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Bacteremia among febrile under five children: Prevalence, etiology, antibiotics susceptibility and factors associated with antibiotic prescriptions in Dodoma, Tanzania

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Background: In developing countries, febrile illnesses are the major cause of morbidity and mortality among children and is the most common reason for hospitalization. Viral infections, bacteremia, and malaria are among the commonest causes of fever in the developing countries. Bacteremia has a high mortality among of non-malarial febrile illnesses in African children. There is a lack of diagnostic tests to diagnose causes of fever therefore, children are started on empiric treatment, and also there is high-level antimicrobial resistance to commonly prescribed drugs. Understanding epidemiology of bacteremia in Dodoma Municipality will help to prepare local treatment guidelines for management of bacteremia.

Methods: The study was analytical cross-sectional conducted at Makole Health Centre, 130 under-five children with the body temperature above 37.5°C were enrolled. Thorough history taking, physical examinations, and blood for culture and sensitivity were done. Factors associated with associated with antibiotics prescription were assessed using logistic regression model.

The Results: Prevalence of bacteremia was 10.8%, *S. aureus* was mostly isolated. Study found that MRDT results and medicine use before hospital visits were associated with antibiotics prescription. Most of bacteria isolated showed high sensitivity Chloramphenicol and Ceftriaxone. Bacteria isolated showed high resistance rate to commonly prescribed drugs (Ampicillin and Penicillin).

Conclusion: There is a low prevalence of bacteremia among febrile under-five children in Dodoma Municipality, commonly isolated bacteria among febrile children was *S. aureus*. Majority of children with fever are prescribed antibiotics without confirmatory investigation and there was an alarming sign of increasing drug resistance to the commonly used drugs.

Biography

Cecilia Msafiri completed Master of Science in Pediatric Nursing at University of Dodoma Tanzania and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, has been working with the University of Dodoma as a graduate nurse office since 2012, and she is Nurse Office in charge in Maternity department. Previously she worked at Dodoma Region Referral Hospital. She is has certificate of Hospital management for health professionals. She is nearly to publish paper from the research she did.

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