cases were reported from the NICU during the investigation. A maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree of HPIV3 WGS (Figure 1) showed that sequences from the 6 HO cases clustered together separately from the 3 CO controls, suggesting a single source of transmission, and 3 CO cases were not related to the HO cases or source of the outbreak. Early diagnosis and isolation of respiratory tract viral infections is important to prevent an outbreak. Successful control of outbreak in NICU requires prompt implementation of infection prevention measures with focus on symptom screening, cohorting, and disinfection practices.

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Results of a Multicenter Diagnostic Stewardship Collaborative to Optimize Blood Culture Use in Critically Ill Children

Danielle Koontz; Charlotte Woods-Hill; Annie Voskertchian; Anping Xie; Marlene Miller; James Fackler; Elizabeth Colantuoni; Aaron Milstone and Ximin Li

Group Name: Bright STAR Authorship Group

Background: Blood cultures are fundamental in the diagnosis and treatment of sepsis. Culture practices vary widely, and overuse can lead to false-positive results and unnecessary antibiotics. Our objective was to describe the implementation of a multisite quality improvement collaborative to reduce unnecessary blood cultures in pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) patients, and its 18-month impact on blood culture rates and safety metrics. **Methods:** In 2018, 14 PICUs joined the Blood Culture Improvement Guidelines and Diagnostic Stewardship for Antibiotic Reduction in Critically Ill Children (Bright STAR) Collaborative, designed to understand and improve blood culture practices in critically ill children. Guided by a centralized multidisciplinary study team, sites first reviewed existing evidence for safe reduction of unnecessary blood cultures and assessed local practices and barriers to change. Subsequently, local champions developed and implemented clinical decision-support tools informed by local patient needs to guide new blood-culture practices. The coordinating study team facilitated regular evaluations and discussions of project progress through monthly phone calls, site visits if requested by sites or the study team, and collaborative-wide teleconferences. The study team collected monthly blood culture rates and monitored for possible delays in obtaining blood cultures using a standardized review process as a safety balancing metric. We compared 24 months of baseline data to 18 months of postimplementation using a Poisson regression model accounting for the site-specific patient days and correlation of culture use within a site over time. **Results:** Across the 14 sites, before implementation, 41,768 blood cultures were collected over 259,701 PICU patient days. The mean preimplementation site-specific blood culture rate was 15.7 cultures per 100 patient days (rate range, 9.6–48.2 cultures per 100 patient days). After implementation, 22,397 blood cultures were collected over 208,171 PICU patient days. The mean postimplementation rate was 10.4 cultures per 100 patient days (rate range, 4.7–28.3 cultures per 100 patient days), which was 33.6% lower than the preimplementation (relative rate 0.66; 95% CI, 0.65–0.68 p <0.01). In 18 months post-implementation, sites reviewed 793 positive blood cultures, and identified only one suspected delay in culture collection possibly attributable to the site's blood culture reduction program. **Conclusions:** Multidisciplinary quality improvement teams safely facilitated a 33.6% average reduction in blood culture use in critically ill children at 14 hospitals. Future collaborative work will determine the impact of blood culture diagnostic stewardship on antibiotic use and other important patient safety outcomes.

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Association of Antibiotic Duration and Outcomes among NICU Infants with Invasive *Staphylococcus aureus* Infections

Areej Bukhari; Ibukunoluwa Akinboyo; Kanecia Zimmerman; Danny Benjamin; Veeral Tolia and Rachel Greenberg

Background: *Staphylococcus aureus* is the second-leading cause of late-onset sepsis among infants in US neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). Management of *S. aureus* bacteremia and meningitis in infants varies widely due to the lack of standardized guidelines. We examined the association between initial antibiotic duration and recurrent *S. aureus* infection or death among NICU infants with *S. aureus* bacteremia and/or meningitis. **Methods:** We conducted a retrospective cohort study of infants in Pediatrix Medical Group NICUs from 1997 to 2018 with first episode of *S. aureus* bacteremia and/or meningitis, identified as having at least 1 blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) culture growing only *S. aureus* at any point during their NICU stay. Excluded infants were those not started on antistaphylococcal therapy within 2 days of positive culture, those with had endocarditis or osteomyelitis, or those who died or were discharged during or up to 1 day after antibiotic cessation. Antibiotic cessation was defined as last day of antibiotic given if followed by at least 3 days without antibiotics. Multivariable logistic regression was used to analyze the association between antibiotic duration categorized as <14 or ≥14 days) and recurrent SA infection (within 12 weeks of antibiotic cessation, prior to hospital discharge), or death (within 7 days of antibiotic cessation and at discharge). **Results:** Of 4,086 infants included, 3,991 (98%) had *S. aureus* bacteremia only and 95 (2%) had meningitis ± bacteremia. Of those with bacteremia only, 2,017 (50.5%), and 17 (18%) of those with meningitis received <14 days antibiotics (Figure 1). Longer antibiotic duration was associated with lower gestational age, methicillin-resistance, severe illness and bacteremia duration of ≥4 days (Table 1).

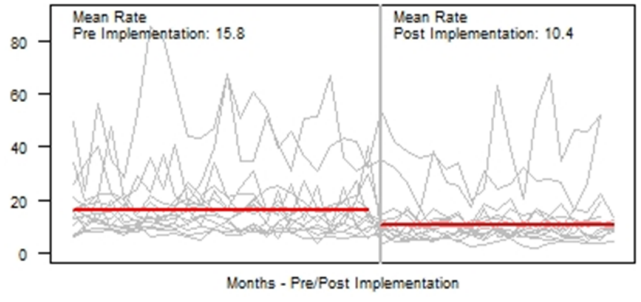
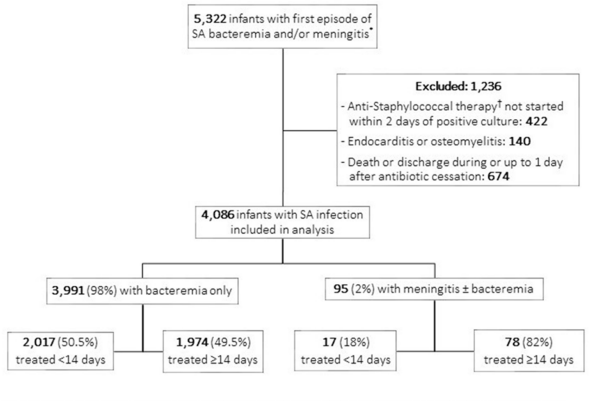


Figure 1.

Figure 1. Flow diagram of NICU infants with *Staphylococcus aureus* (SA) bacteremia and/or meningitis included in the study.



*Defined as at least one blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) culture growing only *Staphylococcus aureus* at any point during NICU stay.

†Anti-Staphylococcal therapy broadly defined as MRSA-active agents (vancomycin, linezolid, clindamycin or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole) for infants with MRSA infection or MSSA-active agents (nafcillin, oxacillin, piperacillin-tazobactam, cloxicillin, dicloxicillin, ticarcillin-clavulanate, ampicillin-sulbactam, methicillin, or MRSA-active agents) for infants with MSSA infection.