

ACTIVITIES OF THE HOSPITAL INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE (HICC)

WHO'S THEME FOR WORLD HEALTH DAY 2011 :

"No action today - No Cure tomorrow"

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Millennium Development Goals set by United Nations for 2015 will get derailed due to the 'abuse' of antimicrobials. A plethora of microbes resistant to available classes of antimicrobials are emerging which will naturally lead to increased mortality and healthcare expenses in these tough economic times. An earnest attempt is being made by the Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC) of MGMCRI to address these issues, particularly by creating awareness among healthcare professionals.

The members of HICC meet bimonthly and the minutes of the meet are circulated to all concerned for necessary action. Irrespective of the regular meet, we also gather on a need basis, particularly when there is a breach in the protocols described in our infection control manual. An outbreak of Chicken pox among the patients and healthcare workers in the month of January was detected early by the team and thwarted in its early stages thanks to the vigilance shown by our HICC team. HICC, MGMCRI conducts regular monthly training activities for our nursing staff and other healthcare workers.

The Microbiology Department has played a crucial role in the execution of the Infection Control activities. A thorough surveillance of critical care areas is done on a weekly basis by them and appropriate measures are taken as and when needed. Through a decision taken by the HICC, a database of all the culture and sensitivity reports is being maintained

I am glad to inform that the Department of Microbiology has been upgraded with state of the art equipments such as Vitek 2 Compact - an automated machine capable of identifying, measuring MIC's and extremely useful in predicting and investigating nosocomial outbreaks by ascertaining the resistance mechanism(s) based on phenotypic characteristics of the bacterial isolates, which will further be characterized by molecular techniques. This certainly enhances our capacity to monitor emergence of MDR strains and implementation of antibiotic cycling particularly in critical care areas.

By our activities we wish to address the problems of today and ensure that we have systems that deal with the challenges of tomorrow.

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