Is Less Attention Being Paid to Treatment of Pressure Injuries at the Root of Hard-to-Reduce Hospital Acquired Bacteremia or Sepsis? Pearce E., Lacey C., Chakravarthy D.

INTRODUCTION

Hospital Acquired Infections are closely monitored reportable events. It could be possible that traditional HAI Surveillance is not by itself sufficient for determining the risks, mortality, and costs associated with treating critically ill patients. The relationship between HAI's and underlying reasons and relationships to treatment require more analysis. Amongst HAIs, Blood Stream Infections (BSI), also classified for tracking purposes as sepsis and Hospital Acquired Bacteremia (HOB) are associated with notable degrees of mortality.

METHODS

We analyzed what could lie at the root of stubbornly high BSI and related mortality rates. We studied specifically which patients represented the largest proportion of septic events in the hospital or upon readmission. A medical data aggregating entity created a proprietary extract of Medicare patients with pressure injury to understand the relationship between this particular etiology and its connection between sepsis and readmission. Pressure injury patients were analyzed from the top 10 PI treating hospitals in the **US for 2023**.

RESULTS

Medicare Pressure injury patients are readmitted at a rate of 22%, of which 32% were readmitted with sepsis. Pressure injury patients had a 39% incidence rate of sepsis. For pressure injury patients with sepsis, they endure a 67% increase in length of stay.





DISCUSSION

Given that a large proportion of patients with HOB are not represented by traditional HAI surveillance or quality monitoring, it is reasonable to assume that the origination of such HOB causing microbes may have originated in wounds – particularly pressure injuries. This is indeed borne out in our analysis. This also indicates that evidencebased products, such as the Pure Hypochlorous Acid (pHA) solution, can help reduce the risk of infections by removing bacterial contamination. Whether pre-existing or hospital acquired, a pressure injury care regimen featuring a Pure Hypochlorous Acid Solution, must be examined more seriously.



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