Pseudo-outbreak of *Mycobacterium chimaera* in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation center due to sterile water hand-washing machine

Shigem Nakamura, Momoyo Azuma, Noriko Fujiiwa, Saori Nishio, Masami Sato, Ryohi Sumitani, Munenori Uemura, Mamiko Takahashi, Masami Iwasa, Shiro Fuji, Hirokazu Miki, Kumiko Kagaya, Shiori Yoshida, Masahiro Abe

1. Department of Hematology, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Tokushima University Hospital, Tokushima, Japan.
2. Department of Infection Control, Tokushima University Hospital, Tokushima, Japan.
3. Division of Transfusion Medicine and Cell Therapy, Tokushima University Hospital, Tokushima, Japan.
4. Clinical Research Center, National Hospital Organization Kinki-Chuo Chest Medical Center, Sakai, Osaka, Japan.

E-mail: shigem@tokushima-u.ac.jp
Tel.: +81(88)353-7120
Fax: +81(88)353-7121

### Introduction

In the SCT unit, patients are required to wash their hands according to the protocol of the World Health Organization before and after use of each device and before and after ambulation. However, patients did not always follow the recommended hand-washing protocol, and there were reports of events in which selective hand-washing was performed. Moreover, the patients often washed their hands with soap. We have never surveyed the patients for the prevalence of hand-washing. We noted that the patients often did not perform hand-washing before and after ambulation. This result suggested that the patients sometimes did not wash their hands as recommended. To prevent nosocomial outbreaks associated with healthcare environments, it is important to strictly follow the hand-washing protocol. We aimed to develop methods for hand-washing in the SCT unit.

### Results

We found that the hand-washing protocol was not always followed correctly. After introducing the hand-washing protocol, we found that some patients did not wash their hands as recommended. We suspected that nosocomial outbreaks associated with healthcare environments could be prevented by developing methods for hand-washing. We aimed to develop methods for hand-washing in the SCT unit.

### Discussion

We found that the hand-washing protocol was not always followed correctly. After introducing the hand-washing protocol, we found that some patients did not wash their hands as recommended. We suspected that nosocomial outbreaks associated with healthcare environments could be prevented by developing methods for hand-washing. We aimed to develop methods for hand-washing in the SCT unit.

### References