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Final Abstract Number: 41.027

Session: *Epidemiology and Public Health I*

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2014

Time: 12:45–14:15

Room: Ballroom

**Prevalence of norovirus infection among asymptomatic food handlers (vendors) in a university campus in Lagos, Nigeria**

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**Background:** Norovirus (NV) has caused large outbreaks of gastroenteritis in both developed and developing countries due to consumption of contaminated foods. Studies of NV epidemiology among food handlers have been underreported in Nigeria.

**Methods & Materials:** NV epidemiology surveillance was carried out among asymptomatic food vendors/handlers at a university campus in Lagos between January and March, 2012. Presence and prevalence of NV was determined by Enzyme Immuno Assay technique using commercially available Norovirus genus-specific kits (Norovirus RIDASCREEN® r-Biopharm, Germany).

**Results:** Faecal samples (n=150) collected from food handlers comprising of 29 males and 121 females were screened for NV and an overall prevalence of 17.3% was recorded. Prevalence of infection was statistically significant in male than in female ( $\chi^2 = 7.379$   $p \leq 0.05$ ). The hygienic status of the food handlers was very poor as high percentage of them tested positive to NV infection.

**Conclusion:** The study is of public health significance as it shows that the food handlers serve as potential threat and source of infection to the populace. It is therefore recommended that food handlers should be enlightened on the need to embrace good hygienic practice to prevent transmission of infection to susceptible individuals.

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**Infectious endocarditis in elderly patients in Slovakia during 2007–2012**J. Brnova<sup>1</sup>, V. Hricak<sup>2</sup>, M. Garabasova<sup>1</sup>, N. Kulkova<sup>3</sup>, A. Liskova<sup>4</sup>, V. Fisher<sup>2</sup>, P. Kisac<sup>4</sup>, V. Krcmery<sup>4,\*</sup>

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**Background:** In last decades, the changes in epidemiology of infectious endocarditis (IE) due to the growing number of patients with a high risk profile were reported. In this respect there are a growing proportion of elderly patients with IE important. The aim of this study was to assess aetiology, risk factors and outcome in IE patients over 60 years in Slovakia.

**Methods & Materials:** A longitudinal observation nationwide survey of IE in Slovakia (population about 5 million) was performed during 2007–2012. Thirty-four medical centres participated in the study and patients with a definite diagnosis of IE (modified Duke criteria) were included.

**Results:** A total of 449 patients with definite IE were included, of them 225 (50.1%) were patients over 60 years. We observed significantly more often gram-negative IE in elderly patients (6.2% vs. 2.2%; OR=2.91 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=1.03–8.21]; P=0.04), vice versa viridans streptococci were significant less frequently observed (7.6% vs. 14.7%; OR=0.47 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=0.26–0.88]; P=0.02). Concerning risk factors in IE patients over 60 years, female gender (37.8% vs. 20.1%; OR=2.42 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=1.58–3.69]; P<0.001), prosthetic valve IE (22.2% vs. 12.1%; OR=2.08 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=1.25–3.47]; P=0.005), neoplasia (11.6% vs. 5.4%; OR=2.31 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=1.13–4.70]; P=0.02), diabetes mellitus (24.2% vs. 7.1%; OR=4.11 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=2.67–7.43]; P<0.001), previous surgery (15.1% vs. 8.9%; OR=1.82 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=1.02–3.26]; P=0.046). In-hospital mortality was significantly higher comparing younger IE patients (14.7% vs. 7.6%; OR=2.09 [CI<sub>95%</sub>=1.13–3.88]; P=0.02).

**Conclusion:** In this study there was significant difference in the risk factors, aetiology and outcome between different age groups of patients with IE. This can be explained by the higher incidence of comorbidity and predisposing factors in the elderly. The in-hospital mortality rate in IE patients over 60 years was 14.7%. The trend towards a lower in-hospital mortality in this study was probably related to the benefit of early surgery which was performed in 47.6% of IE cases.

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