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Surgical prophylactic antibiotics: compliance with local and AMRIC guidelines

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Background: Antimicrobial prophylaxis is a critical step in preventing surgical site infection. The Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control committee (AMRIC) position statement summarises current guidelines on the maximum recommended duration of antibiotic prophylaxis for each surgical speciality. Our aim is to audit the use of prophylactic antibiotics by the breast surgery unit at one teaching hospital in Ireland against local and AMRIC guidelines.

Methods: An ongoing, retrospective audit of all mastectomy procedures was undertaken within the breast surgery unit at University Hospital Limerick. The timeframe is from May 2021 to January 2023. Prophylactic antibiotic duration was compared to local and AMRIC guidelines. Local guidelines were as per microguide. Specific antimicrobial agent and dose was compared to local guidelines. Ethical approval was obtained.

Results: A total of 70 patients have been audited to date, and 97% (n=68) patients were prescribed prophylactic antibiotics, 85% (n=60) procedures were compliant with local guidelines on the duration (i.e., one prophylactic dose) and 97% (n=68) were compliant with AMRIC guidelines (maximum duration of 48 hours). Prolonged prophylaxis was

most likely when patients had neoadjuvant chemotherapy, drains or multiple comorbidities. Compliance with local guidelines on antimicrobial agent and dosage was 100%.

Conclusions: This audit reveals that there is a high adherence to the AMRIC guidelines in relation to prescription of surgical prophylactic antibiotics compared to local guidelines. As such, it may be necessary to bring local guidelines more in line with those recommended by AMRIC.

Keywords: Audit; antibiotics; breast surgery; guidelines; prophylaxis

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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