



Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in the institutionalized older patient

Submitted by Emmanuel Lemoine on Thu, 10/16/2014 - 14:07

Titre	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in the institutionalized older patient
Type de publication	Article de revue
Auteur	Eveillard, Matthieu [1], Joly-Guillou, Marie-Laure [2]
Editeur	Cambridge University Press (CUP)
Type	Article scientifique dans une revue sans comité de lecture
Année	2009
Langue	Anglais
Date	2009/02
Numéro	01
Pagination	13 - 23
Volume	19
Titre de la revue	Reviews in Clinical Gerontology
ISSN	1469-9036

Résumé en anglais

Summary Nursing homes and long-term care facilities are usually considered as reservoirs for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) carriers. Actually, there are major differences in MRSA carriage between institutions, with variations from 1% to more than 30%. Overall there is a low incidence of MRSA infection in these institutions, even though carriage is associated with a higher risk of subsequent MRSA infection, with high mortality rates. The main risk factors for carriage are well known: recent hospitalization in an acute-care ward, skin wounds and recent antimicrobial therapy. Age over 75 years is also a risk factor. Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities pose a risk of MRSA transfer to acute-care wards, with potential consequences in terms of infection control strategy or surgical antibiotic prophylaxis. No well-designed study has identified the best strategy for MRSA control in institutions for older people and strategies that have been proposed are controversial. Studies to elucidate this would be useful, as well as studies specifically designed to identify the relative importance of different ways of MRSA transmission in these institutions (cross-transmission via healthcare workers or the environment, or direct transmission from one resident to another). Finally, a first important step towards MRSA control is a strict application of standard precautions, particularly good compliance with hand hygiene.

URL de la notice	http://okina.univ-angers.fr/publications/ua4984 [3]
DOI	10.1017/S0959259809990141 [4]
Lien vers le document	http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0959259809990141 [4]

Liens

[1] <http://okina.univ-angers.fr/matthieu.eveillard/publications>

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[4] <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0959259809990141>

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