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Title: Nosocomial pneumonia control programs: The most difficult questions

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Body: Objective: To develop and to study nosocomial pneumonia control programs (NPCP) in general surgical departments (GSD). Significance: We've developed and carried out specific NPCP for GSD and also have studied level of surgeons knowledge and revealed most problem questions. Study design: Prospective study. Setting: 6 surgical departments in a city hospital #6. Study population: Surgeons. Methods: During 2001-2003 NPCP were developed and carried out among 65 surgeons. There have been considered questions covered control and prophylaxis of nosocomial pneumonia (NP) and other nosocomial infections (NI). Special questionnaire included 27 questions has been created to estimate an initial and final level of medical staff knowledge (LMSK). Results: After surgeons completed questionnaire at the first time, level of correct answers (LCA) has totaled 48.8%. Taking into account the results of received data there have been developed and carried out special NPCP aimed to increase the LMSK (lectures, discussions, printed issues). Comparative exercise was repeated 1.5 yrs later. Test showed the increase of LCA up to 60 % ($p < 0.05$). We determined that NP-rate was statistically decreasing during NPCP ($p < 0.05$). It was fixed that the most difficult questions were the following: sources of NI agents, risk factors of NI, rationale antibiotic use, hand-hygiene and other NI-preventive measures, mortality rates under NI. Conclusions: There is a necessity to carry out NPCP among surgeons in GSD to increase LMSK and to decrease NP level. Therefore, the most difficult questions require to be studied more deeply.