Outbreaks with multidrug resistant germs via ERCP

Since the late 1970s there have been sporadic reports about endoscopic transmission of exogenous infections in GE endoscopy. The majority of documented cases were the result of non-compliance with national and international guidelines (1-3).

Infections by multi-drug-resistant organisms have become more and more problematic for healthcare systems worldwide (4). In the recent years, outbreaks with multidrug resistant germs have also been reported from ERCP (5-10). In February 2015, an outbreak of carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) in conjunction with ERCPs caused big media attention in the United States (11). The FDA published several statements to raise awareness among healthcare professionals that the complex design of duodenoscopes may impede effective reprocessing (11).

ASGE and SGNA informed their members accordingly.


Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). published interim recommendations on microbiological surveillance of duodenoscopes. (12). In contrast to the European guidelines (13) these recommendations do not cover all parts and channels of the endoscope (15).

As investigations are still going on, ESGENA will not give any detailed recommendations at this stage. But we want to inform our members and to raise awareness about this topic. We will come back with detailed information and statements as soon possible

The ESGENA Governing Board

References:

7. Gastmeier P, Vonberg RP. Klebsiella spp. in endoscopy-associated infections: we may only be seeing the tip of the iceberg. Infection (2014) 42:15–21