Improving patient management with Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia – the evolution of a MSSA review group

Authors: Janice Toplass, Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Specialist, Adele Sandells, Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, Dr Wijitha Weerakoon, Consultant Microbiologist, Dr Lee Reed, Consultant Microbiologist.

Acknowledgements: thank you to the whole Infection Prevention and Control Team, Lead Nurse Helen Forrest and Dr Julia Lacey, Antimicrobial Pharmacist

Introduction

Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia is a serious infection associated with significant mortality and morbidity. With the introduction of Department of Health mandatory reporting of Methicillin sensitive Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) bacteraemia in 2011, a MSSA review group was developed within a large teaching hospital to review all MSSA bacteraemia cases, both Hospital and Community onset (blood cultures taken post and pre 48 hours of admission) cases. Over time, the function of this group has evolved from simply identifying cases for the mandatory reporting to become a group focused on improving patient management and outcomes.

Discussion of data

The MSSA review group meets weekly and comprises of a Consultant Microbiologist, Infection Prevention Nurse Specialist and Infection Prevention Nurse. The purpose of the group has evolved as we have identified areas requiring further work in order to improve patient outcomes. Current objectives of the MSSA review group:

- Identify areas of development or learning requirements for the organisation
- Analyse trends and identify areas of concern
- Facilitate wider learning and interventions where necessary.

Quality indicators

Through our surveillance we identified a number of areas for improvement against our guidelines in the ongoing management of patients including:

- antibiotic treatment
- taking of repeat blood cultures
- investigation for deep source, particularly echocardiography.

We introduced a S.aureus bacteraemia care bundle 2 based on national guidelines for investigation and treatment as an improvement measure in November 2017. The clinician is guided through the care bundle when a positive blood culture is reported.

Approach

The MSSA review group is a multidisciplinary group that includes a Consultant Microbiologist, Infection Prevention Nurse Specialist and Infection Prevention Nurse. The group meets weekly and comprises of a Consultant Microbiologist, Infection Prevention Nurse Specialist and Infection Prevention Nurse. The purpose of the group has evolved as we have identified areas requiring further work in order to improve patient outcomes. Current objectives of the MSSA review group:

- Ensure reporting is in line with mandatory requirements
- Weekly review of all patients with MSSA positive blood cultures – to ensure optimal management as per Trust guidelines
- Request and review Root Cause Analysis (RCA's) for all Hospital onset and identified Community cases that have had significant hospital healthcare intervention. These RCA's are discussed at the Trust 'Healthcare associated Infections' meeting chaired by the Medical Director
- Continuous enhanced local surveillance of cases which includes quality indicators. Data is collected on:
  - probable source of the bacteraemia,
  - patient risk factors
  - antibiotic therapy
  - repeat blood cultures
  - echocardiography (has an echocardiogram been undertaken)
  - documentation of the bacteraemia in the discharge letter
  - outcome data at 4 and 8 weeks
- Analyse trends and identify areas of concern
- Identify areas of development or learning requirements for the organisation

Discussion of data

The probable source of MSSA bacteraemia’s cover a wide range of infections, most common are: skin and soft tissue, musculoskeletal and infective endocarditis.

There was a significant increase in respiratory tract related bacteraemia in 2017/18 (11 from 4 in 16/17). This is probably related to the heavy influenza season, as a high proportion of patients reported flu symptoms in the weeks prior to being admitted with pneumonia.

Summary

The MSSA review group has been able to demonstrate significant improvements in adherence to guidelines and thus optimising patient care and outcomes.

Work streams going forward

To continue to build on the work of the MSSA review group
- Incorporate all Staph aureus bacteraemia
- Further development of multi-agency working in relation to IVDU patients – including patient information, education and exploration of treatment options
- Expansion of the group to incorporate a newly merged hospital site

Appendix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Total Bacteraemia</th>
<th>Hospital onset</th>
<th>Community Onset</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td></td>
<td>112 cases</td>
<td>109 cases</td>
<td>3 cases</td>
<td>112 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>112 cases</td>
<td>109 cases</td>
<td>3 cases</td>
<td>112 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:
1) Staphylococcus aureus Bacteraemia Clinical Guidelines, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 2016
2) Staphylococcus aureus Bacteraemia Care bundle, Derby hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 2017
3) Public Health England. 30-day all-cause mortality subsequent to MSSA, MSSA and Gram-negative bacteraemia and C. difficile infections, 2017/16, October 2018
4) Public Health England: Thirty-day all-cause mortality subsequent to MRSA, MSSA and E. coli bacteraemia and C. difficile infection, 2016/17, September 2017