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Interrupted time series analysis of the impact of a bundle on surgical site infections after colon surgery

This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1835385> since 2022-01-25T12:53:36Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1016/j.ajic.2021.02.007

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(Article begins on next page)

AJIC: American Journal of Infection Control

Interrupted time series analysis of the impact of a bundle on surgical site infections after colon surgery. --Manuscript Draft--

Manuscript Number:	AJIC-D-20-01866R1
Article Type:	Original Research Article
Keywords:	surgical site infections; Bundle; colon surgery; Implementation science
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Abstract:	<p>Background</p> <p>Surgical site infections (SSIs) are monitored in Italy through a national surveillance system. A four-element bundle was introduced in 2012, consisting of: appropriate preoperative shower and hair removal, perioperative normothermia, and antibiotic prophylaxis. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of the intervention on SSI rates after colon surgery.</p> <p>Methods</p> <p>A retrospective cohort study was conducted between 2008 and 2019 in 29 hospitals of northern Italy. An interrupted time series analysis (ITSA) was modelled to assess the bundle's impact on SSI trends. Logistic regression was performed to identify predictors of SSI among procedures performed in the post-intervention period, comparing full and partial bundle compliance.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>Data of 5487 colon surgery procedures were collected (1243 pre-intervention and 4244 post-intervention). The ITSA identified a significant change in the monthly post-intervention SSI trend of -0.19% and a change in level of -2.09%. A significant protective effect of full bundle compliance compared to partial bundle compliance (OR 0.74, p 0.043) was found, whereas the single effect of the bundle elements was non-significant.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Results of this study suggest this relatively simple bundle protocol is effective in reducing SSI risk.</p>

Turin, 02/11/20

Dear Editors,

We are submitting a manuscript entitled “Interrupted time series analysis of the impact of a bundle on surgical site infections after colon surgery”. As you are surely aware, Italy is facing hyper-endemic levels of antimicrobial resistant pathogens, therefore infection prevention and control practices aimed at reducing healthcare associated infections in our country are crucial.

In this study, we analysed the effect of the introduction of a simple, four-element evidence-based bundle on surgical site infection (SSI) rates after colon surgery. Our institution is responsible for coordinating data collection for the region of Piedmont, in the north-west of Italy, as part of the national surveillance system for SSIs (SNICH). We introduced the bundled intervention in 2012 with the objective of improving surgical care quality and conducted a cohort study in 29 hospitals in our region participating in SNICH, from 2008 to 2019. We found compliance significantly increased with time and a significant association between full compliance with the bundle protocol and reduced SSI rates.

In recent literature, bundles of increasing size and complexity are gaining traction, contrary to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s definition and, in our opinion, reducing their potential for widespread applicability. Our study suggests the simple and resource-sparing protocol applied in our region could be effective in improving surgical care quality. We believe this intervention could lead to sustained results over time through the systematic integration of evidence-based practices into routine care, which is the purpose for which bundles were originally conceptualized.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Costanza Vicentini

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08/02/2021

Dear Editors,

We are submitting the revised version of our manuscript “Interrupted time series analysis of the impact of a bundle on surgical site infections after colon surgery”. We would like to thank the Editors and the expert Reviewers for their time and for their insightful comments and suggestions. We hope to have sufficiently improved on the issues present in our original manuscript. We are extremely thankful for the opportunity to better define and expand on some aspects of our research.

Reviewer #1:

1. Rewrite the background section and to be more consistent with the content of the paper.

We have modified the background section to be more consistent with the content of the paper (page 2).

2. Reduce the amount of the analyses done in the paper and focus on one or two research questions

As both reviewers suggested that the excessive amount of analyses and tables complicated the study and lengthened the manuscript, we focused on describing the impact of full vs partial bundle compliance on SSI rate. We removed the analysis of the separate elements of the bundle to lighten the manuscript and clarify the objective of the study and removed Table 4.

3. Rewrite the conclusion part to be more consistent with your results.

We have improved the description of our Results by eliminating the excessive analysis and focusing on the main idea of the research. We edited the Conclusion to be more consistent with the findings reported in our Discussion (pages 10-11).

4. The formatting is not maintained, different font and style each section.

We apologize to the reviewers for this issue. We have standardized the format, modifying the text and Tables 1 and 3.

Reviewer #2:

1. Although you were looking for the impact of the bundle which had 4 elements on the reduction of the overall infection rate, the study was expanded to review separate elements of the bundle which complicated the study and lengthened the manuscript.

Please see comment 2. of Reviewer #1.

2. On page 3 line 53 you refer to "convenience sampling" as being employed when actually all colon surgeries were reviewed at these 29 hospitals during the time frame specified.

The term “convenience sampling” was removed from the “*Included procedures*” of the Materials and Methods sections of the paper. We have specified that “All colon surgery procedures monitored through SNICH that were performed in the 29 hospitals both prior to (between January 1st, 2008, and December 31st, 2011) and following the introduction of the bundled intervention (January 1st, 2012, to December 31st, 2019) were included in the study.”

3. There was no mention as to how the bundle was put into place at each hospital. Was there any education of staff? Was there any patient education for pre-op shower at pre-op visit etc? Were Antibiotics available in surgery for quick access etc? These are important issues to include when discussing surgical bundles.

Unfortunately it would be extremely lengthy to discuss how the bundle was implemented in all 29 participating hospitals, but we agree this is an important aspect. We added the following sentences: “The Department of Public Health and Paediatrics of the University of Turin acts as regional coordinating centre for data collection and promoted the implementation of the bundled intervention, by designing the protocol and providing staff training and assistance.” and “The introduction of the bundled intervention allowed to increase standardization and consistency of the application of the four elements, assuring that all healthcare facilities were adopting the same measures in the same way” to the “Bundle protocol” of the Materials and Methods section of the paper. The description of how the bundle is performed and how it is implemented in hospitals has been described previously in more detail, as reported in reference [7].

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Interrupted time series analysis of the impact of a bundle on surgical site infections after colon surgery.

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Funding

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

Declaration of interest

All authors have no conflict to declare.

Abstract

Background: Surgical site infections (SSIs) are monitored in Italy through a national surveillance system. A four-element bundle was introduced in 2012, consisting of: appropriate preoperative shower and hair removal, perioperative normothermia, and antibiotic prophylaxis. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of the intervention on SSI rates after colon surgery.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted between 2008 and 2019 in 29 hospitals of northern Italy. An interrupted time series analysis (ITSA) was modelled to assess the bundle's impact on SSI trends. Logistic regression was performed to identify predictors of SSI among procedures performed in the post-intervention period, comparing full and partial bundle compliance.

Results: Data of 5487 colon surgery procedures were collected (1243 pre-intervention and 4244 post-intervention). The ITSA identified a significant change in the monthly post-intervention SSI trend of -0.19% and a change in level of -2.09%. A significant protective effect of full bundle compliance compared to partial bundle compliance (OR 0.74, p 0.043) was found, whereas the single effect of the bundle elements was non-significant.

Conclusion: Results of this study suggest this relatively simple bundle protocol is effective in reducing SSI risk.

Keywords: Surgical site infections; bundle; colon surgery; implementation science

Highlights

- A four-element bundle was introduced to reduce SSIs after colon surgery.
- An interrupted time series analysis was modelled to assess the bundle's impact.
- A significant change in the monthly SSI trend of -0.19% was found.
- Reduced odds of infection were found for full vs. partial bundle compliance.
- Our analysis supports the effectiveness of bundles in colorectal surgery.

Interrupted time series analysis of the impact of a bundle on surgical site infections after colon surgery.

Abstract

Background: Surgical site infections (SSIs) are monitored in Italy through a national surveillance system. A four-element bundle was introduced in 2012, consisting of: appropriate preoperative shower and hair removal, perioperative normothermia, and antibiotic prophylaxis. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of the intervention on SSI rates after colon surgery.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted between 2008 and 2019 in 29 hospitals of northern Italy. An interrupted time series analysis (ITSA) was modelled to assess the bundle's impact on SSI trends. Logistic regression was performed to identify predictors of SSI among procedures performed in the post-intervention period, comparing full and partial bundle compliance.

Results: Data of 5487 colon surgery procedures were collected (1243 pre-intervention and 4244 post-intervention). The ITSA identified a significant change in the monthly post-intervention SSI trend of -0.19% and a change in level of -2.09%. A significant protective effect of full bundle compliance compared to partial bundle compliance (OR 0.74, p 0.043) was found.

Conclusion: Results of this study suggest this relatively simple bundle protocol is effective in reducing SSI risk.

Keywords: Surgical site infections; bundle; colon surgery; implementation science

Background

Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) have an important clinical and economic burden and are recognized as a critical metric for the quality of surgical care [2]. Although several interventions were developed to reduce the rate of infections, SSI prevention remain a challenge. Moreover, prevention protocols are often costly and difficult to adopt in everyday practice. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) developed the concept of bundles in 2001 to improve outcomes for patients undergoing treatments with inherent risks [1]. By definition, a bundled approach consists in implementing 3 to 5 simple practices supported by Level 1 evidence, with an aggregate effect exceeding the impact of each single component. Robust literature exists supporting the efficacy of bundled interventions in reducing SSI rates after colorectal surgery [3,4], although the efficacy of over complicated bundled interventions, with multiple elements involved, is questioned, as these may be difficult to adopt in routine clinical practice [5].

In Piedmont, a region in the north-west of Italy, SSI data are collected through a surveillance system (Sistema Nazionale Sorveglianza delle Infezioni del Sito Chirurgico, SNICH) established in 2008 and based on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) healthcare associated infections surveillance network (HAI-SSI) protocol [6,7]. A four-element bundled intervention was introduced in 2012 in 29 hospitals. The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of a simple bundled intervention on SSI rates after colon surgery. To this end, an interrupted time series (ITS) analysis was conducted on SSI rates prior to and following the implementation of the bundled intervention, while a regression analysis was performed to control for confounding factors.

Materials and Methods

Bundle protocol

46 A four-element bundled intervention was introduced in hospitals in Piedmont participating in the
47 SSI surveillance network on January 1st, 2012, as part of the regional performance indicator system.
48 Hospitals were invited to participate in the intervention on a voluntary basis. In total, 29 hospitals
49 implemented the bundle out of the 49 hospitals of the region of Piedmont participating in SNICH.
50 The Department of Public Health and Paediatrics of the University of Turin acts as regional
51 coordinating centre for data collection and promoted the implementation of the bundled
52 intervention, by designing the protocol and providing staff training and assistance.

53 The four elements of the bundle are: preoperative showering, appropriate hair removal,
54 antimicrobial prophylaxis, maintenance of intraoperative normothermia, as previously reported [8].
55 All four elements included in the bundle are effective practices for the prevention of SSIs,
56 supported by Level 1 evidence [9]. The single components of the bundle are established practices
57 for SSI prevention in our region, although single hospitals and often single wards often apply their
58 own protocols, which are developed taking into account organizational issues and time and resource
59 constraints specific to each setting. The introduction of the bundled intervention allowed to increase
60 standardization and consistency of the application of the four elements, assuring that all healthcare
61 facilities were adopting the same measures in the same way.

62 *Included procedures*

63 All colon surgery procedures monitored through SNICH that were performed in the 29 hospitals
64 both prior to (between January 1st, 2008, and December 31st, 2011) and following the introduction
65 of the bundled intervention (January 1st, 2012, to December 31st, 2019) were included in the study.
66 Monitored procedures are listed in the SNICH protocol [6] and are grouped into National Healthcare
67 Safety Network (NHSN) operative procedure categories according to International Classification of
68 Diseases, 9th revision - Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes [10]. The following procedures
69 were included according to the SNICH definition of colon surgery procedures: incisions, resections
70 or anastomoses of the large bowel, including ileocolic anastomoses.

71 *Data collection*

72 Demographic and clinical data of included patients as well as data on the occurrence and
73 characteristics of infection were collected prospectively through SNICH, with a follow-up period of
74 30 days. The SNICH protocol is based on the ECDC HAI-SSI network protocol and applies the
75 same definitions for SSIs [6,7]. Procedures are categorized using the infection risk index (IRI),
76 which is calculated following NHSN methodology [10], according to: procedure duration [11], the
77 patient's American Society of Anaesthesiology (ASA) score [12] and wound contamination class
78 (clean, clean-contaminated, contaminated, dirty) [13]. The methodology for data collection through
79 SNICH in Piedmont was previously described in detail [14].

80 For procedures performed after the implementation of the bundled intervention, data on bundle
81 compliance were recorded by the same infection control staff involved in SNICH. Compliance data
82 were collected for each element of the bundle and for the bundle in totality. Procedures were
83 categorised as fully compliant if they were performed in compliance with the protocol for all four
84 elements and no compliance information was missing, or partially compliant if compliance was
85 achieved for three elements or less or data was missing.

86 Considering the program's purposes are disease surveillance and improvement of quality of care,
87 and that the program is coordinated by public entities (Italian Centre for Disease Control, CCM,
88 Italian Ministry of Health, Regions of Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont), the SNICH protocol states
89 that the written consent of involved patients or any other authorization from Ethics Committees or
90 the Protection Commissioner is not requested [6]. Patients are notified of their participation in the
91 program via an information sheet and only anonymized data is collected.

92 *Statistical analysis*

93 Descriptive statistics were used to summarize patient demographics and clinical characteristics. Age
94 and hospital stay were described with medians and interquartile ranges (IQRs), due to non-normal

95 distribution (Shapiro-Wilk test). Chi-squared tests were performed to assess differences of
96 distributions for categorical variables among procedures performed prior to and following the
97 introduction of the bundled intervention. The following categorical variables were considered:
98 Infection Risk Index (IRI) (0-1, 2-3), elective or emergency procedure, surgical technique
99 (minimally invasive vs. open), and pre-operative hospital stay (<1 day, ≥ 1 day). Statistically
100 significant pre vs. post intervention differences in continuous variables were investigated via Mann-
101 Whitney U test.

102 An ITS analysis of SSI rates was performed, considering monthly SSI pooled counts as time-series
103 data. The breakpoint was set on January 1st, 2012. Appropriate tests were run to check
104 autocorrelation (ACF and pACF plots) and seasonality (Webel and Ollech test) [15]. A rolling mean
105 2x12 (12 months wide, then 2 months wide) was then performed, and all regression models were
106 run on the smoothed data. Further, subset ITS analyses were performed considering procedures
107 performed on patients with an IRI of 0-1 vs. 2-3, and minimally invasive vs. open procedures.

108 The association between the proportion of fully compliant procedures and time from
109 implementation of the bundled intervention was assessed using a linear regression model, which
110 had bundle compliance as the dependent variable and number of months passed from the bundle
111 intervention adoption as the independent variable.

112 A logistic regression models were used to evaluate independent predictors of SSI among procedures
113 performed in the post-intervention phase. Analyses were adjusted for the following patient-level
114 confounders: age, gender, IRI, pre-operative hospital stay, emergency procedure, surgical
115 technique, bundle compliance. All relevant variables were inserted in the models with enter method.
116 The effect of full vs. partial bundle compliance on SSI risk was evaluated.

117 R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22) software [16] was used for all analyses and a two-tailed p-value <0.05
118 was considered.

Results

A total of 5487 colon surgery procedures were monitored through SNICH during the study period, 1243 in the pre-intervention period and 4244 following the implementation of the bundled intervention. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients operated before and after the intervention are summarized in Table 1. Procedures performed in the post-intervention period were significantly more often performed with a minimally invasive technique and within one day of hospitalization, compared to procedures performed in the pre-intervention period. Further, patients in the pre-intervention period had a significantly higher IRI score, mainly due to wound contamination class.

A total of 356 SSIs occurred, with SSI rates ranging from 8.5% in 2011 to 2.5% in 2019 and an overall SSI rate of 6.5%. Two hundred twenty-four SSIs (62.9%) were superficial, 77 (21.6%) were deep incisional and 53 (14.9%) were organ space. Over 70% of infections occurred during the index hospitalization and 104 post-discharge.

The ITS analysis showed no seasonality as indicated by WO test (p 0.293). ACF and pACF showed no autocorrelation in the dataset.

The effect of the bundle on SSI incidence trends is shown in Figures 1 and 2. A statistically significant change in level of -2.08% was found (95% confidence interval [CI] -3.46%; -0.71%, p 0.003). In addition, a -0.19% monthly decrease in SSI incidence after bundle adoption was found (95% CI -0.26%; -0.12%). However, the pre-intervention upwards trend must be considered (0.16%, 95% CI 0.10%; 0.23%, p <0.001), resulting in an overall descending trend, with a -0.03% monthly decrease in SSI incidence post-intervention (Figure 1). The model reached statistical significance (p <0.001), and the resulting R^2 was 0.25. Subset analyses showed that the effect of the bundle in reducing SSI incidence was statistically significant in open procedures and in procedures performed on patients with an $IRI \geq 2$, but no significant trend was identified considering minimally

144 invasive procedures and procedures performed on patients with an IRI <2 . Full results of the ITS
145 analyses are available in Table 2.

146 Considering the bundle elements separately, antimicrobial prophylaxis was the element with the
147 lowest percentage of compliant procedures (48.1% overall), although a progressive improvement
148 was registered. The overall compliance for appropriate showering, hair removal and maintenance of
149 intraoperative normothermia was 75.2%, 90.8% and 70.1% respectively. Full bundle compliance
150 was achieved in 1359 procedures (32%) over the study period, ranging from 0% in 2012 to 44.2%
151 in 2018. After two years of implementation, an important increase in bundle compliance was
152 observed. A significant association was found between time from bundle introduction and
153 proportion of fully compliant procedures (Figure 3). Each month after bundle adoption, full bundle
154 compliance increased by 0.33% ($p < 0.001$, R^2 20.25%).

155 The multivariable analysis found a significant association between bundle compliance and reduced
156 SSI rate in the post-intervention period (Table 3). A significant reduction of the odds of infection
157 was found for full bundle compliance compared to partial compliance (odds ratio [OR] 0.74; 95%
158 CI 0.55 - 0.99; p 0.043). Other significant variables with statistically significant results were
159 undergoing a minimally invasive procedure and $IRI \geq 2$.

160 **Discussion**

161 SSIs are estimated to affect up to 30% of colorectal operations [3]. Considering the substantial
162 clinical and economic burden of SSIs [2], prevention is of paramount importance. The
163 implementation of our bundled intervention was associated with a statistically significant decrease
164 in SSI rates. Further, this study found a significant association between full bundle compliance and
165 decreased SSI rate in procedures performed after the introduction of the bundled intervention. A
166 reduction of the odds of infection of 26% was found for full bundle compliance compared to partial
167 compliance. Our analysis supports the effectiveness of bundles in preventing SSIs after colorectal
168 surgery.

169 Our results are in line with those found by a recent meta-analysis of 35 studies on the effectiveness
170 of SSI prevention through bundles in colorectal surgery [3]. Tomsic *et al* performed a
171 supplementary analysis of the studies included in the meta-analysis, to evaluate whether the number
172 of components included in the bundled interventions related to effectiveness in reducing SSIs of all
173 wound depths [17]. The largest effect on SSI risk was found for bundles with more than 11
174 elements, compared to smaller bundles. Conversely, a meta-analysis by Lavallée *et al* that
175 considered care bundles for any health condition and any healthcare setting did not find significant
176 differences in the impact on negative patient outcomes based on the number of included elements
177 [18].

178 The increased effectiveness of larger bundles may be simply due to the cumulative effect of more
179 evidence-based measures, although potential effectiveness should be measured against
180 implementation feasibility. Bundles composed of many elements may present inherent issues in
181 their implementation and in the ability to achieve complete adherence. The IHI determined that
182 bundles should contain 3 to 5 elements, as full consistency is by definition crucial for the
183 intervention's success [1]. A recent scoping review on care bundles in acute care settings found
184 negative associations between the number of components and compliance, and between the
185 complexity of included elements according to the Medical Research Council guidance [5] and
186 compliance, leading to the conclusion that bundles with few and simple components have higher
187 adherence rates [19].

188 In our study, a significant correlation was found between time from bundle introduction and
189 increase in bundle compliance. Our compliance rates compare favourably with those found by an
190 Australian study, which reported an increase in compliance for all elements of a bundle protocol for
191 patients undergoing colorectal surgery from an initial 5.3% to 21.1% at the end of the study period
192 [20]. In our study, the element which proved the most challenging to implement according to the
193 bundle protocol was antimicrobial prophylaxis. This was unexpected as other elements, such as the

194 maintenance of appropriate normothermia, are more likely to be affected in their implementation by
195 timing and resource constraints [5]. Although an improvement was observed over the study period,
196 further investigations should be conducted to identify the underlying reasons for the low
197 compliance rates found in our study and help focus educational interventions, particularly regarding
198 antimicrobial prophylaxis.

199 Consistently with the association found between sustained compliance and improved patient
200 outcomes following the implementation of intensive care bundles [1], results of several studies
201 suggest that a correlation exists between bundle adherence and SSI rates [3, 20, 21]. In the meta-
202 analysis by Lavallée *et al*, fidelity $\geq 95\%$ with the care bundle elements was found to be associated
203 with a larger effect on patient outcomes when compared to inadequate fidelity [18]. Procter *et al*
204 proposed a model conceptualizing the relationship between implementation, process and patient
205 outcomes, according to which implementation outcomes influence process outcomes, which in turn
206 influence clinical outcomes [22]. Bundle compliance could be an important factor for the
207 integration of the bundle components into routine clinical practice, ultimately leading to sustained
208 effects over time. In our sample, the adoption of the bundle was not only associated with an
209 interruption in the increasing trend of the SSI rate, but also with a slow but stable decrease, with a
210 yearly reduction of SSIs of 0.36%. The effect was primarily due to effect in populations with
211 increased risk of SSI development, such as patients with an IRI >2 and patients undergoing open
212 surgery.

213 This study has several limitations. First, randomized assignment of the intervention was not
214 performed as hospitals were invited to participate on a voluntary basis. Therefore, it is possible that
215 hospitals participating in the intervention had better infection prevention and control programs or an
216 institutional climate more prone to promoting quality improvement. On the other hand, the
217 pragmatic design of this study allowed operations that are often excluded in randomized controlled

218 trials to be included, such as emergent operations, and to assess the impact of the intervention in a
219 real-world setting [23,24].

220 Further, some statistically significant differences were found comparing patient characteristics in
221 the pre- and post-intervention periods. Although it is possible that full bundle compliance was
222 achieved in more optimal patients, the effect of the intervention on SSI rates remained after
223 controlling for several recognized risk factors for SSI in the multivariable analysis. The results of
224 the subset ITS analyses also mitigate this concern.

225 Third, other confounding factors not considered in this analysis could have contributed to the
226 reduction in SSI rates, such as the surveillance effect [14]. However, by conducting an ITS analysis,
227 we were able to account for pre-intervention trends [24], and modelling analyses did not identify
228 secular and seasonal trends. Further, in this study both outcome and process measures were
229 evaluated, and the significant correlation found between time and compliance over eight years
230 supports the validity of our results.

231 Fourth, it could be argued that components of the bundle were already applied in routine surgical
232 practice. However, by definition it is not the single components themselves that determine the
233 efficacy of a bundled intervention, but the way they are implemented [1]. By comparing SSI rates
234 between fully compliant and partially compliant procedures in the post-intervention period, we were
235 able to estimate the effect of the bundle as a systematic and consistent intervention.

236

237 **Conclusion**

238 Integrating evidence and innovations from research into routine clinical practice is a recognized
239 challenge [25]. Care bundles have proven to be an effective implementation strategy, able to
240 translate evidence into a more usable and practical form [19]. Findings of this study support the
241 efficacy of SSI prevention through bundles in colon surgery. Moreover, the efficacy was more

242 evident in subgroups of patients with increased risk of developing SSIs, such as those undergoing
243 open surgery procedures. The small, relatively simple bundle protocol applied in this study was
244 associated with increasing compliance rates over time, which could be crucial for the effective
245 integration of the four evidence-based elements into routine practice. A bundle is not supposed to
246 represent a comprehensive care protocol and should not include elements that vary in their
247 applicability to single patients [1]. Given the effectiveness and the limited resources required for
248 implementation compared to larger and more complex bundles, this protocol could prove useful in
249 increasing research-informed practice and improving surgical care quality.

250

251

252 **Acknowledgements**

253 The authors thank the members of the regional working group “Infezioni Correlate all’Assistenza”
254 and gratefully acknowledge the infection control staff involved in the SNICH program: Dr.
255 A.Macor, C. Fanton, P.Berto, P. Bianco, R.G. Vecchietti, S. Fantino, A. Riccio (ASL Città di
256 Torino), Dr. M. Giacometti, A. Trombotto, N. Gentile, B. Viviani, P. Desantis, M. Campobasso
257 (ASL TO3), Dr. A. Scarcello, M. Bello, M. Boux, A. Buono, S. Greco, R. Musca, S. Naretto, M.
258 Obert (ASL TO4), Dr. D. Morabito, F. Riccardi (ASL TO5), Dr. P. Toscano, E. Ferrando, A.
259 Pernecco, P. Ferrero (ASL AL), Dr F. Di Nardo, B. Bacchetta, G. Beltrame, G. Zanetti (ASL NO),
260 Dr. R. Broda, G. Marchese (ASL AT), Dr. F. D’Aloia, C. Frassati, M. Sicari (ASL BI), Dr. M.
261 Salvatico, S. Gerbaudo, M. Giordana, L. Ghiglia, M.C. Operti (ASL CN1), Dr. V. Venturino, S.
262 Cabutti, M. Rabino (ASL CN2), Dr. S. Gatti, M. Franchino, M. Staiano (ASL VC), Dr. V.
263 Destefano, R. Pesce, L. De Giorgis, M. Bignamini (ASL VCO), Dr. C. Bolla, B. Montanari, M.
264 Ricci, E. Marino (AO AL), Dr. C. Silvestre, Dr. F. Gremo, Dr. G. Guareschi, S. Zozzoli, E.
265 Frasinelli, D. Filippi, G. Finotto, M. Gambino, L. Ferrero, E. Scalenghe, E. Spina, V. Procacci, E.
266 Migliore, P. Dalmaso (AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza), Dr. P. Pellegrino, P. Occelli, A. Re
267 (AO CN), Dr. I. Vigna, S. Bagnato, I. Casonato, A. Do Nascimento, A. Mercugliano (AO
268 Mauriziano), Dr. P. Silvaplana, P. Lovera, S. Pelassa (AOU S. Luigi), Dr. M. Tacchini, R. Negri, C.
269 Guenzi, P. Lino, L. Codari (AO NO), Dr. D. Tangolo, M. Carlevato, M. Valle (Osp. Humanitas
270 Gradenigo), Prof. R. Russo, L. Turinetto, A. Muca, G. Dacci (Osp. Cottolengo), T. Romani (COQ
271 Omegna), F. Baiardi, K. Enluida (Casa di Cura S. Anna), C. Bosio (Clinica Villa Igea), Dr. L.
272 Savoia (Clinica San Gaudenzio), R. Terranova, E. Milan (Policlinico di Monza), Dr. P. Malvasio,
273 M. Cossu (Osp. Koelliker).

274

275 **Funding**

276 This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial or
277 not-for-profit sectors.

278 **Declaration of interest**

279 All authors have no conflict to declare.

280

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359

360 **Tables**

361 **Table 1.** Demographic and clinical characteristics of included procedures, before and after the
362 introduction of the bundled intervention.

Characteristic	Intervention		P*
	Before (n =1243)	After (n =4244)	
Age, median (IQR), years	72	74	0.021
Male gender, N (%)	668 (53.7%)	2260 (53.3%)	0.761
Infection Risk Index ≥ 2 , N (%)	432 (35.6%)	1302 (31.1%)	0.003
Wound contamination class III-IV, N (%)	481 (38.7%)	1313 (30.9%)	<0001
Emergency procedure, N (%)	318 (25.6%)	1102 (26.0%)	0.786
Minimally invasive procedure, N (%)	243 (19.5%)	1324 (31.2%)	<0.001
Pre-operative hospital stay ≥ 1 day, N (%)	1055 (84.9%)	3487 (82.2%)	0.026
Hospital stay, median (IQR), days	12	10	<0.001

363 *Differences were assessed using Mann-Whitney U tests and chi-squared tests for continuous and
364 categorical variables respectively.

365

366 **Table 2.** Results of the interrupted time series analysis of the impact of the bundled intervention on
367 SSI rates: existing trend, changes in trend and changes in level after bundle adoption (n=5487).

	Time trend (monthly)		Change in trend		Change in level	
	B [95% CI]*	p	B [95% CI]*	p	B [95% CI]*	p
Full dataset	0.16 [0.09; 0.23]	<0.001	-0.19 [-0.26; -0.12]	<0.001	-2.09 [-3.46; -0.71]	0.003
Open procedures	0.24 [0.16; 0.32]	<0.001	-0.26 [-0.34; -0.18]	<0.001	-2.96 [-4.61; -1.31]	<0.001
Minimally invasive procedures	-0.06 [-0.16; 0.03]	0.190	0.05 [-0.04; 0.15]	0.302	0.07 [-1.86; 2.00]	0.943
IRI ≥ 2	0.41 [0.30; 0.53]	<0.001	-0.47 [-0.59; -0.35]	<0.001	-5.96 [-8.07; -3.86]	<0.001
IRI <2	0.01 [-0.05; 0.07]	0.750	-0.03 [-0.09; 0.04]	0.406	0.98 [-0.35; 2.31]	0.147

368 *Figures are percentages. B: unstandardized linear regression coefficients

369

370 **Table 3.** Multivariable analysis – predictors of surgical site infection according to overall bundle
371 compliance (n=4244).

Variables	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	p
Age	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.301
Male gender	1.11	0.86	1.43	0.417
Infection Risk Index ≥ 2	1.66	1.27	2.17	<0.001
Emergency procedure	0.98	0.70	1.36	0.898
Minimally invasive procedure	0.56	0.40	0.77	<0.001
Pre-operative hospital stay ≥ 1 day	1.03	0.72	1.49	0.860
Partial bundle compliance	ref	-	-	-
Full bundle compliance	0.74	0.55	0.99	0.043

372

373

374 **Figures**

375

376 **Figure legends**

377 **Figure 1.** Interrupted time series analysis, all procedures.

378 **Figure 2.** Subset interrupted time series analysis, using infection risk index (IRI) and procedure
379 type as stratifying variables.

380 Figure 2a. Open surgery procedures.

381 Figure 2b. Minimally invasive (laparoscopic) procedures.

382 Figure 2c. Procedures performed on patients with an IRI <2 .

383 Figure 2d. Procedures performed on patients with an IRI ≥ 2 .

384 **Figure 3.** Linear association between proportion of fully compliant procedures and time from
385 introduction of the bundled intervention.

386

387 **Captions**

388 **Figure 1.** Dotted line: trend extrapolated based on pre-intervention data.

389 **Figure 2.** Dotted lines: trends extrapolated based on pre-intervention data.

390

Figure 2 Open surgery

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IRI ≥ 2

IRI < 2

Figure 3 Bundle compliance and time – Linear correlation

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