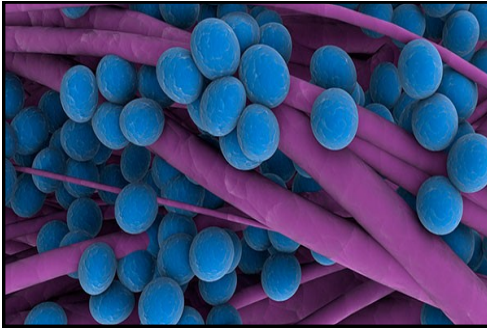


Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA)

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What is it?



- ***Staphylococcus aureus* or “Staph”** is a very common germ that about 1 out of every 3 people have on their skin or in their nose. This germ does not cause any problems for most people who have it on their skin. But sometimes it can cause serious infections such as skin or wound infections, pneumonia, or infections of the blood.
- **Antibiotics** are given to kill Staph germs **when they cause infections**. Some *Staph* are resistant, meaning they can-not be killed by some antibiotics.
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics called beta-lactams including methicillin and other more

common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin, and amoxicillin.

- MRSA can live on the skin and mucous membranes of adults without causing illness (termed as “colonization”).

How is it spread?

- **Direct contact:** People who have MRSA germs on their skin or who are infected with MRSA may be able to spread the germ to other people. (MRSA is most commonly spread by the unclean hands of doctors, nurses, other health-care providers and visitors.)
- **Indirect contact:** MRSA can be passed on to bed linens, bed rails, bathroom fixtures, and medical equipments.

Where is it found?

- On the skin of people who are colonized or infected.
- Inside of the nose and other mucous membranes of colonized or infected people.

Prevention & Control:

- Use contact precautions (in addition to standard precautions) when caring for anyone carrying or suspected of carrying MRSA.
- Provide a private room with dedicated toileting facilities for colonized/infected individuals (if a private room is not available, cohort with another MRSA patient/resident).
- All persons entering the room shall wear gloves and gown if substantial contact with patient or environment is anticipated and must be discarded before leaving the room.
- Clean hands well and often with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water.
- Contain or cover draining wounds.
- Dedicate patient/resident equipment or clean and disinfect equipment after each patient / resident use.
- Clean and disinfect all high-touch and horizontal surfaces in the room daily.
- Inform the receiving department and staff involved in transport about the infection control precautions in use.
- Ensure appropriate terminal cleaning of the room after discharge.
- Discontinue precautions only at the direction of the infection prevention and control staff.

For more information contact:



candolb14269
Ms. Lucita B. Cando, BSN-RN
Infection Control Practitioner
Email: candolb@alj.com
Telephone No: (012) 6770001 local 1611

Source:

Infection Prevention and Control Manual, MRSA, Policy No. IC-PV 004
www.cdc.gov/MRSA.

Abdul Latif Jameel Hospital
Infection Prevention and Control Department

