

OP 10

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Regarding Management of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* among Intensive Care Unit Nurses in National Hospital, Sri Lanka

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Background: Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), is resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics. Infections with MRSA increases the mortality of patients greater than due to infections with methicillin sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*. Healthcare workers seems to be a main mode of spreading MRSA within healthcare systems.

Objectives: To assess knowledge, attitudes and practices among Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurses at National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) regarding the management of MRSA

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in 14 ICUs in NHSL, among 265 nurses. A pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test was performed for data analysis using SPSS version 24.

Results: Majority were females (87.2%), Sinhalese (98.9%) and married (62.6%). Majority have been educated up to diploma (82.6%) and 68.7% were in nursing grade III. The 69% had working experience of less than 10 years. Findings revealed that 52% nurses are having very good knowledge, 87% are having very good practices and 43.3% are having moderate attitudes regarding MRSA management. Majority knew, MRSA is a gram positive bacterium and hand hygiene is the most important measure in disease prevention. Two third (65%) accepted that healthcare providers are highly involved in disease spreading. Around 72% was aware on treatment of MRSA skin carriage with topical or oral antibiotics. Awareness on barrier nursing was satisfactory among 77%. The 62% were aware of importance of personnel protective equipment and dedicated equipment in patient care. There was a significant relationship between knowledge on MRSA with grade ($p = 0.02$) and years of experience ($p = 0.01$).

Conclusions: Knowledge and practices regarding MRSA among ICU nurses at NHSL was satisfactory and the knowledge was directly influenced by the years of experience and grade.

Keywords: *Attitudes, ICU nurses, Knowledge, MRSA, Practice*