Improving Quality of Patient Care by Reducing the Prevalence of Surgical Site Infections

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Improving Quality of Patient Care by Reducing the Prevalence of Surgical Site Infections

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BACKGROUND –
Surgical site infection (SSI) is a type of hospital acquire infection (HAI). It is the most common HAI concern and it is costly to the healthcare system. Problem Statement: Providence Mount Carmel Hospital (PMCH) had a high incidence of SSIs in 2018 (0.6%) creating a potential patient safety issue for our surgical patients.

PURPOSE
To develop standardized cleaning process in the OR and to promote staff compliance to decrease SSIs.

REFERENCES

METHODS
We used a retrospective chart review of all SSIs cases for 2018.

Process implementation:
• Education and training to all OR and EVS caregivers about best practices for cleaning and disinfecting OR room
• Instrument processing reviewed.
• Enforced policy on HCG wipes usage.
• Implemented new competencies for EVS caregivers.

Measures:
• Collaboration with Infection Prevention (IP) for SSI surveillance and monitoring.
• Use of ATP testing- Swabbing high touch objects (HTO) and instruments to measure efficacy of cleaning.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES
• ATP testing 100% negative results
• IP surveillance yield 100% compliance
• PMCH achieved 7 months without SSI, with no SSI since July 2019.

CONCLUSIONS/DISCUSSION
The OR cleaning process and training had a positive impact in reducing SSI prevalence. Continuing the current process and monitoring for a full year should be done to validate the impact of the intervention.