

THE MRSA THREAT

A CONCERN ACROSS THE SPECIALTY SPECTRUM

Quotes

Resistant bacterial infections are not only a public health problem; they have national and global security implications as well.¹

Without innovative public policy and additional financial support, fewer and fewer antibiotics will be available to treat the increasing number of drug-resistant and dangerous microbes that threaten Americans and the global community.¹

Infectious Diseases Society of America

[We] can be confident that *S. aureus* isolates in general and MRSA isolates in particular will develop additional ways to overcome the deleterious effects of vancomycin.²

Fred C. Tenover, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

There's no question that poor hospital hygiene, overuse—and sometimes misuse—of antibiotics contribute to educating bugs at our expense. But preventative efforts alone won't solve our bacterial challenges. What we need most are better diagnostic tests and new medicines.³

Scott Gottlieb, MD, practicing physician and resident fellow, American Enterprise Institute, former Deputy Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration

To deal with the growing MRSA problem both in the community and the hospital, taking a multidisciplinary approach is of paramount importance.

Alpesh Amin, MD, MBA, Professor and Chief of the Division of Internal Medicine, University of California, Irvine

The continued evolution of *Staphylococcus aureus* has resulted in reduced efficacy of vancomycin therapy. In my experience, vancomycin is no longer a reliable therapeutic choice for patients with serious infections due to *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Stan Deresinski, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University

We need to use serious drugs to treat serious infections, especially with a pathogen as problematic as MRSA.

Michael Rybak, PharmD, MPH, Director of the Anti-infective Research Laboratory, Wayne State University

References:

1. Bad bugs, no drugs. Executive summary. Infectious Diseases Society of America Web site. <http://www.idsociety.org/Content.aspx?id=5558>. Accessed April 7, 2008.
2. Tenover FC. Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*: a perfect but geographically limited storm? *Clin Infect Dis*. 2008;46:675-677.
3. Gottlieb S. Attack of the superbugs. *Wall Street Journal*. October 30, 2007.