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**STUDY OF NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS AT EMBU PROVINCIAL GENERAL
HOSPITAL AND PCEA CHOGORIA HOSPITAL.**

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ABSTRACT

A prevalence study of nosocomial infections was conducted in two hospitals. Hospital admission records for the fourth quarter of 2004 were reviewed.

Using a structured record form, both clinical and laboratory records were abstracted for 1589 patients. The information collected included demographic (age, sex and ward admitted to), clinical (primary condition at admission, presence or absence of other diseases, invasive or noninvasive diagnostic or treatment procedures and the duration of admission.

Overall, prevalence of nosocomial infections was 3.4% with Embu Provincial General Hospital having a 3.7% prevalence and PCEA Chogoria Hospital having a prevalence of 3.2%. Surgical wards accounted for 68.5% of the infections that developed. Surgical wards had a higher prevalence rate of 4.3% compared to medical wards with 2.3%. Male patients had a higher prevalence rate (3.8%) compared to female patients (2.9%). In surgical wards, prevalence rate was 5.3% among female patients and 3.9% among male patients. Surgical site infections were the commonest and contributed 42% of all the recorded infections followed by bloodstream infections (23%), urinary tract infections (17%), skin infections (12%) and lower respiratory tract infections (6%). Being immunocompromised (prevalence ratio of 2.1, 95% CI: 1.2-3.7) and surgery in main theatre (prevalence

ratio of 2.2, 95%CI: 1.3-3.9) were significantly associated with development of nosocomial infections.

Setting up of a surveillance system is recommended to be able to follow up trends of nosocomial infections. Quality of both clinical and laboratory data should be improved and interaction between clinical and laboratory staff enhanced so as to detect and report nosocomial infections on time.