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Adherence to international and national recommendations for the prevention of surgical site infections in Italy: Results from an observational prospective study in elective surgery

Annamaria Bagnasco
University of Genoa, Italy

Background: An observational prospective study of the perioperative procedures for prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs) was carried out in a tertiary referral teaching hospital in Liguria, Italy, to evaluate their adherence to international and national standards.

Methods: A 1-month survey was performed in all surgical departments, monitored in turns by trained survey teams. Data regarding pre-surgical patient preparation and intraoperative infection control practices were collected.

Results: A total of 717 elective interventions were actively monitored in 703 patients who underwent surgery. Hair shaving was performed mainly using a razor (92%) by the nurses (72.8%) on the day before the operation (83.5%). All of the patients were showered, either with a common detergent (87%) or with an antiseptic solution (13%). Antimicrobial prophylaxis was administered properly in 75.7% of the patients at induction of anesthesia; however, according to current Italian guidelines, inappropriate prophylaxis was provided in 55.2% patients. Appropriate antisepsis of the incision area was done in 97.4% of the operations, and nearly 90% of the interventions lasted less than the respective 75th percentile. The doors of the operating theatres were mostly open during the duration of the operation in 36.3% of the cases.

Conclusions: This review of infection control policies identified significant opportunities for improving the safety and the quality of routine surgical practice.

Biography

Annamaria Bagnasco has completed her PhD in 2010 from the University of Genoa, Italy. Since October 2011, she is an Assistant Professor and a Researcher in the Department of Health Sciences, University of Genoa. She has published more than 80 papers in reputed scientific journals.

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