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ABSTRACT
BOOK





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Kaliuzhnyi Y., Muchak A.

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING HAND HYGIENE AMONG MEDICAL WORKERS

Kharkiv national medical university
Department of Epidemiology
Kharkiv, Ukraine

Research advisor: prof. Chumachenko T.O.

Introduction. Each year in the European Union, over 4 million patients acquire a healthcare-associated infection (HAI). These infections are estimated to contribute to roughly 110 000 deaths across Europe, along with substantial morbidity and cost for health systems. (ECDC, 2016). It is known that the hands of healthcare workers (HCW) play a key role in the transmission and dissemination of harmful germs in the hospital.

Materials and methods. Cross-sectional study was conducted in March 2018. 50 HCW were questioned, 15 (30%) of whom were doctors, 25 (50%) were nurses, and 10 (20%) were ward attendant. 19 (38%) HCW of the therapeutic wards, 12 (24%) HCW of the surgical wards and 19 (38%) HCW of intensive care unit were included in the study. The questionnaires were filled out anonymously and included "yes" or "no" questions and questions with multiple choice. Results were analyzed using Excel SW 2013.

Results. Most of the respondents were instructed on the rules of hand hygiene, all (100%) of respondents use alcohol-based antiseptics in their practice. 21 (42%) of respondents don't consider that not clean HCW's hands are the main factor of cross-transmission of harmful germs between patients. 27 (54%) agreed that germs present on or within the patient are the most frequent source of HAIs infection. Only 16 (32%) of the HCW know the minimum time for rubbing the antiseptic (20 s) correctly. HCW gave different answers to questions that concerned the consistency of hand hygiene when dealing with patients, indicating that there is no clear understanding of this issue. To all this, the HCW hardly understand in what situations it is necessary to use the method of rubbing the antiseptic into the skin and when washing with soap and water. HCW are well-informed, which should be avoided to reduce colonization of hands with harmful germs: wearing jewelry – 46 (92%), damaged skin – 47 (94%), artificial nails – 44 (88%). However, 24 (48%) respondents consider the use of the cream in hospitals is not appropriate because of HAIs, which is not correct.

Conclusion. Based on the conducted survey, we can conclude that in this multiprofile hospital, instruction is given on hand hygiene, antiseptics based on alcohol are used. On average, respondents understand what the route of HAIs in the hospital is, and what the main factor of cross-transmission of harmful germs between patients are. But they have an average level of knowledge about the procedure for hand hygiene and the need in hand care, which require the need in regular training on hand hygiene, updating knowledge in the field of HAIs prevention and infection control rules.