

Recent Updates in Antimicrobial Guidance for Hand Injuries. An Audit Closed Cycle

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ABSTRACT: Hand injuries are one of the most common injuries. It is sometimes confusing for surgeons to decide whether to give an antibiotic, which types and for how long. There is some evidence in the literature about the guidance of antimicrobial but not specifically for the hands.

Aim of the work:

To standardise the antimicrobial guidance for hand injuries, by giving a 3-day course for non-infected wounds and a course of 5 days for infected wounds.

Patient and Method:

At Royal Cornwall hospitals, updated our antimicrobial guidance according to the NICE guidelines. This reflected in significant decrease in the length of the course, creating more specific guidance for the hands. 50 patients were identified with hand contaminated, potentially infected or significantly

infected wounds, before and after the guidance update.

Results:

Surgeons prescribed a course of 10 days antibiotics as therapeutic treatment for 19 infected hand wounds, and a course of 7 days for non-infected wounds as prophylaxis. After updating the guidance and implementing the new changes, we have managed to save curtail the use antibiotics by around 47% in the prophylactic group and around 25% in the therapeutic group. Only 2 cases out of 50 needed an extended course of antibiotics after the new change.

Conclusion:

Antibiotics should be given as minimum as safely required to cut off the cost and decrease the risk of emerging antibiotic resistance.

Biography:-

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