INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT OF A CLUSTERING OF THE HEMODIALYSIS UNIT IN A TERTIARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

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Purpose: A cluster of influenza like illness took place in the hemodialysis unit of a tertiary teaching hospital was self-reported at 19th August 2013 which prompted this investigation and this cluster was soon halted after intervention. Here presents the details of this investigation and investigation.

Methods: An investigation was started for the endemic situation of flu like illness among the staffs of the hemodialysis unit and the renal patients August 1st 2013. The adherence to the employee health management and infection control policy was especially accessed.

Results: During the period from August 8th 2013 to August 16th 2013 a total of 8 staffs (one doctor and 7 hemodialysis technologists) and 3 renal patients experienced fever and flu like symptoms including cough, myalgia, and diarrhea. The symptomatic staffs searched medical help by themselves. Influenza A infection was diagnosed in 2 staff based on the result of influenza rapid test. However, they neither informed the colleague and the supervisor nor followed the employee health management to report to the health information system timely. In the hemodialysis room the space and timing for dinner are limited which also possibly facilitate the spreading of the flu like illness. Interventions based on the employee health management and the infection control policies were filed after discussion between the infection control unit and the staffs of the hemodialysis unit. No new case of flu like illness among the staff and renal patients visiting the hemodialysis unit was noticed till August 24th 2013 and this investigation was then closed. During the following year (from September 1st 2013 to August 31th 2014) a total of 4 staffs of the hemodialysis unit suffered fever and flu like symptoms at different month during this period.

Conclusions: This investigation underscores the importance of strict adherence to employee health management to prevent the spreading of highly contagious disease in the working space.

THE EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH A CLUSTER OF INFLUENZA A OCCURRED IN DIALYSIS CENTER IN A REGIONAL HOSPITAL

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Purpose: On August 5, 2013, a patient who infected influenza A occurred in Dialysis Center (DC) in our hospital, Tainan Municipal Hospital. We therefore took immediate actions of investigation and found 7 persons (4 patients and 3 registered nurses) had the symptoms of influenzae. After the investigation, we adopted the necessary measures of epidemic prevention and hoped this experience would be provided to the hospitals as reference of disease prevention and cure.

Methods: Once notification received in Infection Control Room(ICR), actions taken immediately were (1)to trace conditions of both patients and epidemic, (2)to adopt droplet precaution, (3)to emphasize on hand washing, (4)to place the infected patients in the isolation room and proceed hemodialysis, (5)to open the windows in the ward of DC, (6)to ask the infected nurses to take a seven days’ leave, (7)to reinforce environmental cleaning and disinfection, (8)to dose those who contacted with infected persons with Tamiflu prophylactic medicine, (9)to collect specimens of the 4 patients and send them to Centers for Disease Control(CDC) for inspection.

Results: Through the investigation, we found the infected persons didn’t fully implement hand washing and masks wearing. The major symptom of the 7 persons was fever(85.7%) as well as the minor one was cough(71.4%). 6 persons were confirmed influenza A(85.7%) by the influenza rapid screening. All the results of the 4 specimens inspected by CDC were influenza virus type swH1. No new cases occurred on August 12.

Conclusions: Vaccine is recognized worldwide as the most effective way to prevent influenzae. This cluster was rapidly controlled within one week. The causes we analyzed are non-implementation of cough etiquette and hand hygiene. In the future, we shall raise vaccination rates and implement measures of infection control to prevent spread of the epidemic.