

Surgical Site Infections Post Ventriculoperitoneal (VP) Shunting: A Matched Healthcare Cost and Length of Stay Study

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Abstract : This study aimed to assess the increased hospital length of stay and healthcare costs associated with SSIs among ventriculoperitoneal shunting surgery patients in Jordan. This study adopted a retrospective and nested 1:1 matched case-control design. A non-probability convenient sample of 48 VP shunt patients was recruited for the purpose of the study. The targeted groups of the study basically used to cross-match the variables investigated to minimize the risk of confounding. Information was extracted from the text of patients' electronic health records. As compared to the non-SSI group, the SSI group had an extra mean healthcare cost of \$13,696.53 ($p=0.001$) and longer hospital length of stay (22.64 mean additional days). Furthermore, *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Klebsiella pneumonia* were identified as being the most predominant causative agents of SSIs. The results of this study may provide baseline data for national and regional benchmarking to evaluate the quality of care provided to likewise patients. Adherence to infection control strategies and protocols considering new surveillance methods of SSIs is encouraged.

Keywords : ventriculoperitoneal shunt, health care cost, length of stay, neurosurgery, surgical site infections

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