Estimation of the Excess mortality of nosocomial infections and iatrogenic events: Potential Pitfalls

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Adverse events (Iatrogenic events or nosocomial infections) are considered as one possible outcome indicator in evaluating the quality of care. In order to be a good outome indicator, the iatrogenic event tested should be frequent, easily diagnosed with a common definition, avoidable, and should cause a significant over risk of death.

The estimation of the over-risk of death is key in order to choose the appropriate outcome indicators.

In intensive care unit (ICU), there is many possible iatrogenic event that should be good candidate as outcome indicators.

We will overviewed the possible ways to estimate the risk of death associated with outcome indicators (such as nosocomial infections) and potential pittfals of these estimations .

In particular:

Inappropriate diagnosis of exposure

Inappropriate selection of unexposed population

Inappropriate way of taking into account confounding factors

Inappropriate way of taking into account the time of the exposure and time of occurrence of the event and other competing events.