

Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

**Susan Hanson, RN, BSN
Stanford Hospital and Clinics**

Objectives

To determine the effectiveness of nasal swabbing every Coronary Care Unit (CCU) patient on admission for MRSA in order to diagnose active MRSA and to improve and evaluate nursing knowledge and understanding of MRSA.

Background

Hospitals in Chicago began screening every admitted patient for MRSA in September 2005, but research has revealed how ineffective nasal swabbing is in diagnosing active MRSA. The Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology of America (APIC) and The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) released a joint statement not supporting legislation to mandate the use of active surveillance cultures to screen for MRSA (i.e. nasal swabbing on admission).

Methods

The CCU staff was the target of an educational presentation on MRSA. Forty-one staff members were given an in-service on MRSA. Facts were presented with both a poster board presentation and a pre/post test with discussion. The pre/post test consisted of 6 questions which focused on wound assessment after treatment, differentiating between colonized MRSA and active infection, and Community Acquired MRSA (CA-MRSA) vs. Hospital Acquired MRSA (HA-MRSA). All questions were discussed in the poster board presentation.

Results

Pre-presentation, only 17 (44%) of staff achieved a score of >80% correct. However, post-presentation with discussion revealed 100% mastery. Staff knowledge of MRSA significantly increased.

Conclusions

Prior to presenting data to staff, the thought was that Stanford would eventually nasal swab all patients on admission. After the presentation, it was clearly understood why Stanford does not and will not nasal swab all admitted patients. Recommendations were discussed regarding teaching plans for patients discharged with MRSA and how to empower them in the community. The goal would be to decrease the spread of MRSA in the community, hence decreasing CA-MRSA in the hospital.