

TITLE: MICROBIOLOGICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF NOSOCOMAL INFECTIONS BY *Staphylococcus aureus* IN NEONATAL ICU PATIENTS AT A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN UBERLÂNDIA, MG.

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Hospital Infections are characterized as a serious public health problem, and have great impact in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), due to the fragility of the newborn patients. *Staphylococcus aureus* is an important hospital pathogen among neonates patients, associated with significant morbidity and mortality rates. The objective of the study was to determine the epidemiological and microbiological profile of *S. aureus* isolates from cases of hospital infection in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Clinical Hospital of Uberlândia (CHU). Data were collected through daily epidemiological surveillance in the unit following the methodology proposed by the NHSN (National Health Care Safety Network). The study period was from July 2014 to July 2015. The microorganisms were grouped by period, taxonomic characteristics, pathogenicity and frequency profile. This study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Federal University of Uberlandia, opinion 942.217. During the study period, 119 neonates were admitted to the NICU of the CHU, and the infection rate was 43.69%. In two of these cases (3.8%) *S. aureus* was isolated from ocular secretion. These isolates were shown to be susceptible to ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, oxacillin and rifampicin. Both isolates showed resistance to penicillin, erythromycin, clindamycin and benzylpenicillin. The two newborns included in the study are pre-mature and underweight. In both, invasive procedures such as catheter use were performed. The data collected in this study is repeated with previous research, thus showing a stability of the frequency and resistance profile of the main antimicrobials used in the NICU of the CHU. Despite the similarity, it is necessary to monitor this epidemiological chain for the adoption of preventive measures and control of the elimination of these diseases.

Keywords: NICU, hospital infection, *S. aureus*

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