

6th International Conference on

Wound Care, Nursing and Tissue Science

May 20, 2022 | Webinar

Received date: March 04, 2022 | Accepted date: March 05, 2022 | Published date: May 30, 2022

Antimicrobial stewardship in wound care

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Antimicrobial resistance is a significant global problem and has resulted in over 35 thousand deaths annually with a projection of 100 million by the year 2050 at a cost of over 100 trillion dollars. It is estimated that over 40% of antibiotics are misprescribed. These statistics, coupled with the fact that no new classes of antibiotics have been developed since the 1980's have significant implications for practitioners managing patients with wound infections. These clinical and economic burdens can be detrimental to many patients in need of care and can pose a tremendous burden on health care providers.

Materials/Methods: This presentation will provide an overview of best practices in antimicrobial stewardship with the following objectives:

- 1. Discuss the concepts of biofilm and wound infection
- 2. Identify concerns related to emerging antibiotic resistance
- 3. Describe the use of antimicrobial stewardship as it applies to wound care.
- 4. Explore at least three strategies for appropriate use of antimicrobials and antibiotics in wound care

This program will discuss current state of the art based on literature review and anecdotal experience with case studies included.

Conclusion: Antimicrobial stewardship is interprofessional effort to use timely and optimal selection of antibiotics at the correct dose and duration of use. Key principles include:

Avoid prescribing antibiotic when not indicated, Prescribe appropriate treatment regimen (narrow spectrum), and correct duration/dose. A comprehensive approach based on current evidence-based guidelines offers the best outcomes for treating and potentially healing infected wounds.

Recent Publications

- Rudolph, D. Enterocutaneous Fistulas. In J. Shah, ed. Textbook of Chronic Wound Care: An Evidence Based Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment, Flagstaff, AZ, 2018
- Rudolph, D, Cantu, J. Wound Dressings. In J. Shah, P. Sheffield, & C. Fife (Eds.), CWS wound certification exam review, Flagstaff, AZ, 2nd Edition, 2016
- Rudolph, D, Heiderich, E Patient education and preparation. In J. Shah, P Sheffield, & C. Fife (Eds.), CWS wound certification exam review, Flagstaff, AZ, 2nd Edition, 2016.

Biography

Dianne Rudolph is a nurse practitioner with more than 25 years of experience in treating wound care patients. She is board certified in wound care and as a gerontological nurse practitioner. She has practiced in a variety of settings to include acute care, long term/extended care, home health care and clinic settings. She has published and presented on numerous wound care topics and serves as a consultant on medicolegal issues. She has served as adjunct faculty/faculty for the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing in San Antonio Texas and Houston Texas. She currently is working full time as the primary provider for San Antonio Wound Care in San Antonio, TX.

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