A Clinical Practice Assessment on Clostridium difficile Infection

JOVANA LUBARDA, PHD; JOHN MAEGLIN, Medscape LLC, New York, United States  DEB MATHEWS, PHARMD; TRUDI DELK, PHARMD; Synthetic Biologics, Maryland, United States
EDWARD J. SEPTIMUS, MD, Texas A&M College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Houston, United States

BACKGROUND

The goal of this study was to assess physicians’ current practice patterns in prevention and management of Clostridium difficile infection (CDI).

METHODS

- A 25-question clinical practice assessment survey was made available to infectious disease (ID) specialists without monetary compensation or charge
- Questions evaluated knowledge, competence, and barriers related to CDI, such as current and emerging strategies for limiting risk and achieving optimal outcomes related to antimicrobial use
- The survey launched on a website dedicated to continuous professional development on October 27, 2017. Data were collected until January 16, 2018
- Respondent confidentiality was maintained, and responses were de-identified and aggregated prior to analyses

RESULTS

A total of 76% were not aware of the incidence of CDI in the past year

- About 34% had more than 20 cases of CDI in their practice in the United States

Of the following is an accurate statement about CDI practice in the past year?

- In 2011, CDI was associated with about 18,000 deaths

39% were not aware of the relationship between the gut microbiome and CDI

- Which of the following is an accurate statement about CDI diagnosis; 36% use a 2-step method combining (PCR)-based method

The diagnosis of CDI is most closely associated with the use of which of the following antibiotic or class of antibiotics?

- The use of which of the following antibiotics or class of antibiotics is most closely associated with development of CDI?

- Nearly all (96%) physicians correctly identified the type or class of antibiotic most closely associated with development of CDI

What does your institution use for the diagnosis of CDI?

- The incidence per 100,000 persons is: community-associated, 42 to 66; 22%

The risk factors for CDI are investigated for prevention of CDI

- About one-third (35%) are not aware of new strategies for reducing risk factors for CDI

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- About one-third (35%) are not aware of new strategies being investigated for prevention of CDI

- About one-third (35%) are not aware of new strategies being investigated for prevention of CDI

30% are not aware of the mechanism by which new therapies prevent development of CDI

CONCLUSION

This research yielded important insights into current clinical practice gaps among ID specialists regarding identification and prevention of CDI and could be valuable to inform needs for continuing medical education.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This CME program was supported by an independent educational grant from Synthetic Biologics, Inc.