

To investigate the association between hospital ownership and occurrence of HCAI in Germany” Schröder et al (2018).

Abstract:

BACKGROUND: In some countries, a relationship between hospital ownership and the occurrence of healthcare associated infection rates (HCAI) has been described.

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AIM: To investigate the association between hospital ownership and occurrence of HCAI in Germany.

METHODS: Five different components of the German national nosocomial infection surveillance system were analyzed with regard to the influence of hospital ownership in the period 2014-16 (Components for intensive care units (ICUs) with the endpoints ventilator associated pneumonia, central venous catheter associated bloodstream infections, and urinary catheter associated urinary tract infections, surgical site infections (SSI) following hip prosthesis, and colon surgery, meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI) and hand rub consumption per 1000 patient days). Three hospital ownership types (public, non-profit and private) were analyzed using univariate and multivariate methods.

FINDINGS: The distribution of hospitals according to the three ownership types was similar in all components. A total of 661 ICUs, 149 departments performing colon procedures, and 349 departments performing hip prosthesis were included. In addition, 568 hospitals provided their MRSA rates and 236 their CDI rates, and 1833 ICUs and 12 934 non-ICUs provided their hand rub consumption data. In general, the differences between the hospital types were rather small and not significant for the ICUs. In the multivariate analysis, public hospitals had a lower SSI rate following hip prosthesis (OR 0.80; CI95 0.65- 0.99).

CONCLUSION: No major influence of hospital ownership on the incidence of HCAI in Germany was found.

Reference:

Schröder, C., Behnke, M., Geffers, C. and Gastmeier, P. (2018) Hospital Ownership: A risk factor for nosocomial infection rates? *The Journal of Hospital Infection*. February 2nd. .

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