

Study on Patients' awareness about nosocomial infections due to improper cleaning of bed linen

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ABSTRACT

Patients enter a hospital or healthcare environment to have one particular ailment treated but what if instead of recovering from disease they get infected by hospital environment. Environment of the hospital can play a major role in spreading Nosocomial infections also known as Hospital Acquired Infections, and improper cleaning of bed linen can be a major cause of it, because textiles contaminated with body substances can contain large numbers of microorganisms (106-108 cfu/100 cm² fabric)[1]. Every individual has the right to a proper health service in order to prevent and recover from illness, so it is important to ensure that patients are aware about their rights and they make sure that hospitals are providing them proper services. This study has been conducted at private and government hospitals of Bhopal city in India, and 50 patients of 5 different hospitals have taken part in it. Method used for research work is survey based questionnaire. Result of this study shows 64% patients of private hospitals are satisfied with their services. 70% patients are aware about Nosocomial infections and its causes including improper cleaning of bed linen. 64% patients are aware about their consumer rights, but 50% are unsure about asking for it from hospital authorities. Most of the patients are aware about Nosocomial infections and their causes. More than half of patients are aware about their consumer rights, but they are unsure about asking for it.

1. Introduction

Health professionals undertake their roles to ensure that patients depart from hospitals with their illnesses treated and/or progresses towards good health. To this end there are multiple protocols, guidance documents and standards in place to protect the patient and prevent them from being harmed during their stay in hospital. Regular change of bed linen, provision of good, clean linen to patients and uninterrupted supply of required services wards and departments have a positive impact on the image of the hospital.

Hospital infection, also called Nosocomial infection, is the single largest factor that adversely affects both the patient and the hospital [2]. Patients are forced to stay long in the hospital because of hospital infection, which is further compounded by instituting all types of antibiotics to combat the original and hospital-acquired infection [2]. The resultant increase in the length of stay and number of laboratory tests in turn result in increased hospital costs for the patient[2]. The hospital suffers because of the loss of its effectiveness in terms of qualitative utilization of hospital beds. This loss in hospital's productivity is capable of being brought down with appropriate measures. The English word Nosocomial is derived from the Greek Nosokomeion, both meaning "hospital". Nosocomial infection is

the infection that develops in admitted patients after more than 48 hours of hospitalization. Bacterial infections which appear within 48 hours of admission are considered as community acquired [2].

2. Methodology

The methodology for this research is Descriptive Research. This study is conducted at the private hospitals of Bhopal city. Closed ended Questions are asked in 5 categories: 1. Satisfaction of patient from hospital services, 2. Patients' awareness about Nosocomial infection, 3. Awareness about Nosocomial infection's causes including improper cleaning of bed linen 4. Patients' awareness about consumer rights, 5. Do patients ask for better services from hospital authorities?

Study area: This study is conducted at the 5 well known private hospitals of Bhopal city.

Study tool: Questionnaire is used as a research tool in the study. Closed ended Questions are asked in 5 different categories.

Data analysis: The data collected was analyzed and interpreted by taking out the percentage. 10 patients from each hospital admitted in private ward participated in the study.

Table-1
Data Obtained in percentage

Questions	Hospital1 (10 patients) answers in %	Hospital2 (10 patients) answers in %	Hospital3 (10 patients) answers in %	Hospital4 (10 patients) answers in %	Hospital5 (10 patients) answers in %	Average in %
1. Satisfaction of patient	60%	80%	50%	70%	60%	64%
2. Awareness Nosocomial infection	80%	80%	60%	60%	70%	70%
3. Awareness about causes	80%	80%	60%	60%	70%	70%
4. Awareness about consumer rights	80%	70%	60%	50%	60%	64%
5. Asking for better services	60%	50%	50%	40%	50%	50%

3. Result

Result of this study shows 64% patients of private hospitals are satisfied with their services. 70% patients are aware about Nosocomial infections and its causes including improper cleaning of bed linen. 64% patients are aware about their consumer rights, but 50% are unsure about asking for it from hospital authorities.

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that most of the patients participated in the study are aware about Nosocomial infections and their

causes. They also understand the causes of Nosocomial infection including improper cleaning of bed linen. More than half of patients are aware about their consumer rights, but they are unsure about asking for it. Hospitals which have good services, number of patients asking for better services are comparatively less.

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