

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

# Surgical-site infection indices detected by post-discharge surveillance in a medium sized hospital in the city of São Paulo, Brazil

DP Cais\*, F Minenelli, K Tonelli, P Rebelo

From International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC 2011)  
Geneva, Switzerland. 29 June – 2 July 2011

## Introduction / objectives

Surgical-site infections (SSI) account for about 24% of hospital infections. Due to short postoperative staying, SSI diagnosis is eventually made after discharge. SSI rates may be under reported; therefore surveillance after discharge is needed to obtain reliable indices of SSI and to improve quality of care. **Aim:** To describe the SSI rate assessed after discharge and to compare post-discharge rates to intra hospital rates.

## Methods

This is a retrospective analysis of data collected between September 2009 and December 2010 in a medium sized private hospital in the city of Sao Paulo. Active surveillance after discharge is a governmental requirement and was performed by telephone. We used a standard questionnaire to investigate the occurrence of signs and symptoms of infection: pain, swelling, redness, warmth, fever, presence of secretion and nodules around the incision. Once the SSI was identified, its occurrence was notified and the patient was followed by 60 and 90 days, by telephone.

## Results

From 5,414 surgical patients, 5,213 (96.3%) agreed to answer the questionnaire. SSI rate was 2.4% (129/5,414); there were 88 (68.2%) intra hospital SSI and 41 (31.8%) cases identified post-discharge. No suspected cases of *Mycobacterium spp.* infection were identified.

## Conclusion

The post-discharge infection rate highlights the importance of a follow up. For institutions that do not have

outpatient clinics, post-discharge surveillance is required. Amongst other methods, telephone contact seems to be a reliable strategy since it is possible to assess a large number of patients, although costs and feasibility need to be considered before its implementation.

## Disclosure of interest

None declared.

Published: 29 June 2011

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-5-S6-P193

**Cite this article as:** Cais et al.: Surgical-site infection indices detected by post-discharge surveillance in a medium sized hospital in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. *BMC Proceedings* 2011 **5**(Suppl 6):P193.

## Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at  
[www.biomedcentral.com/submit](http://www.biomedcentral.com/submit)



Infection Control, Hospital Samaritano, São Paulo, Brazil