Título: ASSESSMENT OF *Staphylococcus* sp. SURFACE CONTAMINATION IN BEDS AT INTENSIVE CARE UNITIES OF HOSPITALS LOCATED IN ALAGOAS

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Abstract:

The hospital environment, including air, water and especially the inanimate surfaces which surround the patient can proportionate focus of contact and transmission of pathogenic micro-organisms, having, therefore, an intimate relation with hospital infections. Bacteria belonging to the *Staphylococcus* gender present ubiquitous distribution, contaminating different places, like floors, medical equipment, furniture and other objects of the hospital environment. This microorganism is responsible for causing many diseases on human beings and is clearly involved in the hospital infections etiology. Regarding the contamination of inanimate surfaces at health establishments, the Intensive Care Unity (ICU) has been pointed as the one deserving greater attention due to the high prevalence of resistant microorganisms, favored by the severity of the patient's case history. Therefore, the objective of this work was to assess the *Staphylococcus* sp. contamination on the surface of incubators or bars of the beds in ICUs at two large-scale hospitals located in Alagoas, at the Northeast of Brazil.40 samples were collected, 20 of them having been obtained in a hospital situated at the state's countryside and 20 samples in a hospital located at the capital. The samples were collected using sterile swabs, with late inoculation of the material in Brain-Heart infusion broth and Salt Mannitol agar. Colonies suspected of belonging to the *Staphylococcus* gender were subjected to biochemical identification tests. For detection of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), the identified bacteria were subjected to oxacillin sensibility assessment. 73 (100%) *Staphylococcus* colonies were identified in the 40 samples evaluated. From these, 12 (16,44%) colonies were of *S. aureus*, 6 (50%) of then being the MRSA phenotype, 45 (61,64%) *S. epidermidis* colonies and 16 (21,92%) *S. saprophyticus* colonies. These results suggest the need for application of adequate disinfection techniques in these places so that they reduce the contamination through these bacteria and allow greater security to the user and the health team in the hospital environment.

Keywords: *Staphylococcus.* MRSA. Hospital surfaces. Bed bars.

Agência Fomento: Programa Semente de Iniciação Científica (PSIC) – Cesmac/FEJAL