

Screening for MRSA Candidozyma auris and other HRMO

English

Naar het ziekenhuis? Lees eerst de informatie op www.asz.nl/brmo.

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Introduction

You have received a pack to be screened for MRSA (Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), *C. auris* (*Candidozyma auris*) and HRMO (Highly Resistant Microorganisms). This screening will determine whether you are a carrier of any of these bacteria.

This leaflet contains more information about these bacteria, the risk factors if you are carrying them, isolation measures and the collection, results and registration of the screening.

MRSA, *C. auris* and HRMO

MRSA is a highly resistant microorganism that closely resembles a common skin bacterium. In addition to MRSA, there are other highly resistant microorganisms, for which we use the abbreviation HRMO. These are usually bacteria that are very similar to bacteria that occur naturally in everyone's intestines.

Infections caused by 'common' skin bacteria and intestinal bacteria can usually be treated successfully using most antibiotics. Antibiotics are drugs that kill bacteria. However, MRSA, *C. auris* and HRMO have developed resistance to most antibiotics, making infections by these bacteria harder to treat.

Consequences for the patient and hospital

Most people who contract MRSA, C. auris or HRMO do not develop symptoms. If you have no symptoms, you are referred to as a 'carrier'. As a carrier, though, you can pass the bacteria on to other people.

These bacteria can cause serious problems in a hospital, where are many people in one place, which increases the chance of infection spreading.

That's why every hospital in the Netherlands is highly vigilant when it comes to preventing such spread. One of the ways we do this is by screening patients we suspect may be carrying MRSA, C. auris or another HRMO for the presence of these bacteria.

Risk factors for carrier status

You could possibly be a carrier if:

- You have recently undergone treatment at, or been admitted to, a hospital or nursing home abroad.
- You have been admitted over the past year to a hospital or nursing home in the Netherlands where MRSA, C. auris or HRMO was prevalent.
- Your partner/housemate or someone you care for is a carrier of MRSA, C. auris or HRMO.
- Your job means you come into contact with live pigs, veal calves, broiler hens or live on a farm where such animals are kept.
- You live in a reception centre for asylum seekers.
- You are under 18 years of age and have been adopted from abroad.

Isolation

When we suspect you may be carrying these bacteria upon admission to hospital, admission for less than 24 hours (day treatment, dialysis) or when attending the accident and emergency department, isolation measures (strict isolation) will be required.

These isolation measures will be lifted if no MRSA, C. auris or HRMO are detected during screening. No isolation measures are required for visitors to the outpatient clinic. The isolation measures are as follows:

- You will be cared for in an isolation room. This is a single-occupancy room with an air lock (space between the corridor and the room).
- You will not be allowed to leave the room, except for tests or treatment.
- The door to your room will be kept closed whenever possible.
- Hospital staff and visitors who come to your room will wear protective clothing.
- If you have to leave the room or ward, you must wear a face mask. The nursing staff will provide you with this mask.
- Your family can take your laundry home with them. They must place the laundry in a plastic bag in your room. It must then be placed in a second plastic bag in the isolation room's air lock or in the corridor of the ward.

Screening for MRSA, C. auris and HRMO

To find out whether you are a carrier of MRSA, C. auris or another HRMO, you will need to be screened. The information provided with

this pack will tell you what to do. If you are unable to do this yourself, you can ask your GP.

Result and registration

If the screening shows that you are carrying MRSA, C. auris or BRMO, the doctor treating you will let you know as soon as possible and will explain whether treatment is necessary.

Your GP will also be informed.

On top of that, we will add a note to your electronic patient record stating that you are a carrier. This note will ensure that on your next visit (if any) to the Albert Schweitzer hospital, it will be clear that you are a carrier of MRSA, C. auris or HRMO. If necessary, isolation measures will be taken.

Carrier status and treatment

If you are a carrier of MRSA, you may be treated with antibiotics. The doctor treating you will make the decision as to whether this is necessary.

If you are a carrier of C. auris or an HRMO, you will not be treated with antibiotics. That is because so far, this has not proved useful.

As well as carrying the bacteria, people with reduced resistance may also develop an MRSA, C. auris or HRMO infection. These infections can usually be treated with antibiotics, though.

To conclude

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, feel free to call the Infection Prevention department, tel. +31 (0)78 654 50 00. We'll be happy to assist you.

Let us know what you think about this leaflet: www.asz.nl/foldertest/

Albert Schweitzer ziekenhuis

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