

The Renal Association

UK Renal Registry



Reported infections amongst patients receiving dialysis

Lay summary

For the full annual report chapter [click here](#) or visit www.renalreg.org/reports/2014-seventeenth-annual-report.

Blood stream infections with “super bugs” Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), Methicillin Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus (MSSA), Escherichia coli (E. coli) can be life threatening in dialysis patients. It may be possible to minimise these risks with, for example, careful hand washing. Another infection of concern is Clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea (C Diff), an unintended consequence of antibiotic treatment for infection. This report covers reporting for MRSA, MSSA, E. coli bloodstream infections and C Diff infections in patients who were receiving dialysis in England between May 2012 and April 2013.

The recorded infections in dialysis patients were as follows:

- MRSA: 31 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 754 patients.
- MSSA: 372 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 63 patients.
- E. coli: 308 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 76 patients.
- C Diff: 123 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 190 patients.

Figure 1 gives an overview of the infections that occurred in dialysis patients in 2012/2013. Over the last two years the numbers of recorded MRSA and C Diff infections have fallen, MSSA has remained stable and E Coli has slightly risen.

The fall in MRSA infections observed over recent years is reassuring. It is likely to be due to a number of factors including the more frequent testing to identify those carrying the infection, greater use of antibiotics and washes to eradicate the infection if someone is carrying it, and increased attention to dialysis access (keeping the use of haemodialysis

necklines to a minimum and ensuring high levels of cleanliness). The same strategies would be expected to work for MSSA. A more cautious use of powerful antibiotics should help to prevent C Diff-associated diarrhoea.

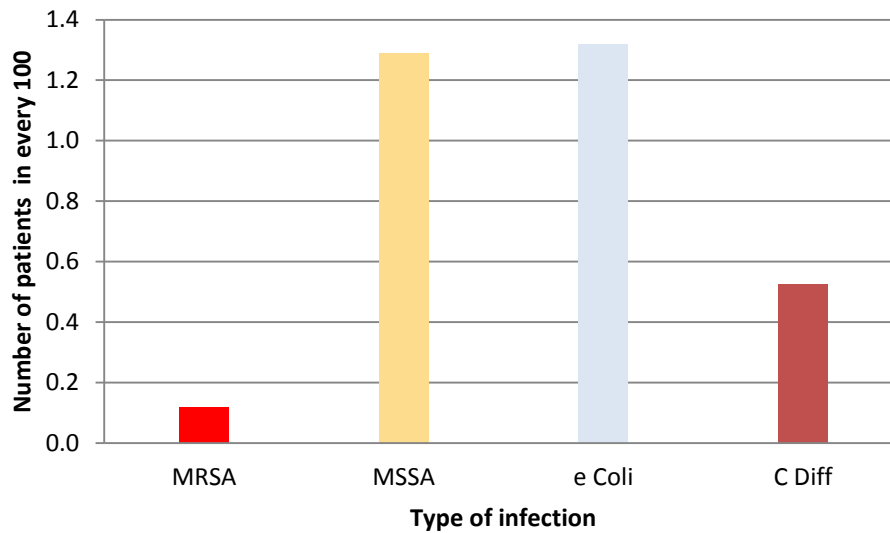


Figure 1. Number of dialysis patients in every 100 that experienced each type of infection in 2012/2013

Disclaimer

The UK Renal Registry collects information on patients in general. This lay summary was prepared in association with the UK Renal Registry's Patient Council including representation from the British Kidney Patient Association and the National Kidney Federation. For individual assessment and advice please speak to your health care professional. For further detail on information contained in this lay summary, please visit www.renalregistry.org.