

THE MRSA THREAT

A CONCERN ACROSS THE SPECIALTY SPECTRUM

MRSA By the Numbers

- MRSA identified as most common drug-resistant bug in North America, Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia¹
- From 2000 to 2005, the number of invasive MRSA infections in the US more than tripled to 94,360²
- More than one in five invasive MRSA infections resulted in death²
- MRSA killed 18,650 people in the US in 2005—a number larger than the 16,865 deaths due to AIDS^{2,3}
- MRSA now accounts for almost two-thirds of skin infections in emergency rooms, up from just 2% 35 years ago⁴
- Average length of stay for inpatients with *S. aureus* infections was three times longer than that for other inpatients (14.3 vs 4.5 days; $P < .001$)⁵
- Total hospital charges for inpatients with *S. aureus* infections were more than three times the total charges for other inpatients (\$48,824 vs \$14,141; $P < .001$)⁵
- CDC data show that the prevalence rate for MRSA, as the cause of any staphylococcal infection, has increased from 2% in 1974 to 63% in 2004⁶
- Decreased clinical success reported with vancomycin in MRSA bacteremia; clinical success rate was five times lower in patients with isolates demonstrating an MIC of 1.0 to 2.0 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ than in those with isolates demonstrating an MIC $\leq 0.5 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ($P = .01$)⁷

References:

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