

## **Czy można wyeliminować zakażenia szpitalne w chirurgii nowotworów głowy i szyi?**

Can we get rid of hospital infections in head and neck surgery?

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### **Summary**

Infection rate registered on the basis of clinical symptoms and of microbiological forms in patients treated in Surgery Division, Head & Neck Cancer Department during 2001-2003, was analyzed. Total number of patients treated was 2343. In 664 preoperative microbiological cultures have been obtained from suspected areas and in 52.8% of these a pathogen has been found. Patients undergoing major surgery received a prophylactic antibiotic selected by an infection control team and Microbiology Department. If preoperative cultures showed resistance to standard prophylactic antibiotic, another was selected on the antibiogram basis. Particular attention was paid to all the elements of prophylactic against infection in the ward, examination and dressing rooms, operating theatre. In 48% of patients, mainly those after extensive, prolonged surgery, antibiotics (usually 3rd generation cephalosporins) were used for 5-7 days. During 2001, 2002 and 2003 correspondingly 148, 97 and 58 infections were registered with positive culture and infection with clinical symptoms occurred in 30, 21 and 20 patients (4%, 2,8% i 2,3%). Comparisons of hospital infection rates between different institutions are very difficult, but relatively low rate in our material and decreasing number of infections registered during consecutive years show that persistent and multifaceted prophylactic interventions can result in significant reduction of hospital infections also in patients with contaminated surgical field.