Antibiotics and Kirschner Wires: A National Survey of AOFAS Fellowships

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My disclosure is in the Final AOFAS Mobile App.
I have no potential conflicts with this presentation.
Introduction

- Antibiotics are an integral part of surgery
- Infection risks in a postoperative surgical population ~1.8% (Wukich)

Factors which increased surgical site infection
- Diabetes (OR 5.18)
- Peripheral Neuropathy (OR 9.32)
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (OR 4.82)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis (OR 2.69)
Foot and Ankle Population

- Higher rates of factors which are associated with surgical site infections
- No guidelines for usage of postoperative prophylactic antibiotics
Methods

Subjects:
Attending physicians at foot and ankle fellowships as listed in the AOFAS Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Fellowship List (11 Oct 2012)
Methods (Continued)

Each subject was mailed a questionnaire

- 3 clinical vignettes of four questions regarding the use of antibiotics in a patient with hammer toe fixed with a Kirschner wire
- 3 demographic questions regarding fellowship training
Study Population

- Total of 119 subjects identified from Fellowship List
  - 7 were excluded from study
    - 6 no longer associated with fellowship
    - 1 did not do forefoot cases
  - 112 Potential Subjects

http://www.conferenceplanning.net
Results

- Subjects
  - 64 returned surveys (57%)
  - 15.2 years out of fellowship (1-43)
  - 60 foot and ankle fellowship trained
  - 18 other fellowship trained

http://rippedclub.net
Results

- Vignette #1 (Non Diabetic)
  - Antibiotics - 14% (9)
  - Mean Duration 9.8 days (1-42)

- Vignette #2 (Non-neuropathic Diabetic)
  - Antibiotics - 17% (11)
  - Mean Duration 23.3 days (1-42)

- Vignette #3 (Neuropathic Diabetic)
  - Antibiotics - 20% (13)
  - Mean Duration 17.2 days (1-42)
  - No Operation - 6% (4)
Conclusion

- The majority of the respondents to this survey do not put their postoperative patients on prophylactic antibiotics.

- The percentage of attendings who place their patients on antibiotic prophylaxis goes up in diabetic patients.

- Some attendings would not operate on neuropathic diabetics because of the risk of infection.
Citations

