

Mitigation of In-Hospital Occupational Transmission of Mpox Virus: Insights from a Tertiary Level Hospital in Milan, Italy

Mary Cavani*

Department of Biological Sciences and Technologies, University of Salento, Via Provinciale Monteroni n. 165, 73100, Lecce, Italy

Introduction

Infectious diseases have long posed significant challenges to healthcare institutions, necessitating rigorous measures for their prevention and control. The emergence of novel pathogens, such as the Mpox virus, further highlights the need for effective strategies to mitigate in-hospital occupational transmission. This paper delves into a case study conducted at a tertiary level hospital in Milan, Italy, aimed at investigating the insights gained from efforts to control the in-hospital occupational transmission of the Mpox virus. The Mpox virus, a highly contagious pathogen, has garnered attention due to its potential to cause outbreaks within healthcare settings. In such environments, the risk of occupational transmission is magnified, placing healthcare workers and patients at significant risk. To address this challenge, healthcare institutions must implement comprehensive strategies to prevent and control the transmission of the virus within their facilities.

Description

The tertiary level hospital under study in Milan, Italy, serves as a vital center for healthcare delivery, but it also faces the challenges posed by emerging infectious diseases. The Mpox virus, with its rapid transmission and severe clinical manifestations, demands vigilant infection control measures to prevent its spread within the hospital [1]. This case study explores the hospital's experiences, strategies, and lessons learned in its endeavor to mitigate in-hospital occupational transmission of the Mpox virus.

Healthcare workers play a pivotal role in patient care, but they are also exposed to the risks associated with infectious diseases. In the context of the Mpox virus, the challenges are exacerbated due to its airborne transmission, prolonged survival on surfaces, and the potential for asymptomatic carriers. Controlling the virus's spread within the hospital necessitates a multi-faceted approach that includes infection prevention, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and heightened awareness among healthcare staff. The case study conducted at the tertiary level hospital in Milan, Italy, provides valuable insights into the challenges and strategies associated with mitigating in-hospital occupational transmission of the Mpox virus [2]. The hospital's experience reveals several key factors that contributed to successful control; the hospital had well-established infection prevention protocols that were promptly updated to align with the characteristics of the Mpox virus. These protocols encompassed patient screening, isolation procedures, hand hygiene, and environmental disinfection.

Clear and consistent communication was vital in ensuring that all healthcare

workers were well-informed about the virus, its modes of transmission, and the appropriate infection control measures. Regular training sessions were conducted to reinforce the proper use of PPE and infection control practices. Proper utilization of PPE emerged as a critical factor in preventing occupational transmission. The hospital emphasized the correct donning and doffing of PPE, and continuous monitoring was carried out to ensure adherence. The hospital implemented a robust surveillance system to detect potential cases of the Mpox virus promptly. This allowed for quick isolation of suspected cases, minimizing the risk of transmission.

Adaptability and Flexibility: As new information about the virus became available, the hospital demonstrated flexibility in adjusting its strategies accordingly. This adaptive approach ensured that the institution remained well-prepared to address evolving challenges.

The experience of the tertiary level hospital in Milan underscores the importance of proactive planning, swift implementation of infection control measures, and continuous training. The insights gained from this case study have broader implications for healthcare institutions worldwide. Hospitals must maintain a state of readiness to respond to emerging infectious diseases. This involves having robust infection prevention and control protocols in place, as well as the ability to adapt these protocols to new threats. Protecting the well-being of healthcare workers is paramount [3]. Adequate training, access to appropriate PPE, and a supportive environment are crucial in preventing occupational transmission. Mitigating in-hospital transmission requires collaboration across various departments, including infection control, clinical care, and administration.

Research and Knowledge Sharing: Case studies like this contribute to the body of knowledge on infectious disease control. Sharing experiences and lessons learned can aid other healthcare institutions in their efforts to manage similar challenges.

The case study conducted at the tertiary level hospital in Milan, Italy, provides valuable insights into the mitigation of in-hospital occupational transmission of the Mpox virus. By examining the hospital's strategies and experiences, this study underscores the significance of preparedness, effective communication, and adaptive measures in controlling the spread of infectious diseases within healthcare settings [4]. As the global healthcare community continues to confront new and evolving pathogens, the lessons learned from this case study will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping future responses and safeguarding the well-being of both healthcare workers and patients.

The case study examining the mitigation of in-hospital occupational transmission of the Mpox virus at a tertiary level hospital in Milan, Italy, offers valuable insights into the challenges and strategies associated with controlling the spread of infectious diseases within healthcare settings. This discussion delves into the key findings of the study, their implications for healthcare institutions, and the broader lessons that can be drawn from this experience. The Mpox virus presents a unique set of challenges due to its highly contagious nature, airborne transmission, and potential for asymptomatic carriers. Healthcare workers are on the frontline of exposure, making them vulnerable to infection. The case study highlights the significance of robust infection prevention protocols as a fundamental strategy. The hospital's proactive approach to updating and implementing these protocols to align with the virus's characteristics was essential. Communication and training emerged as pivotal components of the hospital's success. Clear and consistent communication ensured that all healthcare workers were well-informed about

*Address for Correspondence: Mary Cavani, Department of Biological Sciences and Technologies, University of Salento, Via Provinciale Monteroni n. 165, 73100, Lecce, Italy, E-mail: cavani.mary@unimore.it

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the virus, its modes of transmission, and the necessary infection control measures. Regular training sessions reinforced the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control practices, which are critical for minimizing transmission risks [5].

Conclusion

The case study on the mitigation of in-hospital occupational transmission of the Mpox virus at a tertiary level hospital in Milan, Italy, provides a wealth of insights for the healthcare community. By effectively addressing challenges through robust infection prevention, communication, training, and early detection strategies, the hospital exemplified a proactive approach to safeguarding healthcare workers and patients. The implications of this study extend far beyond its immediate context, offering guidance for healthcare institutions grappling with infectious disease control. The case study's emphasis on preparedness, adaptability, interdisciplinary collaboration, and knowledge sharing serves as a blueprint for bolstering infection control measures in the face of emerging pathogens. As the global healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the experiences documented in this case study will play a pivotal role in shaping more resilient and effective responses to infectious disease challenges.

Acknowledgement

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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