

Original Research Article

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## Catheter Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI) – Bacteriological Profile and Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern in NNICU of a Tertiary Care Hospital in Andhra Pradesh, India

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### ABSTRACT

There are very few studies on CLABSI in NNICU. Surveillance of CLABSI in NNICU is integral, as it provides insight to health care workers to work towards declining its rate and its unsavory consequences, via implementation and adherence to specific care bundles. Objectives of the study are: 1) To find the incidence of CLABSI in NNICU patients; 2) To identify etiological agents responsible for CLABSI; 3) To determine antimicrobial susceptibility pattern for bacterial agents obtained. Paired specimens, namely, distal end of central line and peripheral venous blood from suspected cases of CLABSI were subjected to culture and sensitivity test. Diagnosis of CLABSI was made when same strain of bacterium was obtained from both specimens along with significant bacterial count from catheter tip. Central line was inserted in 75 patients during the study period with 433 central line (CL) days with an average of 12-16 CL days per patient. 9(12%) out of 25 patients suspected of CLABSI yielded positive cultures. The CLABSI rate was 20.8 per 1000 central line days. The central line utilization rate was 0.3. E coli was the most predominant pathogen, followed by CoNS and Enterobacter. Most effective antimicrobial agents for Enterobacteriaceae group were colistin, gentamicin, imipenam and meropenam. CoNS and Pseudomonas were susceptible to all antimicrobial agents tested including simple ones, namely, ampicillin and cefipime respectively.

#### Keywords

CLABSI, CVC, CL, Paired specimens, ICU, NNICU

#### Article Info

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### Introduction

Neurology and neurosurgery ICU (NNICU) is one of the important subspecialties of medicine, aimed to provide effective therapeutic modalities to patients with life-threatening neurological diseases<sup>1</sup>. Infectious complications in the NNICU patient population can be classically listed as meningitis, ventriculitis, encephalitis, brain

abscess, and subdural or epidural empyema, which are frequently associated with invasive procedures specific to neurology, viz., craniotomy or placement of intracranial devices for the purpose of monitoring intracranial pressure (ICP) or for diversion of the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) from an obstructed ventricular system etc<sup>2-3</sup>. Apart from these, there also occur infections in NNICUs that are common to all ICUs. The

most notable ones are device associated infections as a result of utilization of urinary catheters, vascular lines and ventilators<sup>4</sup>. Among these, central line associated blood stream infection (CLABSI) is one of the significant device associated infections. On one hand, CLABSI contributes to significant morbidity, mortality and additional cost among hospitalized patients<sup>5</sup>, on the other it is recognized as a preventable healthcare associated infection(HAI)<sup>6,7</sup>. Surveillance of CLABSI is integral, as it provides insight to health care workers to work towards declining its rate and its unsavory consequences, via implementation and adherence to specific care bundles<sup>7-9</sup>. CLABSI rates are much higher in NNICUs in comparison with other ICUs<sup>10-12</sup>. However, since there are scarce data on CLABSI in NNICU in this part of region, this study was taken up.

### **Materials and Methods**

This is a prospective study carried out in a tertiary care hospital situated at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India for the period of 6 months from January 2016 to June 2016. Approval of Institutional Ethical Committee was taken. A total of 75 patients admitted in the NNICU with central venous catheter (CVC) /central line (CL) were considered in this study.

### **Inclusion criteria**

1. Patients with CVC for more than 48 hours.
2. Patients with provisional diagnosis of blood stream infection based on clinical suspicion.
3. Patients in whom CVC was removed/changed, so that catheter tip was available for test.

### **Exclusion criteria**

Patients with known focus of infection other than CVC.

In a proforma detailed history of the patients was recorded in regard with demography, hospital stay, co-morbidities, neurological diagnosis, and date of insertion and removal of CL, laboratory tests and reports. CLABSI rate was calculated as CLABSIs/1000 CL days and device utilization ratio as number of device days/number of patient days.

### **Specimen collection and transport**

Paired specimens were collected from each patient under aseptic condition. CLs were removed aseptically and then the first sample, namely, the distal 5 cm of the catheter was amputated with a sterile surgical scalpel and collected in sterile container<sup>13</sup>. Secondly, 10-20 ml peripheral venous blood was collected and inoculated in BHI broth. Appropriately labeled specimens were transported to Microbiology laboratory immediately for processing.

### **Processing of specimens in the Microbiology laboratory**

Distal end of CL was rolled over blood agar. The media was incubated at 37°C for 24 hours under aerobic condition. Colony count more than 15 was considered significant<sup>13</sup>. Similarly, BHI broth was incubated at 37°C under aerobic condition for one week. Subculture onto blood agar and MacConkey agar was done on alternate days or whenever turbidity appeared. Identification of bacterial agent was done based on standard laboratory procedures<sup>14</sup>. Antibiotic sensitivity test was done according to Kirby Bauer method using antibiotic discs as per CSLI guidelines. Diagnosis of CLABSI was made when same strain of bacterium was obtained from catheter

tip and blood culture based on identical antimicrobial sensitivity profiles provided there was significant bacterial count from catheter tip.

**Results and Discussion**

CVCs was inserted in 75 patients during the study period with 433 CLdays with an average of 12-16 (mean duration of 16.2 ± 10 days) CL days per patient. Among them 25 patients were suspected of having blood steam infection due to presence of CVC. However, only 9(12%) patients yielded positive cultures in paired sample. The CLABSI rate was 20.8 per 1000 CL days. The central line utilization rate was 0.31. Samples from all 9 patients yielded single etiological agent. The spectrum of bacterial isolates is depicted in table 1.

Gram negative bacteria were predominant contributing to 78% of CLABSI and rest 22% is caused by CoNS. *E. coli* was found as most predominant pathogen, followed by CoNS and *Enterobacter*, there after came *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Klebsiella spp.*

Antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of Enterobacteriaceae is shown in table 2. All GNBs belonging to Enterobacteriaceae were sensitive to colistin, gentamicin, imipenam and meropenam. 5 were sensitive to amikacin,

doripenam, levofloxacin. 4 were sensitive to ampicillin/sulbactam, cefipime, ciprofloxacin, piperacillin-tazobactam, 3 were sensitive to amoxyclav, aztreonam, cefotaxime, ceftazidime and 2 were sensitive to ampicillin, cefaperazone, ceftriaxone, cotrimoxazole.

**Antimicrobial profile of *P. aeruginosa*, a non-fermenting Gram negative bacteria**

One isolate of *P. aeruginosa* was sensitive to all the antibiotics tested, viz amikacin, aztreonam, cefipime, ceftazidime, ciprofloxacin, doripenam, gentamicin, imipenam, levofloxacin, meropenam, piperacillin, piperacillin/tazobactam and polymyxin-B.

**Antimicrobial profile of Gram positive cocci**

2 isolates of CoNS were found to be methicillin sensitive. CoNS was found sensitive to most of the antibiotics tested, namely, ampicillin, amoxicillin, ampicillin/sulbactam, amoxyclav, cefaperazone, cefipime, cefixime, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin, cotrimoxazole, amikacin, gentamicin, linezolid, tigecyclin, teicoplanin and vancomycin.

**Table.1** The spectrum of bacterial isolates of CLABSI

Organism	Frequency (n=9)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	3
<i>Enterobacter</i>	2
<b>Coagulase negative Staphyococcus</b>	2
<i>Klebsiella species</i>	1
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	1

**Table.2** Antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of Enterobacteriaceae

Antimicrobial drug	Sensitive	Resistant
<b>Ampicillin</b>	2	4
<b>Ampicillin/sulbactam</b>	4	1
<b>Amoxyclav</b>	3	2
<b>Amikacin</b>	5	1
<b>Aztreonam</b>	3	3
<b>Cefipime</b>	4	2
<b>Cefoperazone</b>	2	4
<b>Cefotaxime</b>	3	3
<b>Ceftriaxone</b>	2	4
<b>Cetazidime</b>	3	3
<b>Cetazidime/Clavulinic acid</b>	3	3
<b>Ciprofloxacin</b>	4	2
<b>Cotrimoxazole</b>	2	4
<b>Colistin</b>	6	-
<b>Doripenam</b>	5	1
<b>Gentamicin</b>	6	-
<b>Imipenam</b>	6	-
<b>Meropenam</b>	6	-
<b>Levofloxacin</b>	5	1
<b>Piperacillin-tazobactam</b>	4	2

Device associated infections contribute to 14.7% of infections among all ICUs including NNICUs<sup>15</sup>. Around 60% of all types of nosocomial bacteremia are originated from one or other form of vascular access<sup>16</sup>. About 87% of bloodstream infections (BSI) are said to be because of indwelling vascular catheters<sup>17</sup>. BSI are higher with CL than with peripheral lines<sup>18</sup>. Risk factors for CLABSI include insertion of CVC in ICU, duration of central access, receipt of blood transfusion and parenteral nutrition, presence of gastrostomy tube, drains and nonoperative medical conditions<sup>19</sup>. CLABSIs forms 30% of all device-associated infections preceded by VAP(41%), followed by CAUTI (29%)<sup>15</sup>. CLABSIs are one of the most dangerous HAIs, with a mortality rate up to 25%<sup>20</sup>.

CLABSI is a laboratory-confirmed bloodstream infection (LCBI) where CL or umbilical catheter was in place for >2 calendar days on the date of event, with day of device placement being Day 1, AND the line was also in place on the date of event or the day before. If a CL or UC was in place for >2 calendar days and then removed, the date of event of the LCBI must be the day of discontinuation or the next day to be a CLABSI<sup>21</sup>. Surveillance of baseline CLABSIs plays an important role in strengthening infection control practices and further to reduce and prevent them. The baseline CLABSI rate in different ICUs was 6.4 CLABSIs per 1000 CL-days in India<sup>10</sup>. It was 10.7 per 1,000 CL days among pediatric ICUs of 5 developing countries including India<sup>11</sup>. It was found to be 2.5 per 1000 CL days in oncology ICUs<sup>22</sup>. However, its incidence is reported to be much higher (20.7) in NNICU<sup>12</sup>. One review article portrays that the CLABSI rate in limited-resource countries ranged from 1.6 to 44.6 per 1000 CL days in adult and pediatric intensive care units (ICUs) and from 2.6 to 60.0 per 1000 CL days in neonatal ICUs<sup>23</sup>.

In our study that was conducted in NNICU at Visakhapatnam, situated in a lap of South India, CLABSI rate was 20.8 per 1000 CL days which is strikingly similar to the work done in similar setting in Delhi, the heart of North India, recently which was 20.6 per 1000 CL days<sup>12</sup>. In medical-surgical-neurosurgical ICUs of Mexican public hospitals, overall rate of CR-BSIs was 23.1 per 1000 device days<sup>24</sup>. However, it was 1.9 per 1,000 CL days, a much lower rate in neurological ICU, Germany<sup>25</sup>. In this study, *E. coli* was the most predominant pathogen, followed by CoNS and *Enterobacter* which is similar to the study conducted in multiple developing countries<sup>15</sup>. Jaggi N and colleagues quoted Klebsiella as predominant pathogen<sup>10</sup>. However, CoNS was predominant causative agent, which was followed by bacteria belonging to Enterobacteriaceae family in other studies<sup>4,12,17</sup>. In our study, fortunately there were no ESBLs or Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus unlike other studies<sup>15</sup>. Patients' response to antimicrobials that were administered based on culture sensitivity reports was good in terms of curbing CLABSI, but it was not entire as there were underlying neurological disorders along with other co-morbid conditions.

It is concluded according to our knowledge, CLABSI rate is higher in NNICU compared to general ICUs and other superspeciality ICUs namely pediatric, neonatal and oncology ICUs.

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