



Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Inception of MRSA

Staph bacteria is commonly found on the skin and even when it does make its way into cuts, it is usually not harmful or only causes minor infection. MRSA infection exists because of the overuse of antibiotics to treat illnesses such as the common cold, flu and other viral infections. Unfortunately, the antibiotics are unable to kill every germ even when used appropriately so the germs that do survive the antibiotics learn to recognize them and are able to resist other drugs.

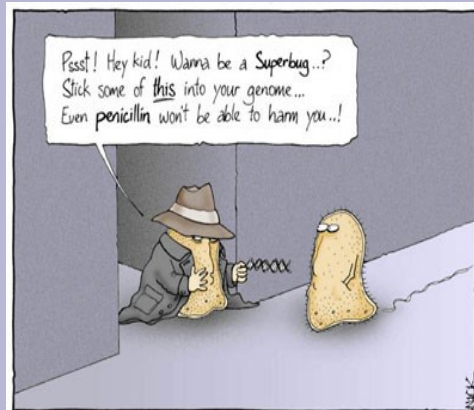


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Resources

Information provided by:
www.mayoclinic.org
www.webmd.com
www.cdc.gov



It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.

Your Guide to Understanding MRSA



Methicillin Resistant *Staph. Aureus*

www.iup.edu/healthawareness



MRSA Infection

What is MRSA?

MRSA is an infection from staph bacteria that has become resistant to the antibiotics commonly used to treat it.

Types of MRSA

HA-MRSA

Most MRSA infections are acquired in health care settings such as nursing homes or dialysis centers. Under these circumstances, it is called health care-associated MRSA (HA-MRSA). HA-MRSA often occurs during invasive procedures like surgery or implanted devices such as intravenous tubing or artificial joints. It is also spread from one infected patient to another uninfected person by staff members, caring for the patient, who do not practice proper hygiene.

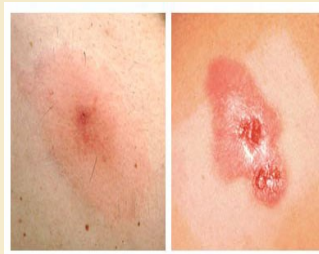


CA-MRSA

In other cases, MRSA infections occur in communities and can be contracted among healthy people. This community-acquired infection is called CA-MERSA. It begins as a painful skin boil and is spread through skin-to-skin contact.

Symptoms

Staph infections, including MRSA, often start off looking like small pimples, boils or spider bites. They are painful and soon become deep abscesses that require surgical draining. The bacteria may stay confined to the skin or it may burrow under the skin and infect joints and organs, in which case it may become life-threatening. Keep an eye on any disturbances to the skin like scrapes, bumps or pimples. If they become infected, see your doctor right away.



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Prevention

Practice good hygiene:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels and razors.



Risk Factors

Populations at risk for CA-MRSA include

- Athletes participating in contact sports
- People living in crowded/unsanitary conditions
- Men having sex with men

Populations at risk for HA-MRSA include

- Hospitalized patients
- Those with invasive medical devices
- Those residing in a long-term care facility

Diagnosis

MRSA is diagnosed through obtaining a sample of body tissue or nasal secretions. The sample is placed on a dish that encourages bacterial growth to identify whether or not it is antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Treatment

MRSA is a treatable infection. Though it is resistant to many antibiotics, it does still respond to some. The following is a list of antibiotics used to treat MRSA:

- * Bactrim
- * Vancomycin
- * Clindamycin
- * Minocycline
- * Tygacil
- * Cubicin
- * Zyvox
- * Synercid



If You Think You Have MRSA

Contact your medical provider immediately. The earlier the diagnosis, the more effective the treatment. You can make an appointment with Health Service by calling (724)-357-2550.