



To identify the frequency and profile of exposure incidents, classify the role of sharps waste and compare the first and last occurrence for hospital housekeepers with multiple exposure incidents” Ream et al (2015).

Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Improper waste management exposes hospital housekeepers to biological risk.

OBJECTIVES: To identify the frequency and profile of exposure incidents, classify the role of sharps waste and compare the first and last occurrence for hospital housekeepers with multiple exposure incidents.

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METHODS: Retrospective epidemiological study using Brazilian records from 1989 to 2012. Data analyzed: hospital treatment records and the state notification database. Probabilistic linkage: LinkPlus.

DATA ANALYSIS: SPSS.

RESULTS: There were 996 (11.6%) injuries with 57 (6.1%) workers reporting multiple

occurrences, for a total of 938 workers. These were primarily needlestick injuries (98.5%), involving blood (85.6%), caused by hypodermic needles (75.1%), and improper sharps disposal (70.8%). The number of workers completing vaccination after their first and before their last injury was statistically significant.

CONCLUSION: Additional efforts to prevent and manage exposure incidents are needed.

Reference:

Ream, P.S., Tipple, A.F., Salgado, T.A., Souza, A.C., Souza, S.M., Galdino-Júnior, H. and Alves, S.B. (2015) Hospital Housekeepers: Victims of ineffective Hospital Waste Management. Archives of Environmental & Occupational Health. September 11th. .

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