

Reduction of Inappropriate Waste Disposal in the Cath Lab

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OBJECTIVES

We wished to establish a dedicated recycling programme and determine the environmental and financial gains.

METHODS

Specific recycling bins were installed in 2 cardiac cath labs in a large tertiary hospital. All appropriate recyclable waste material was discarded in these bins. Care was taken not to contaminate clean packaging with blood as this would then be required to be discarded in the clinical waste bins. Weight of recyclable waste was recorded per bin at the end of a week.

RESULTS

The cath labs with the new bins operated 56 cases over a week (38 in 1 lab, 18 in the other). Waste recovered was 21kg (16kg in one bin, 5kg in the other). Part of the reason for the discrepancy is that the cath lab with the smaller volume primarily performed coronary angiography, while most cardiac intervention (PCI) was performed in the busier cath lab. Waste recovered per procedure was not recorded but previous studies have found a higher volume for PCI ⁽⁴⁾.



CONCLUSIONS

Large volumes of potentially recyclable materials are inappropriately discarded in clinical waste bins. Institution of a dedicated recycling programme can significantly reduce inappropriate waste disposal, leading to environmental and financial gains.

REFERENCES

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