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Hand hygiene to prevent healthcare associated infections: investigation in Beninese settings.

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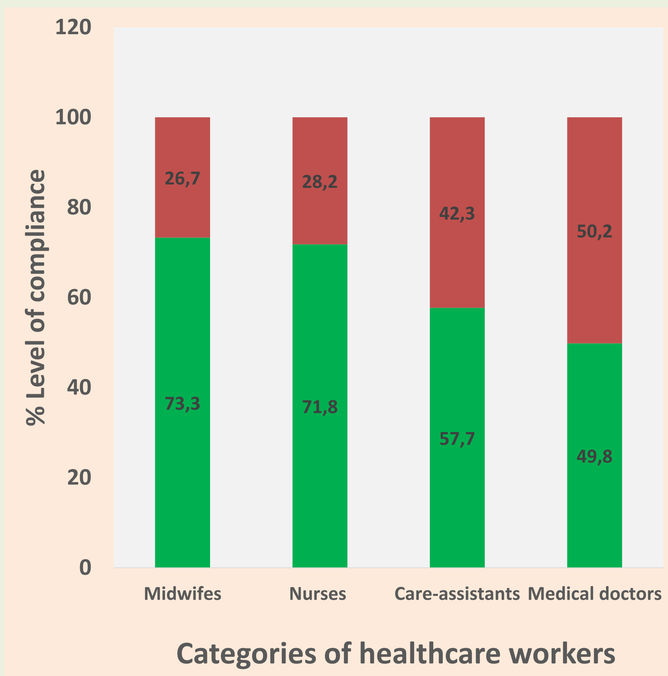
Introduction

Healthcare associated infections are significant burden for health system and patients. Hand hygiene is a fundamental action for ensuring patient safety[1]. But low availability of needed infrastructures is especially reported in low income countries like Benin[2]. World Health Organization (WHO) provides recommendations and tools to be used worldwide[3].

Aim: To investigate hand hygiene practices in Beninese hospitals and to correlate its compliance with required infrastructures available.

Figure 1: Level of healthcare workers' hand hygiene's compliance.



Methods

We conducted a prospective study in obstetric surgery departments of four hospitals over a period of 1 month in 2016. Data was collected with WHO survey's forms by trained survey teams and was analyzed using WHO scale.

Results

508 opportunities to perform 1305 hand hygiene actions were observed. **42.53%** of hand hygiene actions were achieved (n = 555).

- **8.3%** of hand hygiene actions were performed with alcohol-based products.
- hand washing and gloves using were done in **25.3%** and **30.2%.**
- Any hand hygiene action were not performed in **36.2%** of cases.
- 47 sinks were available for all of 310 beds counted in the four hospitals.
- Water and gloves were available in **100%** of cases. Alcohol-based products were at place in **10-50%** of cases; single use hands' towels in **0-50%;** soap and hanging hand hygiene posters were noticed in **50-100%** and **20-75%.**

Local audit of hand hygiene practices was regularly performed in 2 of the 4 hospitals.

- Compliance in hand hygiene instructions was variable between different categories of healthcare professionals (Midwifes: **73.3%**; Nurses: **71.8%**; care-assistants: **57.7%;** Medical doctors: **49.8%).**

Conclusion

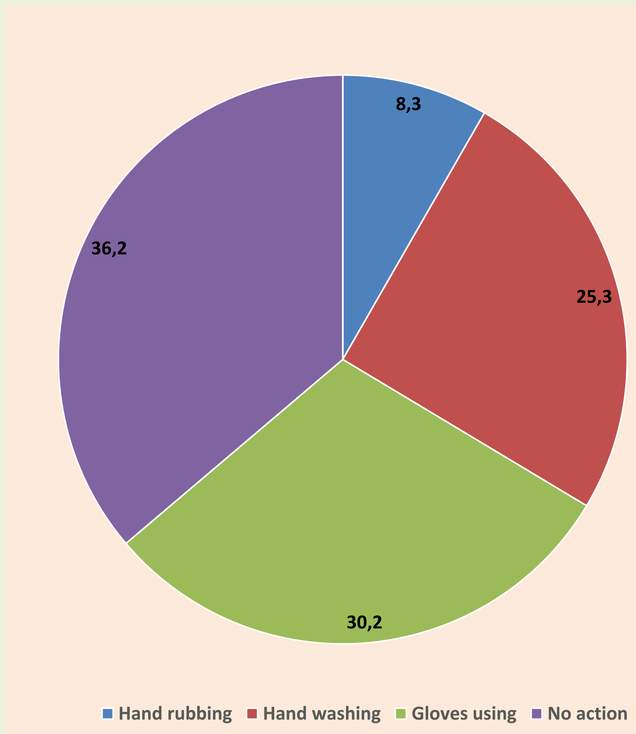
In the four hospitals, the practices of hand hygiene and the level of infrastructures' availability were low; which is possibly linked.

Hand rubbing is the primary choice for hand decontamination[4] but was rarely practiced.

Nurses and midwifes were more compliant than other healthcare professionals.

It is urgent to improve hand hygiene compliance and make available appropriate tools to ensure patients' security in Beninese hospitals.

Figure 2: Achievement of hand hygiene's actions.



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