

MEETING ABSTRACTS

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Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS) National Meeting 2023

Lisbon, Portugal. 31 March - 01 April 2023

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The Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS) is the research center of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) focused on health care. The Center is organized in five platforms, and distributed in four geographies across Portugal: Lisbon, Porto, Viseu and Sintra (Table 1). The center has currently 155 active researchers and attracted funds exceeding 10M€.

For the first time ever, CIIS has organized a National Event that included researchers from all platforms and disciplines, in a truly interdisciplinary and translational scientific event, counting 117 registered participants and 120 abstracts. The meeting took place at the Faculty of Medicine, in the Sintra campus, on the 31st March and 1st April 2023. The Scientific Committee of the CIIS National Meeting decided that the theme for the meeting is *Interdisciplinary Health Care*. Rather than clustering researchers by platform or discipline, we decided to create three working sessions that are inclusive to everyone and not restricting the presentations by discipline, being therefore, interdisciplinary. These are: 1 – *Translational Care*; 2 – *Clinical Care*; and 3 – *Community Care*.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa Rector Professor Isabel Capelo Gil, the Vice-Rector Professor Peter Hanenberg, the Director of the CIIS, Professor Marlene Barros, the Director of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor António Almeida and the guest speaker Professor Tomáš Zima, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, and hosted by the Deputy Director of the CIIS, Professor Paulo J. G. Bettencourt.

For two days, papers were presented by invited speakers within each session, and posters were presented by CIIS researchers and students, in a highly anticipated poster session. All abstracts were peer-reviewed. To bring further excitement to the poster session, the Meeting Scientific Committee selected the best poster from each platform to receive the Best Poster Award. Finally, the CIIS platform coordinators presented their plans and vision for the future.

Following the success of this meeting, the Scientific Committee of the National Meeting, decided to implement yearly meetings of the Center.

We would like to acknowledge all CIIS members, staff and students that accepted the challenge of participating in this event, presenting their most recent data, sharing their knowledge, and making this truly an interdisciplinary health care event.

We hope this meeting has contributed to share the latest scientific achievements of all members and promoted the beginning of new collaborations for the future, keeping in mind the main goal of improving health care with an interdisciplinary view, to ultimately improve quality of life, with humanity and spirituality at the center of all scientific quests.

Acknowledgements

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Table 1 Platforms of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Health

Name	Location	Head
Neurosciences	Lisbon and Porto	Prof. Ana Mineiro
Nursing	Lisbon and Porto	Prof. Paulo Alves
CatólicaMed	Sintra	Prof. Paulo Bettencourt
SalivaTec	Viseu	Prof. Nuno Rosa
Precision Dental Medicine	Viseu	Prof. André Correia



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the need for spiritual education as an integral and regular part of the undergraduate nursing curriculum. Regardless of this evidence, the educational strategies for improving and developing undergraduate nursing students' skills and competencies are scarce and should be urgently considered as nurses and midwives still report feeling unprepared for providing spiritual care.

Recently, the EPICC project (Nurses' and Midwives' Competence in Providing Spiritual Care through Innovative Education and Compassionate Care)[2] has been implemented as a turning point in nursing education for spiritual care and spirituality, through a systematic, consensual, and effective response, by involving multiple partners and experts from different European countries. Portugal has been a participant in that Erasmus-funded project.

Materials and methods

This Ph.D. project concerns the translation, adaptation, and implementation of the EPICC matrix. First, a translation and cultural adaptation process will be conducted according to the core project guidelines [3]. Then the matrix for education and assessing spiritual care competencies will be implemented in a pilot study in a Portuguese nursing school involving undergraduate nursing students.

Results

The core project guidelines represent V stage of the cross-cultural adaptation process. The preliminary results point to the beginning of stage III with the back translation of the synthesized written version of the EPICC Spiritual Care Education Standard and EPICC Spiritual Care Competency Self-assessment tool. Stage I (initial translation with written reports of each – T1 and T2) and Stage II (synthesis of the translations to version T12) of the translation and cultural adaptation of the EPICC matrix are already concluded.

Conclusions

This innovative project could help improve Portuguese schools' nursing curricula from an evidence-based perspective.

References

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Session 2 - Clinical Care

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- Surgical Site Infections in Colorectal Surgery and generic prevention bundles

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Background

Surgical Site Infections are amongst the most frequent complications in colorectal surgery. Colorectal Surgical site infection rates in Europe have seen a modest decrease when compared with other types of surgical procedures.

Discussion

The European surveillance system has studied surgical site infections in the last two decades being colorectal surgery the highest among them.

Several surgical site infection prevention bundles have been introduced since, but few of them are tailored to colorectal surgery.

Methods

A retrospective study was undertaken from colorectal surgeries performed between 2011 and 2020. An analysis of annual surgical site infection rates, as well as the compliance to the Portuguese surgical site infection prevention bundle between 2019 and 2020.

Results

2345 colorectal surgeries were studied in accordance with HELICS/HAI-Net SSI protocols. Surgical site infection rates varied between 26.35% (2013) and 34.10% (2019), with an average of 30.06%.

Regarding the compliance rate of the prevention bundle, results were underwhelming, but it was noted that glycemic control (84.9%) and hair removal avoidance (74.5%) were the individual interventions with better observance.

Conclusion

The development of prevention bundles tailored to colorectal surgery could prove to be an adequate tool for a sustained reduction of surgical site infection rates.

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- Surgical Site Infections in Colorectal Surgery: a Portuguese prespective

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Background

Surgical Site Infections are amongst the most frequent complications in colorectal surgery and are associated with increased healthcare and socioeconomical costs.

Methods

A retrospective study was undertaken from colorectal surgeries performed between 2011 and 2020. An analysis of annual surgical site infection rates, as well of types of infection was performed. Data of compliance to the Portuguese surgical site infection prevention bundle was collected and analyzed from 2019 and 2020.

Results

2345 colorectal surgeries were studied in accordance with HELICS/HAI-Net SSI protocols. Surgical site infection rates varied between 26.35% (2013) and 34.10% (2019), with an average of 30.06%. Overall the most prevalent microorganisms were *Escherichia coli* (23.79%) e *Enterococcus faecalis* (21.37%). By infection type the most frequent microorganisms were *Enterococcus faecalis* (27.47%) in superficial, *Escherichia coli* (25.92%) in deep incisional and *Escherichia coli* (26.21%) in organ/space surgical site infections.

Regarding the compliance rate to Portuguese surgical site infection prevention bundle, results were underwhelming, but it was noted that glycemic control (84.9%) and hair removal avoidance (74.5%) were the individual interventions with better observance.

Conclusion

Surgical site infection rates in colorectal surgery are still high despite the use of prevention bundles. Targeted bundles may be the answer.

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- RadWounds | Dosimetric impact of the wound dressing material used in radiotherapy

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