

## Device-related Infections in Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery

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Received: 15-04-2022 / Revised: 18-05-2022 / Accepted: 01-06-2022

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Conflict of interest: Nil

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**Background:** There are different types of infections that could have a significant impact on the health of the people. The surgical site infection (SSI) is one of the major issues that include deep, implant-associated infection that increase the serious complications in orthopaedic surgery. This is having a significant impact on morbidity and mortality. The outcomes of this are also involving the multiple revisions, poor financial and health related outcomes. There are some guidelines were also made for managing the operational activities and planning of the actions to minimize the infection and improve the health of the patients and staff members

**Aim:** The study aims to analyse device-related infections in orthopaedic and trauma surgery

**Method:** This was a multi-institutional case control study that conducted in SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack between September 2019 to March 2022. The study was approved by the ethical committee and followed the standards. For the study the case were defined considering the health of the patients who have any reinfection demanding any surgical revision in less than 1 year after the index procedure. Apart from this the control were defined as the patients who are not having infection demanding surgical revision.

**Results:** The case patients were more likely involved in smoking especially male with the fracture fixation device. Moreover, the systematic antibiotics treated was used for 14 and used for the 22 case and 109 control patients. The Univariate regression analysis has suggested an improvement in risk of recurrent infection with longer antibiotic treatment (OR 1.82, 95% CI 1.00 to 3.28,  $p = 0.049$ ). The patient's sub-sample with extramedullary fracture device-associated infections. Moreover, the baseline criteria were found well in both case and control and none of them is related to recurrent infection in univariate analysis.

**Conclusion:** From the analysis, it has been considered that exposure of the infection in surgical process is having a significant impact on the health of the patients and affecting the recovery. Moreover, the large-scale confirmatory trails are needed for confirm the issues and developing the systematic process of reducing the reinfection among the surgical patients.

**Keywords:** Infection, Device related infection, Orthopaedic, Trauma Surgery

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## Background

There are different types of infections that could have a significant impact on the health of the people [1]. The surgical site infection (SSI) is one of the major issues that include deep, implant-associated infection that increase the serious complications in orthopaedic surgery [2]. This is having a significant impact on morbidity and mortality. The outcomes of this are also involving the multiple revisions, poor financial and health related outcomes [3]. There are various approaches are used for analysing the issues related to the SSI and that involve primary external fixation that followed by open reduction and internal fixation [4]. According to analysis, the deep SSI is specifically implant-related infections that demand aggressive surgical management. There are some decisive factors that play a critical role in managing the infection [5,6].

According to analysis, the particular devices that used for surgery is having a significant impact on the infection rate and mobility. However, systemic antibiotics are used for treating the implant associated orthopaedic infection [7]. There are some guidelines were also made for managing the operational activities and planning of the actions to minimize the infection and improve the health of the patients and staff members [8]. In orthopaedic trauma, adequate timing of definitive fracture fixation after damage-control, if necessary, remains a mainstay of preventing deep infections and other complications [9]. Minimally invasive access routes and biologically designed implants may further decrease the risk of infection because of fewer traumas to surrounding soft tissues, thereby avoiding a surgical second hit [10]. Joint arthroplasty registries have greatly

contributed to the knowledge about the risk of infection in high-income countries [11,12]. Various definitions of SSI, follow-up intervals, and effect modifiers like age, co-morbidity, treatment indication, type of components etc. notwithstanding, national benchmarks typically range from 0.5 to 2.0% in primary, elective total hip, and knee replacement [13]. Now, the present study will analyse the influence of the duration of antibiotic treatment on the rate of recurrence after the surgical management of different orthopaedic device-related infection.

## Aim

The study aims to analyse device-related infections in orthopaedic and trauma surgery

## Method and Material

This was a multi-institutional case control study that conducted in SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack between September 2019 to March 2022. The study was approved by the ethical committee and followed the standards. For the study the case were defined considering the health of the patients who have any reinfection demanding any surgical revision in less than 1 year after the index procedure. Apart from this the control were defined as the patients who are not having infection demanding surgical revision (or any surgical revision for infection)  $\leq 1$  year, being aware the control status is fragile and may change to a case status with longer follow-up intervals.

For completing the study, the researcher has focused on the uni and multivariate regression analysis that hasped to understand the association between the primary and secondary variables. In order to test the possible outcome of the clinical study, the

secondary variables were analysed using the single logistic regression. Days of systemic exposure to fluoroquinolones and rifampicin

were clustered in clinically meaningful categories with comparable sample sizes.

## Results

**Table 1:**

Variable	Cases	Controls
n	59	210
Median age, years (IQR)	63 (48–71)	67 (55–73)
Gender, n (%)		
Male	42 (71)	106 (50)
Female	17 (29)	104 (50)
Median BMI (IQR)	28 (25–32)	28 (25–33)
Smoker, n (%)	20 (34)	42 (20)
Diabetes mellitus, n (%)	10 (17)	49 (23)
ASA status, n (%)		
1	7 (12)	18 (9)
2	28 (47)	98 (47)
≥ 3	24 (41)	94 (45)
Type of implant		
Total joint arthroplasty	28 (47)	157 (75)
Fracture fixation device	31 (53)	53 (25)
Infection site		
Lower extremity	56 (95)	200 (95)
Upper extremity	3 (5)	10 (5)
MRSA present, n (%)	3 (5)	6 (3)
Preferred antibiotics, n (%)		
Cefuroxime	19 (32)	106 (50)
Moxifloxacin	13 (22)	66 (31)
Clindamycin	7 (12)	38 (18)

According to the outcome of the table 1, the case patients were more likely involved in smoking especially male with the fracture fixation device. Moreover, the systematic antibiotics treated was used for 14 and used for the 22 case and 109 control patients. The Univariate regression analysis has suggested an improvement in risk of recurrent infection with longer antibiotic treatment (OR 1.82, 95% CI 1.00 to 3.28,  $p = 0.049$ ). Male gender (OR 2.42, 95% CI 1.30 to 4.53,  $p = 0.005$ ),

smoking (OR 2.05, 95% CI 1.09 to 3.88,  $p = 0.027$ ), and infection of a fracture fixation device (OR 2.25, 95% CI 1.21 to 4.2,  $p = 0.032$ ) were associated with an increased likelihood of developing relapse. Apart from this, the multivariate analysis has suggested male sex (OR 2.06, 95% CI 1.08 to 3.94,  $p = 0.029$ ) and fracture fixation device infections (OR 2.05, 95% CI 1.05 to 4.02,  $p = 0.036$ ) remained predictors of reinfection.

**Table 2:**

Variable	Cases	Controls	<i>p</i>
n	31	53	
Median age, years (IQR)	55 (45–61)	51 (37–67)	0.849
Gender, n (%)			0.706
Male	20 (65)	32 (60)	
Female	11 (35)	21 (40)	
Median BMI (IQR)	26.4 (24.2–32.4)	26.9 (23.8–30.3)	0.513
Smoker, n (%)	12 (39)	18 (34)	0.661
Diabetes mellitus, n (%)	3 (10)	4 (8)	0.733
ASA status, n (%)			
1	6 (19)	11 (21)	0.890
2	16 (52)	28 (53)	
≥ 3	7 (23)	12 (23)	
unknown	2 (6)	2 (4)	
Infection site			0.487
Lower leg	26 (84)	41 (77)	
Femur	2 (6)	8 (15)	
Upper extremity	3 (10)	4 (8)	
Additional IM nail, n (%)	2 (6)	7 (13)	0.334
Microbiology, n (%)			
MSSA	21 (68)	24 (45)	0.046
MRSA	3 (10)	3 (6)	0.490
CNS	2 (6)	11 (21)	0.080
Enterococci	3 (10)	12 (23)	0.134
Streptococci	3 (10)	3 (6)	0.490
E. coli	1	3	
Enterobacter spec.	3	2	
Corynebacter spec.	1	1	
Proteus spec.	0	1	
Pseudomonas spec.	2	2	
Peptostreptococci	0	3	
Klebsiella spec.	0	2	
Candida spec.	0	1	
Local gentamicin, n (%)	6 (19)	10 (19)	0.956
Systemic antibiotics, n (%)			
Fluoroquinolones	13 (42)	23 (43)	0.896
Rifampicin	8 (26)	15 (28)	0.805
Cefuroxime	6 (19)	14 (26)	0.463
Aminopenicillins	9 (29)	9 (17)	0.194
Clindamycin	2 (6)	5 (9)	0.633
Linezolid	1	1	
Vancomycin	0	2	
Gentamicin	0	2	

Imipenem	1	1	
Tazobactam	1	2	
Combined fluoroquinolones and rifampicin			
None	29 (55)	18 (58)	
Any	10 (19)	5 (16)	
Fluoroquinolones and / or rifampicin	14 (26)	8 (26)	

Table 2 has provided the information related to the patient's sub-sample with extramedullary fracture device-associated infections. Moreover, the baseline criteria were found well in both case and control and none of them is related to recurrent infection in univariate analysis.

**Table 3:**

Variable	Logistic regression, OR (95% CI)	p	Exact logistic regression, OR (95% CI)	P
Age	1.01 (0.98–1.03)	0.641	1.01 (0.98–1.03)	0.650
Male gender	1.19 (0.48–2.99)	0.706	1.19 (0.44–3.35)	0.889
BMI	1.02 (0.96–1.08)	0.598	1.02 (0.95–1.08)	0.601
Smoking	1.23 (0.49–3.08)	0.661	1.23 (0.44–3.38)	0.836
Diabetes mellitus	1.31 (0.27–6.29)	0.734	1.31 (0.18–8.35)	1.000
ASA class	1.03 (0.52–2.04)	0.924	1.03 (0.49–2.17)	1.000
MRSA present	1.79 (0.34–9.45)	0.495	1.77 (0.22–14.15)	0.779
Local antibiotics	1.03 (0.33–3.18)	0.956	1.03 (0.27–3.59)	1.000
Systemic fluoroquinolones				
Any use	0.94 (0.38–2.31)	0.896	0.94 (0.35–2.53)	1.000
1 to 7 days	1.04 (0.30–3.68)	0.949	1.04 (0.23–4.29)	1.000
8 to 31 days	0.42 (0.08–2.18)	0.300	0.42 (0.04–2.46)	0.499
> 31 days	1.43 (0.41–4.92)	0.572	1.42 (0.34–5.85)	0.796
1 to 31 days	0.73 (0.25–2.11)	0.560	0.73 (0.21–2.35)	0.758
> 31 days	1.43 (0.41–4.92)	0.572	1.42 (0.34–5.85)	0.796
Systemic rifampicin				
Any use	0.88 (0.32–2.40)	0.805	0.88 (0.28–2.64)	1.000
1 to 31 days	0.41 (0.08–2.12)	0.289	0.42 (0.04–2.35)	0.476
> 31 days	1.42 (0.42–4.74)	0.572	1.41 (0.35–5.60)	0.790
Fluoroquinolones or rifampicin	0.95 (0.56–1.59)	0.838		
Either	0.81 (0.24–2.74)	0.729	0.81 (0.19–3.13)	0.980
Combined	0.92 (0.32–2.63)	0.877	0.92 (0.28–2.94)	1.000

According to the outcome of table 3, univariate analysis has suggested that 60% reduced odds of re-infection with systemic fluoroquinolones (OR 0.42, 95% CI 0.04 to

2.46) or rifampicin treatment (OR 0.41, 95% CI 0.08 to 2.12) for up to 31 days.

## Discussion

According to analysis, the deep SSI is specifically implant-related infections that demand aggressive surgical management. There are some decisive factors that play a critical role in managing the infection. The particular devices that used for surgery is having a significant impact on the infection rate and mobility. However, systemic antibiotics are used for treating the implant associated orthopaedic infection. There are some guidelines were also made for managing the operational activities and planning of the actions to minimize the infection and improve the health of the patients and staff members. As per the outcome of the current study, the case patients were more likely involved in smoking especially male with the fracture fixation device.

Moreover, the systematic antibodies treated was used for 14 and used for the 22 case and 109 control patients. The Univariate regression analysis has suggested an improvement in risk of recurrent infection with longer antibiotic treatment (OR 1.82, 95% CI 1.00 to 3.28,  $p = 0.049$ ). Male gender (OR 2.42, 95% CI 1.30 to 4.53,  $p = 0.005$ ), smoking (OR 2.05, 95% CI 1.09 to 3.88,  $p = 0.027$ ), and infection of a fracture fixation device (OR 2.25, 95% CI 1.21 to 4.2,  $p = 0.032$ ) were associated with an increased likelihood of developing relapse.

As per the study of Burch et al., (2019) [14], in orthopaedic trauma, adequate timing of definitive fracture fixation after damage-control, if necessary, remains a mainstay of preventing deep infections and other complications. Minimally invasive access routes and biologically designed implants may further decrease the risk of infection because of fewer traumas to surrounding soft tissues, thereby avoiding a surgical second hit. The information related to the patient's sub-sample with extramedullary fracture device-associated infections [15]. Moreover, the baseline criteria were found well in both

case and control and none of them is related to recurrent infection in univariate analysis. [16]

## Conclusion

From the analysis, it has been considered that exposure of the infection in surgical process is having a significant impact on the health of the patients and affecting the recovery. Moreover, the large-scale confirmatory trails are needed for confirm the issues and developing the systematic process of reducing the reinfection among the surgical patients. The shorter treatment trails are not sufficient for maintaining the hygiene level and influencing the health of the patients.

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