



Microbiology

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Nosocomial infection, Zoonotic disease and emerging microbial threats

- **Topics discussed:**

- Hospital-Acquired Infections
- Zoonotic Diseases
- Emergence of Bacterial Pathogens

- **Hospital-Acquired Infections (HAIs)**

- **Definition**

- ✓ Infections not present or incubating at admission, manifesting 48 hours after hospitalization.

- ✓ Includes:

- Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)
- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)
- Surgical Site Infections (SSI)
- Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia (HAP)
- Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP)
- Clostridium Difficile Infections (CDI)

- **Epidemiology**

- ✓ **Risk factors:**

- Immunosuppression
- Older age
- Length of stay in hospital
- Multiple comorbidities
- Frequent healthcare visits
- Mechanical ventilatory support
- Invasive procedures
- Indwelling devices
- ICU stay

- ✓ **Pathogens may come from:**

- Other patients
- Hospital staff
- Hospital environment

- ✓ **HAI prevalence:**

- 19.5% of ICU patients have at least one HAI (231,459 patients across 947 hospitals).
- In 2014, 4% of hospitalized patients had at least one HAI (survey of 11,282 patients from 183 hospitals).

- **Types of Infections**

- ✓ **Most common infections:**

- Pneumonia (21.8%)
- Surgical site infections (21.8%)
- Gastrointestinal infections (17.1%)
- Urinary tract infections (12.9%)
- Primary bloodstream infections (9.9%)

- ✓ **Leading pathogens:**
 - Clostridium difficile (12.1%)
 - Staphylococcus aureus (10.7%)
 - Klebsiella (9.9%)
 - Escherichia coli (9.3%)
- ✓ **Skin and surgical infections:**
 - Often caused by Staphylococcus aureus (including MRSA).

➤ Specific Types of Infections

- ✓ **CLABSI:**
 - Increased morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs.
 - Reduced by 58% in ICU (2001-2009), saving 6,000 lives and \$414 million in costs.
 - Most common pathogens: Gram-negative (39.2%), Gram-positive (33.2%), Candida spp. (27.6%).
- ✓ **SSI:**
 - Most common complication in postoperative patients.
 - Common pathogens: Staphylococcus species (including MRSA), Acinetobacter species, Pseudomonas species, Enterococcus species.
- ✓ **CAUTI:**
 - Most common healthcare-associated infection (40% of all HCAs).
 - Can cause higher mortality in asymptomatic bacteriuric patients.
- ✓ **VAP:**
 - Second most common HCAI in ICU patients.
 - Affects 9% to 27% of mechanically ventilated patients.
 - Common pathogens: Staphylococcus aureus, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

➤ Management of HAI

- ✓ **Key steps:**
 - Empiric antibiotics based on risk factors and patient stability.
 - Start antibiotics within an hour, especially for CLABSI.
 - Obtain blood cultures from both peripheral and central venous sites before initiating antibiotics.
 - Identifying pathogen and susceptibility guides the use of specific antibiotics.

• Zoonotic Diseases

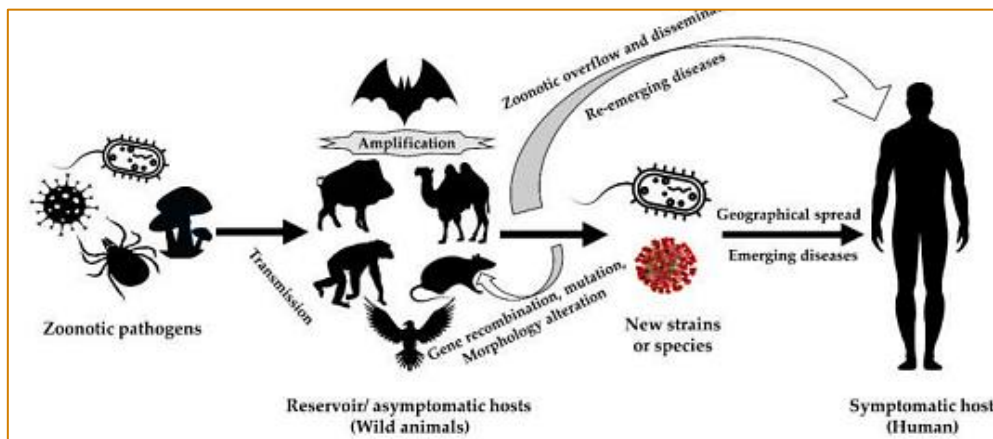
➤ Definition

- ✓ **Zoonotic diseases:** Diseases naturally transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans or vice versa.
- ✓ 60% of emerging human infections are zoonotic, with 70% of those originating from wildlife.

➤ Types of Zoonotic Diseases

- ✓ **Bacterial:** Anthrax, Salmonellosis, Tuberculosis, Lyme disease, Brucellosis, Plague.
- ✓ **Viral:** Rabies, AIDS, Ebola, Avian Influenza.
- ✓ **Parasitic:** Trichinosis, Toxoplasmosis, Giardiasis, Malaria, Echinococcosis.
- ✓ **Fungal:** Ringworm.
- ✓ **Other:** Q-fever (rickettsial), Psittacosis (chlamydial), Mycoplasma pneumonia, Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (mad cow disease).

- **Transmission Factors**
 - ✓ **Wild animals** contribute to the transmission and maintenance of zoonotic diseases.
 - ✓ **Environmental changes** (globalization, habitat destruction, climate change) disrupt ecological relationships and trigger new zoonotic diseases.
- **Reverse Zoonoses**
 - ✓ Some **pathogens** can be transmitted from humans to animals (e.g., MRSA, Campylobacter spp.).
- **Zoonotic Diseases from Pets and Companion Animals**
 - ✓ Common zoonotic diseases:
 - Brucellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Chlamydiosis, Cat Scratch Fever, Ehrlichiosis, Giardiasis.
 - **Rabies**: Most common dog-associated zoonosis.
 - **Cat Scratch Disease**: Caused by Bartonella henselae.
- **Zoonoses from Fish and Aquatic Environments**
 - ✓ **Vibrio species** (V. cholerae, V. parahaemolyticus, V. vulnificus) are common zoonotic agents from fish.
 - ✓ Non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections linked to **aquariums** and **aquaculture**.



• Emergence of Bacterial Pathogens

- ✓ **Reasons for Emergence**
 - Bacteria have a **stable genome**, making their divergence less common compared to viruses.
 - Most **emerging infectious diseases (EIDs)** are from bacteria that have long been in the environment.
- ✓ **Key Aspects of Bacterial Disease Emergence**
 1. **Development of new diagnostic tools:**
 - **PCR** and **MALDI-TOF** mass spectrometry for faster and more accurate detection.
 2. **Increased human exposure:**
 - Higher population density and more invasive medical procedures lead to **more healthcare-associated infections**.
 3. **Emergence of more virulent strains:**
 - **Increased antibiotic resistance** (e.g., MRSA, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, carbapenem resistant bacteria).
- ✓ **Future Challenges**
 - **Difficult to control** the emergence of new bacterial diseases.
 - Efforts should focus on rapidly identifying potential epidemic sources using **new technologies** like social networks and media.



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