Recent patterns of antibiotic use in 150 acute care hospitals in Germany – no correlation of drug use density with hospital size

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Background
Continuous hospital-wide antibiotic use surveillance has recently been established in Germany. Participating hospitals contribute on a voluntary basis (see www.antinfektiva-surveillance.de). Feedback reports for benchmarking stratified according to hospital size (<400 beds, 400-800 beds, >800 beds) are provided every year.

The aim of the present study was
- to describe the level of antibiotic use in pediatric and psychiatric services compared with core service use
- to describe patterns and estimate proportions of intensive care unit and normal ward drug use per total use, and
- to reassess the impact of hospital size on drug use density.

Methods

Electronically delivered quarterly consumption data are transformed into “recommended” (hospital-adapted) daily doses (RDD) (www.antinfektiva-surveillance.de) and expressed as RDD per 100 patient days (RDD/100).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Hospital type/size</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Median DDD/100</th>
<th>Interquartile range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-university hospitals</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>62.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;400 beds</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-800 beds</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>61.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;800 beds</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>82.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHO-DDD (version 2016) were also calculated.

We here describe the most recent analysis for acute care hospitals (n=150) that delivered complete data for at least four consecutive quarters in 2014/15.

Results

The 2014/15 sample included 135 non-university hospitals (with a median number of 331 beds [IQR, 201 to 513]) and 15 university hospitals.

Use densities were:
- psychiatric services 2.8 RDD/100 (n=44)
- pediatric services 25.5 RDD/100 (n=65)

These services contributed 0.7% and 3.6%, respectively, to the total RDD reported.

Median yearly antibiotic use density in the core services (psychiatry and pediatrics excluded) was 40.4 RDD/100 (IQR 34.1 to 45.9) with a significant difference between university and non-university hospitals in overall use (55.3 versus 39.8 RDD/100, p<0.01 [Figure 1]; or 73.8 versus 53.6 WHO-DDD) (Table).

Although antibiotic use density in intensive care was twice as high as on normal wards, intensive care contributed no more than 12.2% (pooled data, median 10.8%, IQR 8.6% to 13.7%) versus 17.8% (pooled data, median 16.9%, IQR 15.4% to 21.0%) of the total core service RDD reported in university and non-university hospitals, respectively.

Conclusions

The current analysis demonstrated university hospital as a major factor for overall use density while among non-university hospitals there was no measurable impact of hospital size on use density. The contribution to overall use was <5% for pediatrics (needing separate evaluation) and <1% for psychiatry, and the contribution of ICU antibiotic use within the core services was <20%.

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