

Facts about MRSA

MRSA is a type of staphylococcus aureus (staph) bacteria commonly found on the skin and in the nose of healthy people. Staph that are resistant to the antibiotic methicillin (and other related antibiotics) are known as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA. A different type of antibiotic is used to treat a MRSA infection. When staph are present on or in the body without causing illness it is called "colonization." At any given time, from 20% to 50% of the general population is colonized with staph bacteria and are not ill or infected; some may be MRSA, while others are not anti-biotic resistant.

Spread of MRSA

MRSA was primarily seen in the hospital setting among sick and elderly people. Since the late 1990's, studies have shown that MRSA colonization and infections are occurring in healthy children and adults who do not have hospital-associated risk factors. It appears that these people have acquired MRSA in the community. People are more likely to get an infection if they have:

Skin to skin contact with the hands, wound drainage, or nasal secretions of a person who is infected or colonized with MRSA

Openings in their skin such as cuts or abrasions

Poor hygiene

Participate in a contact sports

Diagnosis of MRSA

Wound culture is taken by your private Health Care Provider