INFECTION CONTROL: IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENTS AND COVID-19

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DISCLOSURES

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“IPAC CONFERENCE”
OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss pre-pandemic infection control measures on transplant and oncology wards

2. Discuss Pandemic related changes
PRE-PANDEMIC MEASURES
Routine Practices

- Hand Hygiene
- Prompt Isolation
- Surface Cleaning
- Universal Masking
UNIVERSAL MASKING

Staff/Patients

Allo/Auto Units

Reduce Transmission
• RVIs
• Outbreaks
REDUCING AIRBORNE EXPOSURE: VENTILATION

Air Exchanges
>12 air exchanges

Filtration

Air Cleaners

Positive Pressure
POST-PANDEMIC MEASURES
“IPAC CONFERENCE, IN LEGO”
A NOTE ON THE TRANSMISSION SPECTRUM....
PANDEMIC CHALLENGES: NON-CLINICAL AREAS

- Meeting Areas
- Common Spaces
- Ventilation
- Portals of Entry
UNIQUE ASPECTS ASPECTS FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENTS

- Vaccine efficacy
- Unique Wards
- Infection relapse
- Portals of Entry
PANDEMIC CHALLENGES: CLINICAL SPACES

Multi-bed Rooms

Negative Pressure Isolation Rooms

HCW protection

Triage Areas
USE OF SHIELDS/BARRIES
BENEFITS OF SINGLE-BED ROOMS

Infection control
COVID-19, MRSA, C. difficile

Privacy
Patient/visitors/family

Reduction in Disturbance
Noise/medical care
PANDEMIC CHANGES

- Universal masking
- Increased virtual care
- Twice daily syndromic screening
- Reduce volumes
- Universal Testing
- Review airflow
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptomatic</th>
<th>On Admission</th>
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<td>Low threshold</td>
<td>All patients</td>
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<tr>
<th>Pre-procedure</th>
<th>Weekly Prevalence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMT</td>
<td>Long-stay units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<td>Endoscopy</td>
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FALSE POSITIVES

- Cancels treatment
- Patient Distress
- Outbreak Declaration
- Contact Tracing
REDUCE EXPOSURES

Reduce Procedure
BMTs
Transplant surgeries

Limit Visitors
All patients

Switch to virtual care
Outpatient clinics

Close common spaces
Social/therapy
VENTILATION

Use Fresh Air
- Where possible, also open doors/windows
- Open outdoor dampers

Recurrent Maintenance
Communication with facilities, operators, engineers

Portable Cleaners
HEPA filters in high risk settings (AGMP)

More Isolation Beds
Infrastructure development
COVID-19+ PATIENTS
Where to place them?

- Move away from positive pressure units
- Dedicated unit
- Transfer to outside facility
COVID-19 OUTBREAKS

- Prompt identification
- Test staff, patients
- Visitor restrictions
- Increased Cleaning
- Close the unit
CHALLENGES TO OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

Multi-bed Rooms

Shared Spaces (lounge, locker room)

Common Areas (nursing stations, clinical areas)
POST PANDEMIC CHANGES

- Maintain masking?
- Maintain broad testing?
- Reinforce pre-pandemic measures
- Surveillance for the next pandemic
CONCLUSIONS

1. Many pre-pandemic measures in place
2. Many pandemic changes unlikely to change
3. Ongoing surveillance will be needed
REFERENCES

- CID, Volume 73, Issue 6, 15 September 2021, Pages e1356–e1364,
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