

EDITORIAL

Greetings!

Rational Antibiotic Use—need of the day!

Each and every human life is affected by infectious disease at some time or the other. We as medical professionals are concerned for the mortality and morbidity attached to it. Some microorganisms are highly virulent, some spread rapidly, causing pandemics and epidemics. History of antimicrobials date back to 1943, with discovery of penicillin and we have come a long way since then. But after 3 decades of development and discovery of a wide variety of antimicrobial agents, last 20 years there is no new Antimicrobial.

Emergence of antimicrobial resistance in pathogens has become a matter of great public health concern as it makes the treatment of patients difficult, costly and sometimes impossible. Resistance has emerged even to newer and more potent antimicrobial agents. On the other hand the frequent and inappropriate use of a newly discovered antimicrobial drug leads to the development of drug resistant bacteria, which results in treatment failure. Irrational use of antimicrobials, self –medication, and misuse of drugs add to the problem. Antimicrobial resistance is closely linked to inappropriate antimicrobial use.

There is need to develop and improve the use of antimicrobials, and surveillance for resistance. To combat the problem of ineffective management of infections and their complications caused by drug resistant microorganisms, it is imperative to develop a robust standardized national treatment guidelines for the practitioners so that they rationally use the currently available antimicrobial agents effectively.

The, Ministry of health and family welfare has launched ‘National program for AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) Containment’ in 2012-2017. the key activity under this is rational use of Antimicrobials, evidence based national guidelines for various infectious diseases, spreading the knowledge of infection control measures, adopting and implementing the hospital infection control practices, formation of active hospital infection control teams in each hospital, and prevention of infection by hygiene and vaccination.

Need of the day is hospitals should have their own Antimicrobial Policy updated time to time keeping in mind the resistance prevalence. Let us all take the initiative and **Stop Antibiotic Abuse and have Antimicrobial Policy for our hospital.**

Best wishes.

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