

Lecture summaries

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Infection Prevention and Control in the ICU and ER

Infection control is a critical component of patient safety in the small animal ICU and emergency room, where patients are at increased risk of hospital-acquired infections. High patient turnover, frequent invasive procedures, and close contact between patients and staff can facilitate pathogen transmission. This lecture highlights core infection prevention strategies, including hand hygiene, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, environmental cleaning, and invasive device management. The lecture will discuss the importance of antimicrobial stewardship in limiting the emergence of multidrug-resistant organisms and provide practical approaches to common procedures with infection control in mind.

Learning goals

1. Understand the importance of infection prevention and control within an ICU and ER setting.
2. Be able to identify common risks within an ICU and ER setting.
3. Understand standard and transmission-based precautions and how to implement them to mitigate Infectious risks.
4. Be able to identify specific risks in high-dependency patients and understand how to mitigate them.
5. Understand the ongoing educational requirements for IPC within an ICU and ER setting.

Outbreak investigation in an ICU

Outbreaks in small animal veterinary ICUs pose significant risks to patient outcomes, hospital operations and require rapid recognition and response. This lecture outlines criteria for outbreak identification, immediate containment measures, and the systematic steps involved in outbreak investigation. Key components include case definition, diagnostic testing, environmental assessment, and evaluation of infection control practices. The role of clear communication, documentation, and multidisciplinary collaboration is emphasized throughout the investigative process. Lessons learned from outbreaks are presented as opportunities to strengthen long-term infection prevention strategies in small animal critical care settings.

Learning goals

1. Understand what an outbreak is.
2. Understand the common causes and pathogens seen in an outbreak in a veterinary ICU.
3. Identify how to detect an outbreak and the immediate responses required.
4. Understand the steps required to control an outbreak.
5. Identify the protocols recommended to prevent future outbreaks.