



MASON CHEMICAL COMPANY

t e c h n i c a l i n f o r m a t i o n



MRSA

(METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS)

Staphylococcus aureus is a type of bacterium (germ) it is not a disease. It is carried in the nose of 20 - 40% of normal healthy people. Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) is found most anywhere in the environment. Most of the time, this bacteria lives happily on the skin without causing any problems. However, in certain circumstances particularly when the skin is broken, this germ can cause boils, wound and other infections. It also may be inhaled and cause pneumonia although this is rather uncommon in children and healthy adults. It is usually the much older set, or those with immune deficiency problems that get pneumonia with this particular bacteria. Staph can multiply on food releasing a toxin that causes vomiting and diarrhea which usually resolves with time. The point is Staph can cause a lot of different types of infections, but it usually doesn't in otherwise healthy people.

Hospital patients are the most vulnerable to infection with Staph because they are unwell or may have surgical wounds. Also at risk is the older adult in a nursing home who has trouble clearing secretions with coughing.

Most Staph are sensitive to simple antibiotics. For example, when the typical child gets a cut on the leg and it gets infected, simple antibiotics by mouth clears things up rather well. Unfortunately, the overuse of antibiotics has made these simple Staph a little harder to kill. In some hospitals (particularly intensive care units) and nursing homes where antibiotic use is often high, there is a higher prevalence of resistant Staph. When Staph become resistant to methicillin (a simple type of penicillin), they are given the name MRSA. MRSA behave in the same way as ordinary Staph and do not cause different or more serious infections. However, infections with MRSA can be more difficult to treat as we have fewer antibiotics with which to treat them and sometimes suitable antibiotics cannot be swallowed and must be given by injection. For these reasons, there is concern about MRSA in hospitals and patients with MRSA may be isolated in side rooms or special wards, and strict precautions taken to prevent spread to others.

Although the environment is not regarded as a major reservoir in the spread of MRSA, it is recommended that procedures for the routine cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces must be followed by housekeeping personnel. The regular hospital disinfecting agent must be used at the proper dilution. It has become quite popular to have MRSA claims listed on hospital disinfectant labels.

Mason Chemical Company has a number of different label dilutions which carry the MRSA claim. Please give us a call, and let us discuss them with you.

