Hospital Infection Control
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Hospital acquired infections are one of the major health management problems faced by the hospitals world wide. The development of multi-resistant organisms has further complicated the task of controlling nosocomial infections. It is now essential that all hospitals have Infection Control Committees, which perform the task of surveillance and take measures to prevent nosocomial infections as per the policies and guidelines.

Healthcare – associated infection is a major issue in patient safety as it affects millions of people worldwide and complicates the delivery of patient care. Infections contribute the patient deaths and disability, promote resistance to antibiotics and generate additional expenditure to those already injured by the patients underlying disease. At any given time, more than 1.4 million people worldwide become seriously ill from such infections. Between 5% and 10% of patients admitted to hospitals in developed countries acquire these infections. In such developing country settings, the proportion of patients affected can exceed 25%.

In this 21st century, doctors, nurses, and other healthcare practitioners are faced with vast amount of healthcare information, constantly changing database, and burgeoning technology. With advancements in knowledge and medical technology and emergence of difficult to treat infections, an updated infection control manual become a requirement for controlling these infections.

With advancement in knowledge in understanding the mode of spread of infectious agents and in the field of infection control, need was felt to prepare an updated manual which will provide up-to-date guidelines for proper surveillance and effective control of nosocomial infections. Dr. Sanjay Singhal has taken a good initiative to compose this handbook.

Dr. Sanjay Singhal has done an excellent job in compiling and editing the recent information available to prepare this handbook and shall fulfill its purpose of guiding healthcare workers to effectively control hospital acquired infections.

This handbook, therefore, has been prepared by adopting current guidelines and policies regarding infection control. The handbook focuses on the science of surveillance, control and preventive management during period of infections and episodes of endemic and epidemic outbreaks in the hospital. Relevant clinical content and guidelines are presented in a logical and simple format for monitoring the changing status of patients so that infection and their complications can be prevented or their effects minimized.

The handbook is intended to provide guidelines rather than rules, expecting that the healthcare workers of the hospital will incorporate these guidelines in their routine and all of them shall work together in surveillance and prevention of nosocomial infections.

The book has 5 parts with 26 chapters
1. General principles – nosocomial infection surveillance programme, Outbreak management, hand hygiene, isolation precautions in hospital.
2. Infection Control in ICU, neonatal ICU, dialysis unit, burn unit
3. Common nosocomial infections- UTI, surgical site infections, pneumonia, blood stream infections, infections of immunocompromised host, antimicrobial resistant microorganisms.
4. Hospital services-disinfection, sterilization, CSSD, waste management, laundry, hospital food services.
5. Infection control and healthcare personnel-employee health, prevention of nosocomial transmission of selected infections, pregnant health care workers

Emergence of difficult to treat infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms has now made it essential that infection control policies should be prepared and followed. The handbook, therefore, has been prepared by adopting current guidelines and policies regarding infection control from WHO, CDC, APIC and other organizations. It focuses on the science of surveillance, control and preventive management during episodes of endemic and epidemic outbreaks in the hospital.

It will be useful for hospitals, hospital administrators, planners and managers, as well as doctors, nurses and medical students. It will help hospitals to plan infection control programs and policies and will be useful for clinicians by demystifying many myths about infection control.

In addition, the handbook will be useful for nurses and medical students as ‘infection control’ is already a part of nursing curriculum and is also being included in new MBBS curriculum being proposed by the medical Council of India.

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Book Review

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