Effective Control of Nosocomial Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance : Hong Kong Experience

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In the control of nosocomial infections it is recommended that we need effective surveillance and also a good infection control strategy. To ensure an effective outcome, the appropriate infrastructure pre-requisites must first be in place. These would be discussed and the importance of these factors would be illustrated by the experience in Queen Mary Hospital (QMH), a 1400-bed teaching hospital in Hong Kong, where the nosocomial infection rate fell from over 14% in 1986 to 5.1% in 2004. Particular attention would be given to the implementation of evidence-based guidelines for appropriate patient-care practices and the use of surveillance data in "Surgeon-specific Surgical Site Infection Rates". The priorities that are needed in a resource limited situation would also be presented.

However for the control of antimicrobial resistance, an effective antimicrobial stewardship program must also be in place. In QMH the infection control team implemented such a program by "Immediate Concurrent Feedback" and was effective in significantly reducing the antibiotics expenditure. The program would be presented with some evidence that the combine effects of both infection control and antimicrobial stewardship are indeed playing a part in reducing antibiotics resistance.