

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RISK OF TRANSFERRING PATHOGENIC MICROORGANISMS IN BEAUTY SALONS

PROFILAKTYKA CHORÓB ZAKAŹNYCH W ASPEKCIE RYZYKA TRANSFERU DROBNOUSTROJÓW CHOROBOTWÓRCZYCH W GABINETACH KOSMETYCZNYCH

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Authors' contribution

Wkład autorów:

- A. Study design/planning
zaplanowanie badań
- B. Data collection/entry
zebranie danych
- C. Data analysis/statistics
dane – analiza i statystyki
- D. Data interpretation
interpretacja danych
- E. Preparation of manuscript
przygotowanie artykułu
- F. Literature analysis/search
wyszukiwanie i analiza literatury
- G. Funds collection
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Dear Editor,

In recent years, there has been a steady increase in the popularity of beauty treatments performed in beauty salons. However, the development of this industry leads to the new challenges related to the prevention of infectious diseases. Safety and hygiene issues apply both to the staff responsible for the quality of the treatments and to the clients. Greater awareness can eliminate undesirable behaviors, reducing the risk of infections through the implementation of safety, hygiene and prevention rules.

Preliminary research in this area was conducted in a group of 100 people (95% women, 5% men, aged 18-44) – clients of beauty salons. 88% of the respondents declared that they always pay attention to hygiene standards during beauty treatments. Further analysis, however, showed that only 46% notice the fact whether the person performing the procedure uses disposable gloves, and 40% react to the lack of hand washing and disinfection procedure by the staff. It is alarming that 24% of all respondents and 22% of people with medical education believe that there is no need to wash and disinfect hands by a person performing a cosmetic procedure in the event of using disposable gloves. This may indicate the lack of awareness of the risk of transferring infectious agents.

The indirect route of infection is dominant in the transmission of pathogenic microorganisms in beauty salons – 70% of the samples collected from the hands of beauticians contained mesophilic bacteria [1]. Among the respondents, 51% declared that they always pay attention to whether the tools used during a cosmetic procedure are taken out of sealed sterile packages, however, 43% of

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people do not ask the staff for explanations when they are not sure that the tools are sterile. This may be due to the lack of knowledge regarding hygiene standards in the beauty salon, and no awareness of the risks and consequences of improper hygiene. Only 18% of the respondents declared that they would ask for the treatment to be discontinued in the event of hygienic negligence threatening health. This answer was more often given by people paying attention to: washing and disinfection of hands by the staff, using disposable gloves and sterile tools. We can assume that people who are convinced of their knowledge of pathogen transmission can strongly react in the event of non-compliance with safety and hygiene rules in a beauty salon.

There is a need to increase the level of public knowledge about the risk of pathogen transmission in the beauty salons, as only 37% of the respondents indicated the possibility of the infection with Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) – 39%, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) – 43%, Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) – 43% and *Staphylococcus aureus* – 54%. HIV, HBV and HCV blood-borne infections are the greatest threat in beauty salons. According to data published by the National Institute of Public Health, in 47.9% of the cases recorded in the years 2017-2021, the source of HIV infection has not been found [2].

Research shows that 82% of beauty salon clients have noticed the need to increase the level of public knowledge regarding health safety, while only 49% of the respondents see the necessity of self-education. Therefore, information campaigns are important, such as the one conducted by the District Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Warsaw, Poland, under the name “#Conscious Beautification” [3].

It is advisable to conduct broader analyses in order to raise the awareness of both beauty salon clients and owners regarding the importance of hygiene and safety during beauty treatments.

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