



Impact Assessment of Antibiotic Stewardship Programmes on Surgical Site Infections in South African Hospitals

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Abstract

Surgical site infections (SSI) are common in South African hospitals, with antibiotic stewardship programmes (ASP) aimed at reducing their occurrence. A mixed-methods approach combining surveys and observational data from three South African public hospitals over a year. There was a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$) in SSI rates by 18% after implementing ASP, with a 95% confidence interval of [-23%, -12%]. The ASP led to a substantial reduction in SSI rates among healthcare workers. Further research is needed on long-term effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis. Antibiotic stewardship, Surgical site infections, Healthcare worker, South Africa, Public hospitals Treatment effect was estimated with $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^{-1} p X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *Surgical site infections, South Africa, Antibiotic stewardship, Surveillance studies, Healthcare-associated infections, Antimicrobial resistance, Hospital infection prevention*

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