

Practice implications of an antimicrobial stewardship intervention in a tertiary care teaching hospital, Qatar

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Abstract

Background: Antibiotic misuse is a worldwide public health problem and has been associated with increased morbidity, length of hospital stay, mortality, healthcare costs, and most importantly antibiotic resistance.

Aims: We aimed to evaluate the compliance of antibiotic prescribing with national guidelines, assess how educational interventions can best be utilized to make impact and fill gaps for optimal antibiotic utilization, and to identify facilitators and barriers to implementing ASPs in Qatar.

Methods: Six cross-sectional baseline audits of antibiotic prescribing were conducted over a two-week period at a tertiary care teaching hospital. A sub-analysis of prescriptions with follow up has followed. An educational intervention utilizing the PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) tool was implemented to address gaps identified. A repeated audit was done to assess the impact of change. Lastly, interviews were conducted to recognize perceived facilitators and barriers for ASP implementation, identify strategies to overcome barriers, and evaluate the effectiveness of educational interventions.

Results: The most common indication for antibiotic prescribing was febrile neutropenia (20.7%). The most frequently used class of antibiotics was carbapenems (21.4%). Sixty percent of prescriptions complied with guidelines. The rationale behind choosing not to adhere to guidelines was not documented in 37.2% of cases. Suboptimal documentation in records was targeted through our intervention. The audit post intervention showed slight improvement in documentation. Facilitators and barriers included: collaboration and communication among teams, compliance with guidelines, interventions documented by clinical pharmacists, and electronic system errors.

Conclusions: Effective communication, continuous documentation in records, and repetitive education promote rational antibiotic prescribing and enhance ASPs.

Keywords: antibiotics, antimicrobial stewardship, educational intervention, clinical practice, Qatar

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Introduction

Antibiotics are among the most commonly prescribed medications in hospital settings yet inappropriate utilization frequently occurs (1). Antibiotic misuse is associated with increased mortality, morbidity, length of hospital stay, cost of healthcare, and most importantly antibiotic resistance (1). Antimicrobial Stewardship refers to a set of coordinated interventions intended to optimize the use of antimicrobials in various settings including outpatient clinics and inpatient healthcare settings (2,3). In fact, the proper use of antibiotics leads to enhancing drug and patient safety, reducing drug consumption and cost containment, limiting the emergence of resistant organisms, with an end goal of improving patient outcomes (4). Antimicrobial stewardship programmes (ASPs) are designed to ensure appropriate selection of an effective antimicrobial drug regimen, dose, time, duration of therapy, and route of administration (5). An effective programme is one that is led by a coalition of physicians, clinical pharmacists and other healthcare members, and is committed to leadership where necessary humanistic, financial, information technology, and time resources are

implemented (6–9).

Several antimicrobial stewardship strategies have been previously evaluated in hospital settings such as streamlining, prospective audit with feedback, formulary restriction and preauthorization, amongst others (4,5). Such interventions can be only successful if they meet the specific needs of the healthcare institution with dedicated work between healthcare professionals, administrators, information technology personnel, and policy-makers (2,10). Point prevalence studies (PPSs) serve as audit markers and practical surveillance tools to monitor antibiotic prescribing patterns over time (11). They tend to assess antibiotic use across and within healthcare settings, identify targets for quality enhancement, and track differences in practices between institutions (12). Moreover, monitoring antibiotic use and prescribing and identifying resistance patterns is crucial in identifying opportunities for improvement, and strategies to overcome barriers associated with antibiotic misuse (13). In addition, regular reporting of information on antibiotic use and outcome results to multidisciplinary teams serves as a key element of successful ASPs (13). In fact,

education and ongoing training opportunities should be readily available for healthcare professionals with an aim to promote effective antibiotic prescribing (14).

Patients diagnosed with cancer, in particular with hematologic malignancies and neutropenia, tend to be more vulnerable to acquiring infections such as *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), bloodstream and other organ infections caused by multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) (15,16). Thus, antibiotics are often prescribed for both treatment and prophylaxis. In fact, appropriate antibiotic selection, rationale behind the use of antibiotics, and proper adherence to a successful ASP in such population was associated with lower mortality rates (17). A previous PPS conducted by Hammuda et al. in Qatar at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) showed that only 57.6% of antibiotic prescriptions met national treatment guidelines or followed local antibiotic prescribing policies (18). Since the time of that study conduction, local guidelines have been updated and the institution has introduced an ASP led by a physician and a dedicated clinical pharmacist. However, no systematic evaluation of this service has occurred to date as well as any impact of educational interventions on clinical practice.

This study targets four objectives; primarily, we aimed to evaluate antibiotic prescribing in cancer patients by assessing compliance with local prescribing guidelines over multiple time points by performing baseline PPSs. This was followed by a prospective audit to characterize and assess antibiotic interventions during the patient's follow-up period by tracking the prescribing and resistance patterns based on culture results. Secondly, we aimed to educate the multidisciplinary team of our findings and provide feedback using the "Plan, Do, Study, Act" (PDSA) quality improvement tool adopted from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement. Thirdly, we intended to evaluate the impact of the educational intervention on AMS by repeating a second antibiotic audit. Lastly, we aimed to identify facilitators and barriers to ASP implementation in Qatar through interviews with pharmacists who witnessed the educational intervention.

Data sources and methods

Phase 1: Baseline PPSs with prospective follow up on antibiotic therapy

Six cross-sectional audits of antibiotic prescribing were conducted at NCCCR in Qatar. NCCCR is a 65-bed tertiary care teaching hospital that admits oncology/haematology, palliative care, and bone marrow transplant patients. The PPSs were performed on six separate days over an 11-day period between February 14 and February 24, 2016. Six PPSs were conducted to account for variations in weekly prescribing, as well as prescriber dependent prescribing; as consulting physicians typically rotate on a weekly basis. The audits were conducted on a Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday of each of the two weeks. All data was collected from electronic healthcare records at NCCCR. This hospital documents all patient information

using CERNER® (Missouri MO, United States of America). Ethical approval was obtained from the Qatar University Institutional Review Board (QU-IRB 521-E/15), and Hamad Medical Corporation, Medical Research Center (15415/15).

All patients admitted on each study day were assessed for inclusion. Patients were included if they received at least one systemic antibacterial agent on the study day. Patients receiving antibiotics through outpatient intravenous programs were excluded. Patient receiving anti-tuberculosis, anti-fungal or anti-viral prescriptions were also excluded. On each day, all medical wards were audited using an adapted modified audit tool: 2006 European Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption Point Prevalence Survey (ESAC PPS) Audit Tool (19). Data was collected by three pharmacy students, a research collaborator, and the primary research investigator. A senior investigator verified all data. Data collected included: age, gender, antimicrobial agent (dose, route, frequency and duration); classified according to the World Health Organization's anatomical therapeutic chemical (ATC) classification system (20), treatment indication, guideline compliance, and documentation of rationale if guidelines were not adhered to. Guideline compliance was determined using institutional antibiotic prescribing policies, which refer to preauthorized antibiotics policies, and are based on local antibiogram data; however, they are primarily in line with guidelines from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) or other tertiary references (21,22).

The second part of phase 1 included a prospective observation and assessment of physicians' prescribing behaviour during patient follow-up period, that applies to patients with length of hospital stay of at least 48 hours and have received two doses or more of an antibiotic on those days. Culture and sensitivity results were taken into account for these patients (bug/drug mismatch, escalation or streamlining of therapy). This was performed over 14 days as per our study protocol. Data was entered into the IBM® SPSS® Statistics V23.0 (New York NY, United States of America) software for analysis. Data was analyzed descriptively.

Phase 2: Feedback using an educational intervention

An educational intervention was performed to evaluate the results obtained from the first phase of our study; specifically, to address the gaps and areas for improvement that were identified. The "Plan-Do-Study-Act" (PDSA) model was utilized which is a quality improvement tool implemented by the Institution for Health Improvement with the goal of establishing a functional association between process changes in healthcare systems and variations in outcomes (23,24). We performed an on-spot bed-side educational intervention during multidisciplinary rounds on the wards targeting all stakeholders (each team consisted of a consultant, medical fellow, medical resident, clinical pharmacist and a nurse) within four medical teams (infectious diseases, oncology, he-

matology/bone marrow transplantation, and palliative care) to inform them about the goal of the intervention and to gather feedback for future improvement. After implementation, the intervention was studied in terms of impact on practice. This methodology is adapted from a well-established PDSA model used for interventional techniques aiming to promote changing behaviors (23).

Phase 3: Impact of change

After the interventional period was complete, an audit of prescribing behaviours was repeated to assess the impact of change. The medical records were reviewed post the intervention on the same day of the intervention. The main outcome measure we looked at was to address the improvement of documentation in patients' electronic healthcare records and to determine whether the intervention did address the gaps identified on the same day of the educational intervention after the multidisciplinary rounds were over. The same statistical analysis approach in phase 1 of the study was used to interpret the results obtained. A PDSA worksheet adapted from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement was used to document a test of change (23).

Phase 4: Qualitative thematic analysis

In order to identify facilitators and barriers to effective implementation of ASPs within Qatar, a qualitative research study was conducted that aimed to identify perceptions

of pharmacists regarding stewardship principles, procedures, and sustainability, in addition to evaluate the effectiveness of educational interventions on the enhancement of AMS in the future. A pre-defined topic guide for the semi-structured interviews was developed. The guide included 10 open-ended questions. The interviewing process took place at NCCCR. Every interview began with an engagement question followed by a series of exploratory questions and ended with an exit question. All interviews were recorded using a recording device and an informed consent was obtained prior to initiating the process. Each interview lasted between 20 and 30 minutes. Each interview was transcribed verbatim which was reviewed by the primary research investigator for accuracy and completeness. Transcripts then underwent a content analysis using an inductive, open-coding approach (25).

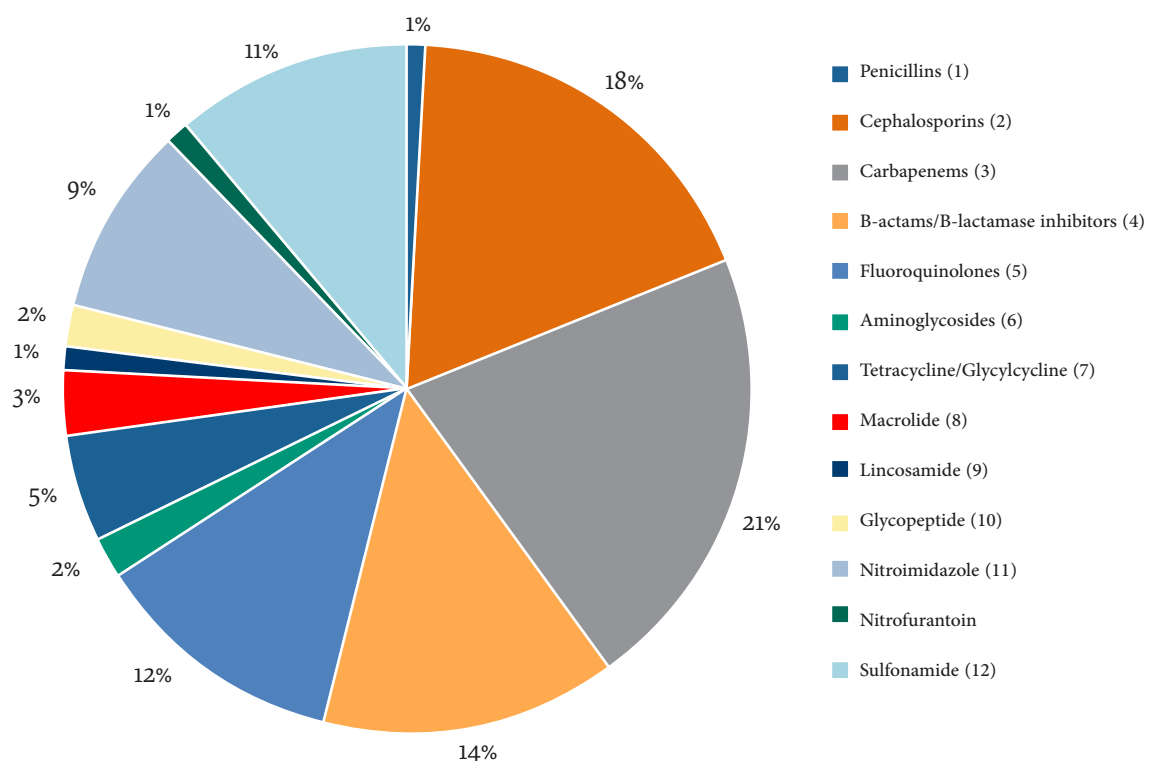
Results

Phase 1: Prospective audit

Six-point prevalence studies

The mean age of patients whose medical records were audited was 47.2 years with a predominance of the male gender (70.5%). Table 1 shows the different types of infections for which an antibiotic was prescribed. The most common documented reason for prescribing antibiotics was febrile neutropenia (20.7%) followed by bacteremia (14.7%). However, rationale for antibiotic use was

Figure 1 Usage of antibiotics by classes



1: amoxicillin, ampicillin, penicillin; 2: cefazolin, cefuroxime, ceftriaxone, cefepime; 3: ertapenem, meropenem; 4: amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, piperacillin/tazobactam; 5: ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, lomefloxacin, moxifloxacin; 6: amikacin, gentamicin; 7: doxycycline/tigecycline; 8: azithromycin; 9: clindamycin; 10: vancomycin; 11: metronidazole; 12: trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole

Table 1 Usage of antibiotics by indication

| Indication* N (%) | PPS1 | PPS2 | PPS3 | PPS4 | PPS5 | PPS6 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| HEENT infection | 2 (5.1%) | 2 (5.4%) | 2 (5.9%) | 2 (5.3%) | 2 (5.3%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| SSS infection | 1 (2.6%) | 2 (5.4%) | 4 (12.0%) | 6 (16.0%) | 6 (16.0%) | 5 (15.0%) |
| CAP | 1 (2.6%) | 3 (8.1%) | 1 (2.9%) | 2 (5.3%) | 2 (5.3%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| HAP | 2 (5.1%) | 2 (5.4%) | 1 (2.9%) | 1 (2.6%) | 1 (2.6%) | 2 (6.1%) |
| PJP prophylaxis | 3 (7.7%) | 3 (8.1%) | 4 (12.0%) | 3 (7.9%) | 3 (7.9%) | 3 (9.1%) |
| GI infection | 6 (15.0%) | 5 (14.0%) | 6 (18.0%) | 6 (16.0%) | 3 (7.9%) | 3 (9.1%) |
| UT infection (complicated/uncomplicated cystitis/ catheter-acquired) | 2 (5.1%) | 2 (5.4%) | 1 (2.9%) | 1 (2.6%) | 1 (2.6%) | 2 (6.1%) |
| Blood infection (bacteremia) | 8 (21.0%) | 6 (16.0%) | 5 (15.0%) | 5 (13.0%) | 4 (11.0%) | 4 (12.0%) |
| Febrile neutropenia | 8 (21.0%) | 7 (19.0%) | 8 (24.0%) | 8 (21.0%) | 7 (18.0%) | 7 (21.0%) |
| Undefined/unknown | 6 (15.0%) | 5 (14.0%) | 2 (5.9%) | 4 (11.0%) | 9 (24.0%) | 7 (21.0%) |
| Total | 39 | 37 | 34 | 38 | 38 | 33 |

*HEENT: head-eye-ear-nose-throat; SSS: skin and skin structure; CAP: community-acquired pneumonia; HAP: hospital-acquired pneumonia; PJP: Pneumocystis Jirovecii Pneumonia; GI: gastrointestinal; UT: urinary tract

not present in 15.2% of cases. The most frequently used class of antibacterial agents was carbapenems (21.4%), then cephalosporins (18.2%), followed by beta-lactam/beta-lactamase inhibitor combinations (14.1%). Frequencies of prescribed antibacterial agents per day throughout the total 6 days are outlined in Figure 1. The majority of antibiotics were given via the intravenous route (58.4%). The majority of prescriptions complied with local prescribing guidelines (59.5%). The rationale behind choosing not to adhere to clinical practice guidelines was not documented in 37.2% of the cases.

Prospective follow-up

Follow-up data were collected as a secondary objective to determine the appropriateness of antibiotic utilization during the hospital stay in patients who stayed at least

two days in the hospital and received at least two antibiotic doses on those days. Pre/post-culture and susceptibility results was taken into account. A total of 46 prescriptions were tracked over the two-week period. 95.7% (44/46) of cases were deemed to have an appropriate follow-up measure. In fact, antibiotics were appropriately streamlined or discontinued after culture results came out or after the patients’ clinical improvement. Also, antibiotics were reasonably escalated for broader-spectrum empiric antibacterial coverage or upon clinical deterioration. Only two inappropriate measures were reported where an antibiotic was continued or switched to another antibiotic with no clear indication or rationale. Table 2 summarizes the appropriateness of the measures assessed during the follow-up period.

Table 2 Prospective sub-analysis with follow up based on pre/post culture and susceptibility results

| Measure | N=cases | Appropriateness | |
|--|---------|-----------------|------|
| | | Yes | No |
| Culture results positive targeting specific organism (whether sensitivity results are available or not) | 14 | 14 | 0 |
| Culture results pending or negative; antibiotic escalated/de-escalated after clinical improvement/deterioration or hemodynamic instability | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Culture results negative or clinical improvement; antibiotic discontinued | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Antibiotic switch from IV to PO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Patient discharged; antibiotic to be continued at home as per documentation in medical chart | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Antibiotic course completed based on previous sensitivity results or clear indication; patient discharged | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Antibiotic continued with no alteration in regimen | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Antibiotic continued or antimicrobial switching with no clear indication or rationale | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | N=46 | 95.7% | 4.3% |

Table 3 PDSA tool for the test of change

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Aim: To further improve patient outcomes and optimize healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First test of change: To expand the current ASP at NCCCR to include educational components to determine the best ways to address gaps and barriers to judicious antibiotic use (in particular proper documentation in healthcare records) • Person responsible: Research team • When to be done: After briefing on the results of phases 1 and 2 during medical rounds • Where to be done: On-spot educational intervention at NCCCR during medical rounds | |
| <p>Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasks needed to set up this test of change: Repeat an antibiotic audit to be compared with results obtained from the pre-intervention phase • Person responsible: Research team • When to be done: After the educational intervention • Where to be done: At NCCCR • Predict what will happen when the test is carried out: Documentation will improve • Measures to determine if prediction succeeds: Analyzing data using descriptive statistic | <p>Do: What actually happened when we ran the test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most practitioners were receptive to feedback and were keen to know about the results of the first phase of our study • Some practitioners were conservative regarding the results • Practitioners were willing to improve documentation in healthcare records |
| <p>Study: Describe the measured results and how they compared to the predictions:</p> <p><i>Phase 3: Tracking changes and outcome measures*</i></p> <p>*Please refer to the results section</p> <p><i>Phase 4: Qualitative thematic analysis</i></p> <p>A. Facilitators and barriers for appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several components as perceived by the pharmacists interviewed served both as facilitators and barriers; These included: collaboration and communication among multidisciplinary teams, adherence and compliance to policies and guidelines • An important facilitator agreed upon all pharmacist interviewed was the interventions done by them • Another barrier discussed relates to some electronic system errors <p>B. Strategies to overcome barriers as recommended by pharmacists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational sessions and morning reports to highlight upon continuous improvements in antibiotics' use and the benefits of consulting the AMS team • Proper communication among multidisciplinary teams and healthcare providers • Implementation of an official AMS policy to be adhered to • Adherence to pre-approved local antibiotic policies and guidelines • Having alternative antibiotic options in instances of drug shortages • Online AMS training courses for involved healthcare members • Campaigns to raise awareness regarding proper antibiotic prescribing and AMS | <p>Act: Describe what modifications to the plan will be made for the next cycle from what you learned:</p> <p>Targets for improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The educational component as part of enhancing ASPs had to be assessed from the pharmacists' perspectives • All pharmacists agreed that educational sessions and awareness campaigns are necessary and shall involve all multidisciplinary teams to be conducted by AMS experts on a regular basis regarding antibiotic use and prescribing in hospital settings • All pharmacists thought that focus-group educational sessions are more useful than on-spot educational interventions during multidisciplinary rounds as teams change on a regular basis and it is better to educate all groups at once • All pharmacists thought that this can be arranged during morning reports or by invitation to a private educational session • All pharmacists do believe that the impact of education to overcome barriers takes time and changes to be seen and achieved require rigorous efforts from all healthcare members of the multidisciplinary teams |

Phase 2: Feedback using an educational intervention

Several recommendations and targets for improvement in antibiotic use and prescribing behaviours emerged after analysing the results of phase 1 of our study. The main focus was on proper documentation in electronic health records, which helps improve collaboration between healthcare practitioners. Making such information accessible will further help ensure that antibiotics are used properly, modified as needed, and discontinued in a timely manner. In fact, we put emphasis on the appropriate documentation of: indication of the antibiotic based on local prescribing policies or international guidelines (whenever it is recommended to start or continue an antibiotic); rationale behind not adhering to guidelines when applicable; intended duration of treatment course (automatic stop order in CERNER® vs. actual intended duration); indication for prophylaxis; and the reason behind

stopping, discontinuing, changing, or adjusting a current antibiotic based on culture and sensitivity results or patient's actual condition. In order to address the aforementioned recommendations, an on-spot educational intervention was developed.

Phase 3: Tracking changes and outcome measures

Sixty-four medical records were assessed for inclusion in the repeated audit. Twenty-four records were only reviewed as patients in those records were receiving at least one antibiotic on the day of the study audit. Documentation in electronic health records was sub-optimal. In 60% of the cases where there was proper documentation, the rationale behind adjusting a treatment regimen based on sensitivity results, or even stopping an antibiotic because of no clear indication was documented by clinical pharmacists. Table 3 summarizes the results of phase 3.

Table 4 Documentation in healthcare records (indication, duration of therapy, antibiotic treatment plan/change rationale) post the educational intervention

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Documentation just for clinical indication | N=5 (20.8%) |
| No documentation | N=4 (16.7%) |
| Complete documentation | N=15 (62.5%) |
| • Due to intervention made by clinical pharmacist | • N=6 (40.0%) |
| • Documentation by physician | • N=9 (60.0%) |
| Total | N=24 (100%) |

Phase 4: Qualitative thematic analysis

A total of three pharmacists who witnessed the educational intervention participated in the semi-structured interviewing process. All pharmacists were females and practice at NCCCR as members of infectious diseases, haematology and oncology multidisciplinary teams. Two major themes relating to AMS were identified throughout the interviews: facilitators and barriers. Recommendations to overcome perceived barriers were also interpreted as a sub-theme. Table 4 summarizes the results of phase 4.

Discussion

The results of our PPSs showed some improvement in AMS practices compared to a previous study (19), which signals a culture of AMS may be developing at our institution. However, a gap was exposed in terms of the documentation available for clear understanding of antibiotic prescribing practices. These results are important, as our institution recently switched to an electronic healthcare record system. As documentation practices differ from previous handwritten notes in medical charts, our results and interpretations are likely very relevant to other centers undergoing similar changes.

While documentation emerged as the area with the most room for improvement in our study, its implications are controversial. Also, we cannot directly judge that 62.5% of cases had proper documentation because of our educational intervention. This might be possibly due to the Hawthorne effect (26). The importance of this issue is still an area of debate, especially that there is no well-established evidence in primary literature that requires clinical practitioners to document their rationale behind adhering or not to widely adopted clinical practice guidelines (27). However, best practices should advocate for detailed documentation in the patient medical file. By doing so, decision-making becomes transparent and can be followed and understood throughout transition points in care and also transition of prescribers.

Another important finding emerged from our follow-up period that occurred immediately after the PPSs. Specifically, clinical pharmacists documented the rationale for the majority of documented antibiotic therapy decisions and interventions. Clinical pharmacists, as members of the multidisciplinary team, are essential leaders of antimicrobial stewardship programmes due to their expertise in drug therapy, and influencing the

antibiotic misuse within hospital settings (28–30). Our results support their role on AMS services and specifically support advanced roles that include documentation in the patient healthcare record. As such, team communication can be facilitated and seamless care will be ensured.

The interventional portion of our study aligns with research from other centres. Previous studies carried out in the United States of America, Canada, and Europe showed the importance of antimicrobial stewardship quality improvement tools (such as the PDSA cycles-based educational interventions) in increasing rates of appropriate antibiotic use and the compliance with antibiotic prescribing policies and guidelines (31–33). We attempted to use this model to improve documentation practices. The educational messages were received positively yet impacts on practice are still unclear. Achievement of practice change can be very difficult, especially with rotational staff and frequent addition of medical residents and fellows to multidisciplinary teams. Therefore, it is likely that repeated educational interventions might be required to promote a culture of change and embed good documentation habits within the practice culture.

The final analysis of facilitators and barriers can help us learn from this experience and provide insight for other institutions attempting to implement similar interventions. First, communication was identified as both a facilitator and a barrier. As all education is based on communication, those completing the intervention must be good communicators and have experience discussing clinical practices with multidisciplinary teams. Secondly, clinical pharmacists believed that clinical pharmacist interventions are well received and that these team members can promote proper use of antibiotics. Thirdly, the use of an electronic health system with automatic prescription durations and renewals was seen as a barrier to AMS. This point stresses the need for better documentation of therapy plans (including intended duration of therapy), in order to optimize practices at transition points in care. By considering these three key points, it is likely that uptake of AMS interventions can be increased.

Several limitations should be highlighted upon in our study. First, all patients audited in this study had a primary diagnosis of cancer, an immunocompromised condition. Thus, utilization of antibiotics administered in different populations cannot be generalized and does not reflect all antibiotic-prescribing behaviours throughout

Qatar. Secondly, it was a single centre study but it is likely that the interpretations of our data are relevant to other centres. Lastly, results were descriptive in nature due to the challenges identified in comparing practices that occurred before and after our intervention. Specifically, we could not rule out a high risk of confounding if statistical comparisons were made. However, the descriptive snapshots provide rich data that allows for great insight into AMS implementation within our center.

Conclusions

Our findings show that antimicrobial stewardship measures have slightly improved over the last three years at our institution. However, clinicians are still not following prescribing guidelines at all times. Also, our findings expose a gap that clinicians are not consistently documenting the rationale for the use of antibiotics in the medical records and that educational interventions could be considered as an interventional strategy for future

improvement. We recommend open forum discussions and weekly review meetings to address malpractice with continuous efforts to improve documentation, in order to facilitate communication among healthcare team members. Facilitators to this practice change can include improved team communication and inclusion of clinical pharmacists on multidisciplinary teams. Our results also suggest that practice changes take time and cannot be expected after one educational intervention. Therefore, educational programs should be longitudinal, repetitive, and based on specific individual and/or institutional observed behaviors. Future studies should be designed to assess such programs and the ability of ASPs to create a culture of continuous quality improvement.

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Competing interests: None declared.

Implications en matière de pratiques de prescription suite à une intervention de gestion des antimicrobiens dans un hôpital universitaire de soins tertiaires au Qatar

Résumé

Contexte : Le mauvais usage des antibiotiques constitue un problème de santé publique à l'échelle mondiale ; il est associé à une hausse de la morbidité, à un allongement du temps d'hospitalisation, à une augmentation de la mortalité et des coûts des soins de santé, et surtout à la résistance aux antibiotiques.

Objectifs : L'objectif de la présente étude était de mesurer la conformité des prescriptions d'antibiotiques avec les directives nationales, d'évaluer la façon dont les interventions éducatives peuvent être utilisées au mieux pour avoir un impact et combler les lacunes en vue d'une utilisation optimale des antibiotiques, et d'identifier les facteurs favorables et les barrières à la mise en œuvre de programmes de gestion des antimicrobiens au Qatar.

Méthodes : Six vérifications de référence transversales de la prescription d'antibiotiques ont été conduites sur une période de deux semaines dans un hôpital universitaire de soins tertiaires. Nous avons ensuite procédé à une sous-analyse des prescriptions ainsi qu'à un suivi des comportements de prescription. Une intervention éducative reposant sur la méthode PDCA (planifier-développer-contrôler-ajuster) a été mise en œuvre afin de combler les lacunes identifiées. Une deuxième série de vérifications a été conduite afin d'évaluer l'impact du changement. Enfin, des entretiens ont été menés afin de reconnaître les facteurs favorables et les barrières perçus pour la mise en œuvre de programmes de gestion des antimicrobiens, d'identifier des stratégies pour faire tomber ces barrières, et d'évaluer l'efficacité des interventions éducatives.

Résultats : La neutropénie fébrile était l'indication la plus courante pour la prescription d'antibiotiques (20,7 %). La classe d'antibiotiques utilisée le plus fréquemment était celle des carbapénèmes (21,4 %). Soixante pour cent des prescriptions étaient conformes aux lignes directrices. Les raisons qui justifient le non respect de ces dernières n'étaient pas documentées dans 37,2 % des cas. Notre intervention se concentrait également sur la documentation sous-optimale des comportements en matière de prescription dans les dossiers médicaux. Une légère amélioration a été notée dans ce domaine lors de l'intervention post-vérification. Les facteurs favorables et les barrières incluaient : la collaboration et la communication entre les équipes, la conformité avec les lignes directrices, les interventions documentées par les pharmaciens cliniciens, et les erreurs de systèmes électroniques.

Conclusions : Une communication efficace, une documentation constante des comportements en matière de prescription dans les dossiers médicaux, et la formation continue des personnels encouragent une prescription rationnelle des antibiotiques et renforcent les programmes de gestion des antimicrobiens.

تداعيات الممارسة لتدخل إداري لمضادات الميكروبات في أحد المستشفيات التعليمية للرعاية الثالثة، قطر

زياد نصر، علياء بابكر، مروة البشير، عائشة عثمان، شيرين العزازي، كايل ويلبي

الخلاصة

الخلفية: يُعدُّ سوء استخدام المضادات الحيوية مشكلة عالمية تواجه الصحة العامة، وترتبط بزيادة المراضة، وطول مدة الإقامة في المستشفى، والوفاة، وتكاليف الرعاية الصحية، ومقاومة المضادات الحيوية على وجه الخصوص.

الأهداف: هدفنا إلى تقييم امتثال وصف المضادات الحيوية للمبادئ التوجيهية الوطنية، وتقييم أفضل استخدام لتدخلات التوعية لإحداث أثر ملحوظ ورأب الفجوات في الاستخدام الأمثل للمضادات الحيوية، وتحديد العوامل المسيرة والعوائق أمام تنفيذ برنامج إداري لمضادات الميكروبات في قطر.

طرق البحث: أُجريت ست عمليات تدقيق أساسية مقطعية لوصف المضادات الحيوية على مدار أسبوعين في أحد المستشفيات التعليمية للرعاية الثالثة. وتم اتباع نهج التحليل الفرعي للوصفات الطبية مع المتابعة. وطبق تدخل للتوعية باستخدام أداة PDSA (التخطيط-الفعل-الدراسة-الإجراء) لتناول الثغرات المحددة. وتكرّر إجراء عملية التدقيق لتقييم تأثير التغيير. وأخيراً، أُجريت مقابلات لتحديد العوامل المسيرة والعوائق الملموسة أمام تنفيذ برنامج إداري لمضادات الميكروبات، وتحديد الاستراتيجيات اللازمة للتغلب على العوائق، وتقييم فاعلية تدخلات التوعية.

النتائج: أكثر العلامات شيوعاً لوصف المضادات الحيوية هي قلة العدلات الحموية (٧, ٢٠٪). وأكثر فئة يتكرر استخدامها من المضادات الحيوية هي مضادات كارباينيم الحيوية (٤, ٢١٪). ويتوافق ستون بالمائة من الوصفات الطبية مع المبادئ التوجيهية. ولم يُوثق السبب الجوهري وراء اختيار عدم الالتزام بالمبادئ التوجيهية في ٢, ٣٧٪ من الحالات. وتم استهداف التوثيق دون المثالي في السجلات من خلال التدخل الخاص بنا. وأوضحت عملية التدقيق في ما بعد التدخل تحسناً طفيفاً في التوثيق. وشملت العوامل المسيرة والعوائق: التعاون والتواصل بين فرق العمل، والامتثال للمبادئ التوجيهية، والتدخلات الموثقة من قِبَل الصيدلة السريريين، وأخطاء النظام الإلكتروني.

الاستنتاجات: يساعد التواصل الفعال، والتوثيق المستمر في السجلات، والتوعية المتكررة في تعزيز وصف المضادات الحيوية على نحو معقول ويُحسّن من تنفيذ برنامج إداري لمضادات الميكروبات.

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