Caesarean Section Surgical Site Infections: From Policies and Procedures Into Action: A Multidisciplinary Team Approach Is Critical To Facilitate Compliance To Prevention Bundle

ISSUE/BACKGROUND

Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) are the most costly healthcare associated infections (HAIs) among patients undergoing surgical procedures. Up to 60% of SSIs are considered preventable with evidence-based strategies. A subset of SSIs occur after Caesarean section (C-section), which is one of the most frequently performed obstetric surgical procedure and is associated with 5 to 20 fold rise in maternal morbidity and postpartum mortality. An active surveillance program to monitor C-section SSIs has been implemented at Humber River Hospital for over 5 years. During the peak of COVID-19 pandemic (2021-2022), our facility observed an increase in the number of C-section SSIs. 4 cases in 2 consecutive months compared to 0-1 cases per year previously.

PROJECT

The collaboration between MCP and IPAC improved awareness and compliance to SSI prevention bundle through implementation of these interventions:

- C-section SSI prevention checklist focused on these process indicators

This project followed the framework of four ‘E’ implementation strategies (The Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America).

- Education
- Evaluation
- Engagement
- Enforcement

- Project leadership was engaged to discuss the issue and implementation of SSI prevention bundle.

- IPAC team reviewed the best practice guidelines, followed by collaboration with program to ensure the facility’s SSI prevention protocols were aligned with evidenced-based standards of care as per the SSI prevention bundle.

- Throughout there was emphasis on consistent communication. Monitoring practices from identified gaps. Monthly reporting was initiated for SSIs rates in the facility’s monthly IPAC meeting.

- Follow-up meetings were scheduled for process improvements through auditing of Routine practice.

RESULTS

Lesions Learned

A multidisciplinary approach is paramount in addressing and improving HAIs. Ongoing adherence and monitoring of best practices helps to reduce the incidence of HAIs. Having an SSI prevention interest group would be beneficial for training and education across regions.

REFERENCES

- Humber River Hospital procedure: Surgical Site Infections Surveillance (SSI) Caesarean Section - Procedure
- Prevent Surgical Site Infections, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Strategies to prevent surgical site infections in acute care, 2014. SHEA
- Project: C-Section SSI prevention checklist

PROJECT

In 2022, four C-section SSI cases were identified over a two month period. These cases were identified on readmission to the facility.

LESSONS LEARNED

- An ‘Issues to action’ document was developed to monitor adherence to best practices.