

TITLE: PROFILE OF NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS BY *ACINETOBACTER BAUMANNII* IN A TEACHING HOSPITAL IN CEARÁ, BRAZIL

AUTHORS: RODRIGUES, M. R. P; MORAIS, A.J.A; LINHARES, I. P. B; FONSECA, M. X. Q. C.; BRAGA, J. M; PINTO V. P. T.; BARBOSA, F. C. B.

INSTITUTION: UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO CEARÁ, SOBRAL, CE. (Av. Comandante Maurocélío Rocha Pontes, 100, Derby. CEP 62042- 280, Sobral- Ce)

ABSTRACT:

Health care-related infections caused by *Acinetobacter baumannii* have increased considerably in recent years. The major importance of this gram-negative bacillus is due to its great capacity to acquire mechanisms of resistance to the different classes of antibiotics available, besides the considerable ability to adapt and survive in adverse conditions, which results in an increase in the morbimortality of nosocomial infections caused by this pathogen. Thus, the aim of this study was to identify the profile of nosocomial infections caused by *Acinetobacter baumannii* during the year 2016 in a teaching hospital in Sobral, Ceará, Brazil. The justification of this study was the need to define in which sectors the greatest number of infections occurred in order to intensify prevention measures in the hospital environment. This was an analytical, cross-sectional study with a qualitative approach. The microbiology data of the patients with nosocomial infections was reported by the Hospital Infection Control Commission from January to December 2016. Data was tabulated in the Excel 2016 program according to the place of hospitalization and the site from which the sample was obtained. *A. baumannii* was isolated from microbiological samples of 73 patients hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU): adult (n = 26), in the medical clinic (n = 17), surgery ward (n = 8), neurology (n = 7), pediatric ICU (n = 5), pediatric ward (n = 3), maternity (n = 2), emergency (n = 2), neonatal ICU (n = 2) and nursery (n = 1). The microorganism was identified in samples from blood (n = 28), wound secretions (n = 17), catheter tip (n = 7), urine (n = 5), tracheal aspirate (n = 5), liquor (n = 1), oral swab (n = 1), nasal swab (n = 1), and others (n = 8). The results demonstrated the highest frequency of this pathogen in the adult ICU; being isolated mainly from the blood of these patients, followed by the medical clinic sector. It is also interesting to note the presence of *A. baumannii* in the neonatal ICU and in the nursery. Therefore, the data collected highlights the need for intensification of control and prevention measures in order to reduce nosocomial infections caused by *Acinetobacter baumannii* in this teaching hospital.

Keywords: *Acinetobacter baumannii*; health assistance; ICU adult; nosocomial infection; teaching hospital.

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