Containment Of Lassa Fever Outbreak In A Southeastern Nigerian Burn Center Without Healthcare worker infection: The Role Of Institutionalized Infection Prevention And Control Practices

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Introduction

Lassa Fever (LF) outbreaks occur in health facilities (HFs) in Nigeria.

Other patients and HCWs have got infected during LF patients care.

Documented reasons for the HCW infections include:

- Gaps in the infection prevention and control (IPC)
- Poor risk communication
Introduction

- Maiden outbreak of LF in National Orthopaedic Hospital Enugu (NOHE) in July 2018
  - Index patient in acute burn ward
  - Patient died 48 hours post laboratory confirmation
  - No transmission to close contacts, pts, or HCWs recorded
  - We sought factors that led to this first containment of LF in a HF in Nigeria without HCW infection
Methods

Study Area: NOHE a regional burn center in southeastern Nigeria

• outbreak occurred in the fully occupied acute burn ward
• 10 patients in four cubicles and a room

Study Design: Retrospective cross-sectional

Data collection and analysis: information obtained on

• IPC practices in the ward and the hospital before and during the outbreak
Results

- Infection Control Committee set up in 2007
- Active Infection Control Unit since 2012
  - Evaluation of the institution using WHO Hand Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework 2010
  - Training in surveillance
  - Hand hygiene, Surgical Site Infection, UTI, Implant infection
  - Monthly monitoring
- Advances before LF
  - Wound dressing protocol
  - Posters in strategic locations
  - Multiple hand wash points
  - Elbow taps
  - Colour coded bins
• Hand hygiene and glove use (IPC) compliance monitored using the Mayo clinic IHI hand hygiene and Glove use monitoring form since 2013.
• The observers were trained prior to use of the instrument
RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HH BEFORE</th>
<th>HH AFTER</th>
<th>OVERALL HH</th>
<th>GLOVE USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>59.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>37.00%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Burn unit practice

• Clinical outfits specific for the ward was always used by care givers in the ward.

• Use of gloves and aprons and strict restriction of visitors to the ward was the practice.

• On confirming the case
  • Management employed adequate risk communication
  • Labour unions were in enforcement of compliance on IPC
  • Management and labour had an agreement on provision of IPC materials
## Use of IPC materials by Staff of the ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Never used before LF</th>
<th>Never used after LF</th>
<th>Sometimes used before LF</th>
<th>Sometimes used after LF</th>
<th>Always used before LF</th>
<th>Always used after LF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running water</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol gel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face mask</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apron</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion and Recommendations

• Institutionalization of IPC practices in a HF can help prevent transmission of LF
• Risk communication helped containment of the outbreak
• NOHE management continue with IPC practices in the hospital
• Federal Ministry of health (FMoH) should enforce institutionalization of IPC
• All HF's should have an active IPC committees
• Training and retraining in IPC recommended for HCWs in Nigeria