Book Review

Preventing Hospital Infections:
Real-World Problems, Realistic Solutions
Sanjay Saint, Sarah Krein, and Robert Stock:
Oxford University Press, USA, 2014

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In this great book (Figure 1), a thoughtful quotation prefaces each chapter. I especially like the quote by Peter Drucker, the founder of modern management: “The hospital is altogether the most complex human organization ever devised.” Skills for management, communication, negotiation and leadership are all needed to implement infection prevention measures effectively in hospitals. Hospitalists are required to be equipped with not only clinical knowledge and skills but also management skills.1 Readers can enjoy the history of the Foley catheter and the development of germ theory as if reading a bedtime or weekend novel.

In addition to being infectious disease consultants, hospitalists are responsible for reducing hospital-acquired infection (HAI) as a leader for clinical care teams. Thus, many acronyms related to HAI became key words for hospitalists, including:

- CAUTI: catheter-associated urinary tract infection
- CLABSI: central-line associated blood stream infection
- VAP: ventilator-associated pneumonia
- SSI: surgical site infection

Ideas and innovation enlighten real stories aimed at improving infection prevention in multiple model hospitals. I note the following useful innovations, some of which can be used for clinical bundles.

- CDI: Clostridium difficile infection

Figure 1. Book cover
● ABCDE checklist for preventing CAUTI (page 17)
● Urinary catheter reminder (page 27)
● CLABSI prevention checklist (page 30)
● Solutions to barriers to successful intervention (page 73–75)
● Styles of personal barriers (page 88–89)
● CDI checklist (page 119–121)
● CAUTI prevention guide to patient safety (page 126–127)

One of the authors, Sanjay Saint, has contributed for many years to Japanese medical education by visiting multiple teaching hospitals throughout Japan, providing lectures and actively participating in case conferences as an expert diagnostician (Figure 2). He is also a keen observer of Japanese tradition, culture and everyday life. He kindly quotes a Japanese proverb—A single arrow is easily broken but not ten in a bundle, as the lead sentence in the chapter about the collaborative approach to preventing infection. Later in the same chapter the Kaizen approach is described as a model for this approach. Japanese hospitalists and infectious disease specialists may find it a useful book for implementing innovative measures for infection prevention.

Reference