

Day Case Knee Arthroscopy in Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus Positive Patients

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Summary:

A report on the incidences of positive Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) results of a cohort of knee arthroscopy patients, screened on admission, over the time period 1st Sept 2004 to 1st March 2012.

Abstract:

Introduction:

Knee arthroscopy is a common orthopaedic procedure. Infections following arthroscopy are rare. We report on the incidences of positive Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) results of a cohort of knee arthroscopy patients, screened on admission, over the time period 1st Sept 2004 to 1st March 2012.

Methods:

4591 knee arthroscopies were carried out as day case procedures, by a single surgeon, over the time period 1st September 2004 to 1st March 2012. All patients had a nasal swab for MRSA on admission, the results of which were reported on a delayed basis. Pre-op under general anaesthetic, all patients were shaved if necessary and prepped in a standard fashion with povidone iodine. Patients were re-prepped in the operating room. A third generation cephalosporin anti-biotic was given peri-operatively to all patients. The incidence of MRSA positive results for this time period were reviewed. We excluded healthcare workers and those previously exposed to MRSA as they had their MRSA status checked pre-admission. If necessary they were treated with MRSA specific anti-biotics.

Results:

From the 4591 day case patients routinely screened for MRSA over this time period. 36 (0.78%) were found to be MRSA positive. There were no infections in this group in the immediate post-op period.

Conclusion:

MRSA positive results in this cohort are reported on a delayed basis. On the basis if these results it would suggest that change in the peri-operative management of this group is not warranted.