

The Sterility Survey of Sterilized Gauzes, Cotton and Surgical Dressing in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

Sterilized gauzes, cotton and surgical dressing are not only used in the hospitals, but also at home. They might cause infection if they are not sterilized completely. In order to understand the quality of sterilized gauzes, cotton and surgical dressing, 46 samples (30 gauze samples, 11 cotton samples, 5 surgical dressing) were randomly sampled from 25 hospitals and 2 pharmacies in Taiwan from March and June of 2012. Nineteen (41.3%) of these samples were produced by local manufactures, 22 (47.8%) of these samples were made in China and the other 5 samples (10.9%) were imported from other countries. The sterility test was conducted according to the procedures of direct transfer method as described in the sixth edition of Chinese Pharmacopoeia and USP 32 edition. The results showed that all of the samples were qualified for the sterility test but there are 7 samples (6 gauze samples, 1 surgical dressing) did not meet the labeling requirement by Pharmaceutical Affairs Act. This report not only provided the current status of the relevant products to the medical institutes and the relevant health authorities, but also strongly suggested the manufactures to strengthen the quality control of their products for the public health concern.

Key words: gauze, cotton, surgical dressing, sterility test