

ORAL PRESENTATION

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# O001: Getting the unexpected: no association between hand hygiene and workload

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## Introduction

A high compliance with hand hygiene is a cornerstone of any infection control program. However, a high workload and a lack of time are most commonly used arguments against an appropriate compliance.

## Objectives

In order to assess the relationship between the hand hygiene events (HHE) and the workload, we correlated HHEs per patient-day (PD) with the staff time/PD (h), the nursing effort/PD (h) and the C-value indexing the workload, respectively.

## Methods

All HHEs at a hematology ward (University Hospital Basel, Switzerland) were continuously recorded from 01.03.12 to 28.02.2013 using the Ingo-man Weco (Ophardt Hygienetechnik, Issum; Germany) and could be analyzed dispenser-, day-, shift-, localization-specifically. Daily data on patients, staff time (h), nursing effort (h), C-value ( $1 - (\text{nursing effort} / \text{weighted staff time}) * 100$ ) were calculated with regard to the workday from the electronic patient documentation sheets. For statistics SPSS was used.

## Results

During the one year investigation 208.184 HHE translating into 57 ( $\pm 10$ ) HHE/PD were performed. HHE from Monday to Friday exceeded HHE during the weekends with 59 ( $\pm 10$ ) versus 51 ( $\pm 9$ ) /PD. HHE/PD were significantly associated with the staff time with  $r=0.37$  ( $p=0.01$ ) and with the nursing effort with  $r=0.41$  ( $p=0.01$ ), respectively. These associations could be verified during workdays as well as during the weekends. In contrary, HHE/PD did not depend on workload in

general indexed by the C-value with  $r=-0.04$ . However, during Monday and Friday HHE/PD seemed to correlate even inversely with the C-value ( $r=0.20$ ;  $p=0.01$ ).

## Conclusion

HHE/PD were associated with the staff time and the nursing effort indicating a constant compliance regardless the workload. This hypothesis was confirmed by the lack of a positive association between the C-value and the HHE/PD. Thus compliance seemed not to be affected by workload at the hematology ward enrolled in this investigation.

## Disclosure of interest

None declared.

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