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Hospital Infections and Multidrug-Resistant Pathogens

Infections are among the most frequent complications of a stay in hospital and raise the complication and mortality rates. Calculations based on data from the Hospital Infection Surveillance System (Krankenhaus-Infektions-Surveillance- System, KISS) showed an incidence of almost 60,000 newly acquired infections per year in intensive care units in Germany. This is the conclusion reached by Christine Geffers and her coauthor in the current issue of Deutsches Ärzteblatt International. KISS is a quality assurance tool for hospitals. More than 800 hospitals and 586 intensive care units throughout Germany are enrolled with KISS.

While the percentage of patients in intensive care who have methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* species (MRSA) has been steady for years, the number with extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)- producing *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is rising. In hospital, the risk of acquiring *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea is higher than the risk of acquiring MRSA.

The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by Deutsches Ärzteblatt International, via AlphaGalileo.

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