

MRSA

METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

WHAT IS MRSA?

It is a strain of Staphylococcus which is resistant to treatment to most of the usual antibiotics. Like other Staph., the bacteria can cause infections in the skin, lungs, urinary tract, or the bloodstream. Skin infections often present as tender, red boils and are often mistaken for spider bites.

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

MRSA can be carried by an individual without any signs of infection, and can then be passed on to others unknowingly. Inanimate objects such as beds, linens, etc. can also harbor the bacteria. The usual sites of colonization with MRSA are the nostrils, rectum, groin, and under arms.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

A culture and sensitivity is done to determine the ideal antibiotic choice, but it is best to start taking an antibiotic immediately rather than wait for the results. An antibiotic ointment such as Mupirocin ointment should be applied to the wound, nostrils, and rectum 2 times per day for 10 days. Antibacterial soaps are advised along with frequent hand washing. Close contacts may also need to be treated.