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Complications of Hematopoietic Stem Transplantation: Bacterial infections

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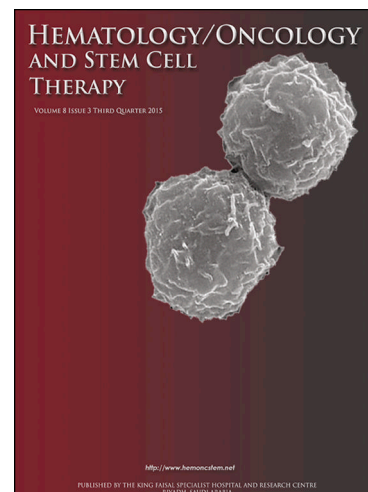
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REVIEW ARTICLE

**Complications of Hematopoietic Stem Transplantation: Bacterial infections**

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**Abstract**

Bacterial infections remain a common complication of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT), especially in the pre-engraftment phase. The risk of bacterial infections is mainly related to neutropenia, mucositis, and the presence of vascular lines. Most parts of the world have witnessed a shift in epidemiology towards Gram-negative bacteria; a large proportion of which are resistant to fluoroquinolones, extended-spectrum beta-lactams, carbapenems, and in some units even colistin. Meticulous infection control practices are essential for prevention of bacterial infections in HSCT. The role of routine prophylactic antibiotics is limited in settings with high rates of bacterial resistance. If used, prophylactic antibiotics should be limited to high-risk patients, and the agents are selected based on local resistance profiles. Neutropenic fever is a medical emergency in most HSCT recipients. Prompt clinical evaluation is paramount, along with the intravenous administration of appropriate empiric antimicrobials, typically an antipseudomonal beta-lactam agent. Glycopeptides should only be considered if the

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