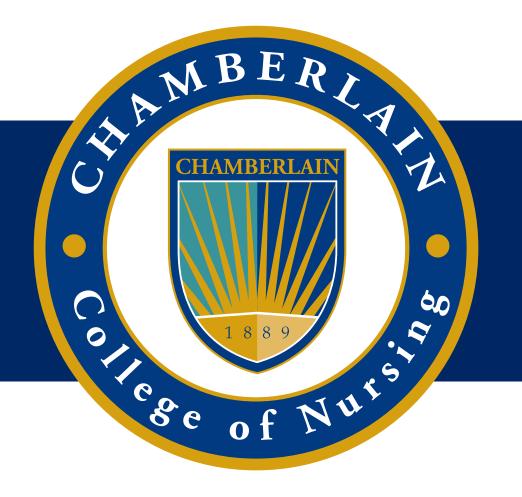
METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA) IN THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: THE NEED FOR INFECTION PREVENTION EDUCATION



Dorothy Uhurebor – Chamberlain College of Nursing Student

chamberlain.edu

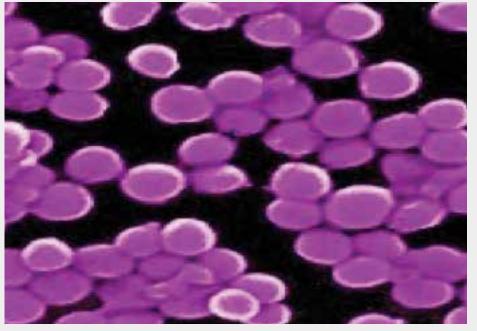
What Is MRSA

- Staphylococcus aureus ("staph") bacteria that has become resistant to "first-line" antibiotics
- Attacks on the skin and soft tissue
- Found in the skin and in the nose of healthy persons
- Cause minor skin infections such as boils or more serious infections such as pneumonia and blood poisoning
- Difficult to treat, but responds to incision and drainage and/or antibiotics

Identification

- Pain, swelling, warmth, tenderness
- Redness, small bump that looks like spider bite
- Boil
- Cyst





Prevention

- Evidence-based practice supports prevention of Skin and Soft Tissue Infection (SSTI) in correction facility by (Federal Bureau of Prison, 2012)
- Educating staff and inmates is key to proper management and implementation of treatment protocol
- Standard precaution
- Sanitation
- Periodic laboratory surveillance of inmates with wounds
- Inmate screening at intake
- Other preventative measures also include:
- Facility-wide screening for skin diseases for all inmates
- Provision of alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Hygiene education
- Proper wound care (Malcolm, 2011)
- Distributing and posting educational material at strategic positions, such as:
 - » Inmate admission packet
 - » Door entry and exit
 - » Common area
 - » Gym equipments (Shepard, 2003)

Treatment Protocol

- Evidence-based practices support prompt and aggressive treatment for SSTI such as MRSA
- Single cell, boil, cyst or draining lesions should be covered with breathable material such as tagarderm
- Initiate culture of drainage while ensuring that drainage is contained (CDC, 2003)
- Initiate conservative treatment measures pending culture of
- Warm soak and compresses
- Standardized antimicrobial treatment such as daily shower with antimicrobial cleanser such as Hibiclens and Hibistat (Shepard, 2006)
- Incision and drainage
- Antibiotic therapy on positive cultures
- Used for large STTIs (>5cm) with sign and symptoms of systemic infection
- Used in lieu of conservative treatment measures (Bureau of Prisons, 2012)

Why Infection Prevention Education

- Increasing awareness amongst staff and inmates that will surpass the challenges faced in implementation of the MRSA infection control measures
- Proper implementation of evidence-based prevention and treatment protocol
- To develop specific facility management/treatment protocol to eradicate and control MRSA infection in the specific correctional facilities

References

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