Surgical site infections in any hospital: the true facts

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I read with much interest the article titled ‘A prospective study of surgical site infections in a teaching hospital in Goa’ by Kamat et al. [1]. Articles defining the surgical site infections in Indian set up are plenty. The authors mentioned at the very beginning in the introduction section of the abstract section that the problem was unexplored in Goa but a detailed search of literature search depicts that past studies have been performed at hospitals in Goa and other parts of India to define such a problem.

The abbreviation of SSI was suddenly introduced in the aims and objectives section of the abstract with the actual abbreviation being defined for the first time in the introduction section of the text. It is interesting to read an important article on surgical site infection with three key words with two hailing from the statistical discipline. Usually, appropriate keywords are to be chosen from the MeSH database. An important study like this may be missed out by any reader because of the inappropriate keywords.

The authors have omitted an important article which was published recently by Kownhar et al. [2]. This article describes in detail about the SSI and its expenses in an Indian set up [2]. It was mentioned that the prospective study started in June–July 2005 but the end point of the study was not mentioned. It is very important to mention the exact pe-

riod during which the bacterial isolates were collected from the post surgical cases because prevalence of bacteria may vary accordingly. The authors did not mention at what point of time in the post surgical period they carried out tests. It is very pertinent to mention the exact site of collection of the microorganism because sometimes the deeper aspect of the wound may be explored while at other instances the superficial aspect may be explored. In this study, the authors did not mention which aspect of the wound was taken for culture. The organism which inhabitate the superficial layers may be absent in the deeper layers and vice versa.

The article generates much debate. The authors and the editors are applauded for their efforts in highlighting a major problem.

References

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