i>Staph.aureus</i> | 04 (18.18%) |
| <i>Pseudomonas</i> | 03 (13.63%) |
| <i>Morganella spp</i> | 01 (4.54%) |
| <i>Coagulase negative staphylococcus</i> | 01 (4.54%) |
| <i>Acinetobacter spp.</i> | 01 (4.54%) |
| <i>Enterococci</i> | 01 (4.54%) |
| <i>Beta Haemolytic streptococci</i> | 01 (4.54%) |
| Unidentified Gram negative bacilli | 01 (4.54%) |
| Total | 22 |

Table III shows among 22 isolates from SSI of surgery department, *Esch.coli* 9 (40.90%), *Staphylococcus aureus* 04 (18.18%), *Pseudomonas spp.* 3 (13.63%) were recovered. *Morganella spp.*, *CoNS*, *Acinetobacter*, *Enterococcus spp.*, *Beta haemolytic streptococci* and unidentified Gram negative bacteria was 01(4.54%) from each respectively.

Table IV : Distribution of organisms isolated from surgical site wound infection (n=84).

| Organisms | No. of organisms (%) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> | 20 (23.80) |
| <i>Esch.coli</i> | 20 (23.80) |
| <i>CoNS</i> | 15 (17.85) |
| <i>Pseudomonas spp.</i> | 12 (14.28) |
| <i>Acinetobacter spp.</i> | 08 (9.52) |
| <i>Klebsiella spp.</i> | 03 (3.5) |
| <i>Enterococcus spp.</i> | 02 (2.38) |
| <i>Morganella spp.</i> | 01 (1.19) |
| <i>Proteus spp.</i> | 01 (1.19) |
| <i>Beta haemolytic streptococcus</i> | 01 (1.19) |
| Unidentified Gram negative bacilli | 01 (1.19) |
| Total number of isolates | 84 |

Table IV shows out of 84 isolates equal (20 or 23.83%) number of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Esch.coli* were isolated, followed by *CoNS* 15(17.85%), *Pseudomonas spp.* 12(14.28%), *Acinetobacter spp.* 08 (9.52%), *Klebsiella spp.* 03 (3.5%), *Enterococci* 02 (2.38%) and *Morganella spp.*, *Proteus spp.* *Beta haemolytic streptococci* and unidentified Gram negative bacteria was 01(1.19%) respectively.

Table V: Resistance pattern of common isolates to different antimicrobial agents

| Antimicrobials | <i>S.aureus</i> n=20 | <i>E.coli</i> n=20 | <i>CoNS</i> n=15 | <i>Pseudomonas spp.</i> n=12 | <i>Acinetobacter</i> n=08 | <i>Klebsiella spp.</i> n=03 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ampicillin | 20 (100%) | 18 (90%) | 15 (100%) | ND | 08 (100%) | 03(100%) |
| Amoxyclavulonic acid | 12 (60%) | 18 (90%) | 1(66.66%) | ND | 08 (100%) | 03(100%) |
| Cephadrine | 17 (85%) | 19 (95%) | 12 (80%) | ND | 08 (100%) | 03(100%) |
| Cefuroxime | 16 (85%) | 19 (95%) | 11(86.66%) | ND | 08 (100%) | 03(100%) |
| Ceftriaxone | 12 (60%) | 14 (70%) | 08(53.33%) | 08 (67%) | 07(87.5%) | 02(66.66%) |
| Cefixime | 14 (70%) | 17 (85%) | 09 (60%) | 10 (83%) | 08 (100%) | 02(66.66%) |
| Ceftazidime | ND | 17 (85%) | ND | 10 (83%) | 08 (100%) | 03(100%) |
| Ciprofloxacin | 7 (35%) | 18 (90%) | 03 (20%) | 02 (17%) | 05(62.5%) | 02(66.66%) |
| Levofloxacin | 6 (30%) | 18 (90%) | 03(20%) | 02 (17%) | 05(62.5%) | 01(33.33%) |
| Cotrimoxazole | 14 (70%) | 17 (85%) | 08(53.33%) | ND | 07(87.5%) | 01(33.33%) |
| Gentamycin | 06 (30%) | 11 (55%) | 05(33.33%) | 03 (25%) | 07(87.5%) | 01(33.33%) |
| Amikacin | ND | 03 (15%) | ND | 02 (17%) | 03(37.5%) | 00 (0%) |
| Pipericillin tazobactam | ND | 06(30%) | ND | 02(17%) | 02(25%) | 02(66.66%) |
| Imipenem | 01 (5%) | 00 | 01(6.66%) | 01 (8%) | 01 (12.5%) | 00 (0%) |
| Oxacillin | 11 (55%) | | 7 (46.66%) | | | |
| Colistin | | | | | 00 | 00 |
| Doxycycline | 16 (80%) | 16(80%) | 10(66.66%) | ND | 00 | |
| Cloxacillin | 12 (60%) | ND | 8 (53.33%) | ND | ND | ND |
| Erythromycin | 17 (85%) | | 12 (80%) | | | |
| Azithromycin | 16 (80%) | | 11(73.33%) | | | |
| Vancomycin | 00(0%) | | 00 (0%) | | | |

Figures within parenthesis indicates percentages. CoNS= *Coagulase Negative Staphylococcus*

Table V shows the antibiotic resistance pattern of common organisms isolated from SSI. All common organisms shows 100% resistant to Ampicillin except *Esch.coli* which shows 90% resistance. *Acinetobacter spp* and *Klebsiella spp* 100% resistant to Amoxyclavulonic acid respectively followed by *Esch.coli* 90%, *Staph. aureus* 60% and CoNS 66.66% resistance. All isolates of *Acinetobacter* and *Klebsiella spp.* were (100%) resistant to Cefuroxime followed by *Esch.coli* 95% , *CoNS* 86.66% and

Staph.aureus 85%. *Acinetobacter spp* were (87.5%) resistant to Ceftriaxone followed by *Esch.coli* 70%, *Pseudomonas spp.* 67% , *Klebsiella spp.* 66.66%, *Staph.aureus* 60% and *CoNS* 53.33% . *Acinetobacter spp* also showed 100% resistance to Cefixime followed by *Esch.coli* 85%, *Pseudomonas spp* 83%, *Staph.aureus* 70%, *Klebsiella spp* 66.66% and *CoNS* 60%. Ceftazidime was used only for Gram negative bacteria and all (100%) *Acinetobacter spp.* and *Klebsiella spp.* were resistant to it,

followed by *Esch.coli* 85% and *Pseudomonas spp.* 83%. In case of ciprofloxacin 90% of *Esch.coli* showed resistance, followed by *Klebsiella spp.* 66.66%, *Acinetobacter spp.* 62.5%, *Staph. aureus* 35% , CoNS 20% and *Pseudomonas spp* 17%. Levofloxacin had almost same resistant pattern as ciprofloxacin, only it is much less resistant in case of *Staph.aureus* (35%). *Acinetobacter* showed highest resistance to Cotrimoxazole 87.5% followed by *Esch.coli* 85%, *Staph.aureus* 70%, CoNS 53.33% and *Klebsiella spp* 33.33%. *Acinetobacter spp.* also highly resistant to Gentamycin 87.5%. Resistance pattern of Gentamycin in other organisms are *Esch.coli* 55%, CoNS and *Klebsiella spp.* 33.33% respectively, *Staph. aureus* 30% and *Pseudomonas spp.* 25%. Amikacin was used only for Gram negative bacteria . Less than forty percent *Acinetobacter spp.*(37.5%) are resistant to Amikacin followed by 17% *Pseudomonas spp.* and 15% *Esch.coli*. Organisms showed less and varied resistance pattern to Imipenem , *Acinetobacter spp.* 12.5% *Pseudomonas spp.* 8%, CoNS 6.66% , *Staph.aureus* 5% and no *Esch.coli* were resistant. However, resistant strain of *Staph.aureus* and CoNS to Vancomycin was not observed. Colistin was used in case of *Acinetobacter spp.* and *Pseudomonas spp.* and were found to be sensitive . Sixty percent of (60%) of *Staph.aureus* and 53.33% of CoNS resistant to Cloxacillin. About 30% *Esch.coli* , 17% *Pseudomonas*, 25% *Acinetobacter* and 66.66% *Klebsiella* are resistant to Piperacillin tazobactam.

Table VI: Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from SSI

| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> | Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus(MRSA) | Methicillin sensitive Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 20 | 11 (55%) | 9 (45%) |

Table VI shows out of 20 *Staphylococcus aureus* 11(55%) were Methicillin resistant (MRSA) and 09 (45%) were Methicillin sensitive (MSSA).

Discussion :

Infection is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in surgical patients. The incisional SSI classified in to 2 types: superficial and deep. The superficial infection involves only subcutaneous adipose layer , deep infection is less frequent but serious consequences.¹⁵ These are

more prevalent after emergency surgical procedures. It could be attributable to the fact that most of these patients are low socioeconomic group and maximum number of patients are malnourished.^{3, 4}The pathogens isolated from SSI are usually bacteria.

In present study out of 159 cases, 82 (51.57%) were culture positive. It is much lower than other study (76.36%).¹⁶ (Santos et al) Most of the surgery in their study were elective surgery. Out of 82 culture positive sample, 62 (47.61%) from gynae and obstretic dept. and 20 (76.92%) from General surgery dept. Culture positive rate was more in wound infection samples from General surgical department than Gynae and Obstetric department. Similar findings were experienced in another study.¹⁷ . In present study it may be due to delay in transportation of wound swab samples, antiseptic wound wash prior to giving samples, improper collection and use of multiple broad spectrum antibiotics after operation.

In current study *S. aureus* was a major pathogen from patients under went gynecological and obstetrics operations (25.80%) , followed by CoNS (23.58%) . These are the most common isolated bacteria from SSIs of patient who under went emergency type of surgery and which might have been surface contamination by these bacterium from the skin and from the environment.¹⁷ *E. coli* was the most common pathogen, isolated from patients who underwent general surgery such as appendectomy and other surgery where intestinal manipulation occurred . Exposing endogenous flora prevalent organisms in our study were both *Esch.coli* and *Staph.aureus* which yielded equal number (23.80%) followed by CoNS (17.85%), *Pseudomonas spp* (14.28%), *Acinetobacter spp* (9.52%), *Klebsiella spp*(3.4%), *Enterococcus spp.*(2.38%) *Proteus spp.* *Morganella spp.* *Beta haemolytic streptococci* and unidentified Gram negative bacilli 1.19% respectively . *S. aureus*, CoNS and *E. coli* were prevalent organisms associated with surgical wound infections.¹⁸ Another study done in Bangladesh isolated *Esch.coli* 53.33%, *S.aureus* 25.56% , *Pseudomonas* 13.33%.¹⁹ Other researchers in different study isolated *Esch.coli* 56.75% , *Pseudomonas spp* 27.01%. *Proteus spp* 13.51%., *Staphylococcus aureus* 8.10%, *Klebsiella spp.* 5.40%, *Acinetobacter spp.* 4.05% from surgical site wound infection.²⁰ Almost similar findings observed in our study (Tab IV)

Cephalosporins were ineffective against most of the organisms isolated in our study (table V). Similar findings were observed in other studies.²¹ Safer and more widely used drugs for both Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria are Ceftriaxone and Cefixime, 60% of *Staphylococcus aureus* showed resistant to Ceftriaxone and 70% to Cefixime. *Esch.coli* found 70% resistant to Ceftriaxone, and 85% to Cefixime . Ceftazidime was tested only against Gram negative bacteria, more than 80% of all Gram negative isolates found resistance to it. Only 5% of *Esch.coli* are sensitive to 1st and 2nd generation Cephalosporins. Similar finding was observed in Bangladesh (Mohiuddin et al., 2010).²⁰ Over use of Cephalosporins in last two decades as documented in other studies may be the cause (Morgan, 2006).²²

The current study showed that the Gram positive organisms were much more sensitive to Quinolones than Gram negative (table V). However *Pseudomonas spp.* were 17% resistant to Quinolones. It was also 25% resistant to Gentamycin, 17% to Amikacin and 8% to Imipenem. Other researchers also experienced almost similar findings.²³

In present study none of the *Esch.coli* and *Klebsiella* were resistant to Imipenem however 5% of *Staphylococcus aureus*, 6.66% of CoNS and 12.5% of *Acinetobacter* were resistant to Imipenem. Next to Imipenem, Piperacillin-tazobactam is most effective drug for *Acinetobacter spp* and Amikacin for *E.coli*. Colistin was used only for *Acinetobacter spp.*, non of the isolates of *Acinetobacter spp.* were found resistant to Colistin. In Egypt 25% of *Acinetobacter* were resistant to Colistin in MIC method but non of the *Acinetobacter spp.* found resistance to Colistin in disc diffusion method. In their study they observed 87.5% of *Acinetobacter* were multidrug resistant.²²

The current study showed that 55% of *Staphylococcus aureus* were MRSA (Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) none of the isolate showed resistance to Vancomycin. Similar findings were observed in different studies done in different places.^{17, 23} This is a matter of great concern because treatment of such infections warrants costly antibiotics. Antimicrobial susceptibility pattern in our study showed that most of the isolated pathogens were multidrug resistant.

Conclusion :

This study give us an evidences to the current state of organisms isolated from superficial surgical site infection and their resistant pattern in our hospital. Due to high incidence of MRSA and multidrug resistant bacteria reported in our study, there is a need for continuous monitoring to determine the susceptibility pattern of common isolates which are found in our hospital. Data showed that the Cephalosporins are ineffective against SSIs and it is the time for surgeons to choose new antibiotics effective against today's pathogens for both prophylaxis and empirical therapy. Reinforcement of infection control measures is also strongly recommended in order to prevent healthcare-associated infections.

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