



Infection control of MDR Gram-negative bacilli : practical approaches

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It is generally recognized that it is easier to prevent the spread of Gram-negative organisms as compared to the Gram positive bacteria. A summary of the study by Lemmen et al, JHI 2004:56:191-197 and data from Queen Mary Hospital Hong Kong will be presented to support the concept. The MDR Gram-negative organisms are now the focus of global attention. A brief review of the different types and their epidemiology in Asia will be presented. A two-tier system for infection control of MDROs is generally recommended as also by the CDC of USA. The system will be described. In the second tier of preventive measures, the particular measures must be selected based on the organism. In terms of the newer Gram-negative MDROs, this can be difficult because the epidemiology of the organisms is still not entirely clear. Furthermore the effectiveness of the different microbiology methods such as for screening and surveillance is not well defined. Nevertheless an attempt will be made to present the best possible strategies for various Gram-negative organisms in the present context.