

### 3.07 An Audit of *Aspergillus* Species Isolated from Bronchoalveolar Lavage Specimens Acquired via Flexible Bronchoscopies Performed in a Tertiary Hospital's Bronchoscopy Unit.

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**Background:** There was an increase in isolation of *Aspergillus spp.* from Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) specimens in 2023. This increase was speculated to be due to contamination of the samples. The objective of this audit was to collate clinical and laboratory details to investigate this observation. **Methods:** All BAL samples from the bronchoscopy suite, which isolated *Aspergillus spp.* for a two-year period (2022-2023) were reviewed. Patients' clinical, radiological, and laboratory results were collated and reviewed. **Results:** There were 8 versus 22 BAL specimens that isolated *Aspergillus spp.* in 2022 and 2023 respectively. In 2022, 2 patients were diagnosis with aspergillus-related lung disease while 4 were diagnosed in 2023. Diagnoses were made by respiratory or infectious disease physicians. **Intervention:** Air sampling and environmental screening samples from bronchoscopy suite and laboratory did not isolate *Aspergillus spp.* A review of the bronchoscopy unit revealed a dusty air vent in the bronchoscopy decontamination room. It was noted that the window in the corridor where BAL specimens were handled and left for collection was occasionally open. **Conclusion:** The increased isolation of *Aspergillus spp.* was likely related to environmental contamination. Several recommendations have been put in place to rectify this problem. **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare they have no conflict of interest.