The Effect of COVID19 Pandemic on Bacterial Infections and Infection Control

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The 26-month data (October 2019 - November 2021) obtained from Koç University Hospital database is presented. The supply of personal protective equipment including N95, FFP2 and FFP3 type masks, disposable gowns and hand sanitizers increased at the beginning of the pandemic and paralleled the waves of COVID19 in the following months (Figure 1).

As seen in Figure 2, the proportion of blood and endotracheal aspirate bacterial cultures increased compared to all cultures, in the March-May 2020 period. An increase is also observed by the second wave of the pandemic, which took place in November 2020.

Monthly number of Klebsiella pneumoniae isolates from blood samples are shown in Figure 3. From July 2021, the number of blood cultures growing Klebsiella pneumoniae increased, and carbapenem resistance rates remained above 50% by November 2021. There is a significant increase of carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae during Fall 2021. Further outbreak analysis will be performed.