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Infection control practices implemented to reduce transmission risk of MERS-CoV in a tertiary care institution, Saudi Arabia

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Transmission of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) among health care workers (HCWs) and patients has been documented with mortality rate approximating 36%. We propose 'Advanced-Infection Control Measures' (A-IC) used in conjunction with 'Basic-Infection Control Measures' (B-IC) which help to reduce pathogen transmission. B-IC include standard and transmission based precautions. A-IC are initiatives implemented within our center to enhance effectiveness of B-IC. Our objective is to study effectiveness of combining B-IC and A-IC to prevent transmission of MERS-CoV to HCWs. A retrospective observational study was undertaken. A-IC measures include; administrative support with daily rounds, infection control risk assessment, timely screening, isolation, and specimen analysis, collaboration, epidemic-plan, stock-piling, implementation of contingency plan, full PPE use for advanced airway management, real-time electronic isolation flagging system, IC team on-call, pre-transfer MERS-CoV testing and education. Total of 874 real-time PCR MERS-CoV tests were performed from July 1st, 2013 to January 31st, 2015. 694 non-HCWs were tested; of these 16 were MERS-CoV positive and community-acquired. 69% of the confirmed MERS-CoV positive cases were male, with an average age of 56 years (range: 19-84 years). Of the total tested for MERS-CoV, 180 were HCWs with zero positivity. In conclusion, adhering to a combination of B-IC and A-IC reduces the risk of MERS-CoV transmission to HCWs.

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Domestic violence in Turkey

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Unfortunately violence in many different forms is commonly exercised and an all time topical subject in the Republic of Turkey. The issues of violence against women, children and especially domestic violence are a very serious problem, as well. There are many components that should be addressed within this topic from the legal system to educational system. The vast majority of the population is under educated when it comes to identity of women, child development, and so on. Biggest mistake however, is the perception of this problem as if it is a technical issue not a structural issue. If the structural components which some of them previously mentioned, would be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive manner, only then concrete steps in order to prevent and solve domestic violence issue would be meaningfully taken.

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