

MRSA

Methicillin Resistant
Staphylococcus Aureus

Patient Information

Infection Prevention and Control Department

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What is this bug?

It is a bacterium which is not easily killed by more commonly used antibiotics.

How does it affect me?

Nothing is visible but it may delay the healing process.

How do I catch MRSA?

It is one of the bacteria found in the environment from time to time and will do little or no harm unless it invades the body. The spread is usually by human contact.

How is MRSA identified?

By taking a specimen and sending it to the laboratory to be examined.

Can it be treated?

Yes, very successfully by prescribed ointment, washes or antibiotics.

How do I know when the bug has gone?

Only, when repeated specimens show no growth of the bacterium.

Can it come back?

Yes. Be careful with personal hygiene and hand washing. Be especially careful not to touch areas of broken skin and keep damaged skin covered.

Why are patients with MRSA nursed in an isolated room?

To prevent the spread of the bacterium to other patients, who may be more vulnerable.

How can the spread of MRSA be minimised?

By the thorough washing and drying of hands by everyone involved.

Can visitors to the ward catch MRSA?

Healthy people are at very little risk of catching MRSA. All visitors should see the nurse in charge before visiting. The nurse will give guidance and instruction on the prevention of the spread of infection. Visitors should keep cuts covered with a waterproof dressing and ensure they **wash their hands thoroughly on leaving** the ward.

Can visitors infect other people?

Not if they wash and dry their hands before and after visiting.

Are there any special instructions or precautions on discharge from hospital?

If the patient still has MRSA, the main precaution is to continue hand washing with soap and water and thorough drying. Special ointments or washes may continue to be prescribed for a while after discharge.

Will my marital and sexual life be affected?

No.

If you have any other questions or would like more information, please contact the district nurse or your own GP.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

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Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Personal Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your personal information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in department/ward.

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