



HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

CAUSES, SPREAD AND ALARMING FIGURES



A **healthcare-associated infection (HAI)** is an infection **that occurs in temporary conjunction with medical treatment** – inpatient or outpatient – provided that it did not already exist prior to the start of treatment.

Nosocomial infections can be **caused by the body's own, endogenous germs** – for example, by bacteria that naturally occur on the skin or in the intestine. **Exogenous pathogens can also act as triggers** derived from the respective environment, for example through contact with medical instruments.

Poor hand hygiene contributes in particular to the spread of germs and thus of pathogens. In this case pathogens are transmitted, among other things, via the hands of patients, visitors or medical staff.

Worldwide, more than

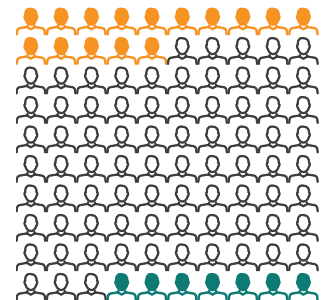
1.4 MILLION PEOPLE

suffer from infectious complications acquired in hospitals

PREVALENCE

In low- and middle-income countries, HAIs occur in approximately 15% of hospitalized patients.

In high-income countries, however, the figure is around 7%.



4-fold

higher risk of HAIs in intensive care units

GRAM-NEGATIVE BACTERIA

42.3%

of all pathogens causing HAIs are gram-negative bacteria

16.6% *Escherichia coli*

5.8% *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

4.5% *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

2.8% *Proteus mirabilis*

2.6% *Enterobacter cloacea*

MOST COMMON INFECTIONS



Postoperative wound infection



Urinary tract infection



Lower respiratory tract infection

MOST COMMON INFECTIONS IN INTENSIVE CARE UNITS



Ventilation-associated pneumonia



Bloodstream infection-associated with vascular catheters



Catheter-associated urinary tract infection



Additional costs per year



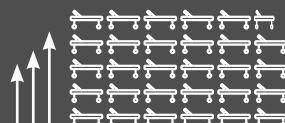
7 billion
EUR
in Europe



6.5 billion
USD
in the USA

16 MILLION

additional hospital days per year



Extension of hospital stay by up to 29.5 days



Deaths due to hospital infections per year



37,000
deaths/year
in Europe



99,000
deaths/year
in the USA