

Onderzoek naar MRSA en andere BRMO

Engels

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

**albert
schweitzer**

Introduction

You have received a pack to be screened for MRSA (Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) 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 for carrier status, isolation measures and the collection, result and recording of the screening.

MRSA and HRMO

MRSA is a highly resistant microorganism that closely resembles a common skin bacterium (*Staphylococcus aureus*). In addition to MRSA, there are also 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' *Staphylococcus aureus* and intestinal bacteria can usually be treated successfully with most antibiotics. Antibiotics are drugs that kill bacteria. However, MRSA and HRMO have developed resistance to most antibiotics, making infections with these bacteria harder to treat.

Consequences for the patient and hospital

Most people who contract MRSA 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. In a hospital, there are many people in one place, which increases the chance of spread.

That is why every hospital in the Netherlands is particularly vigilant when it comes to preventing their spread. One of the ways we do this is by screening patients suspected of possibly carrying MRSA 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 foreign hospital or nursing home.
- You were admitted last year to a Dutch hospital or nursing home where MRSA or HRMO was prevalent.
- Your partner/house-mate or someone you care for is a carrier of MRSA 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

If carrier status is suspected upon hospital admission, 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 MRSA and HRMO are not detected during screening. No isolation measures are required for visitors to the outpatient clinic. The isolation measures are as follows:

- You will be nursed in an isolation room. This is a single-occupancy room with an anteroom (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 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 the mask.
- Your family can take your laundry home with them. They must place the laundry in a plastic bag in your room. It must be placed in a second plastic bag in the isolation room's anteroom or in the corridor of the ward.

Screening for MRSA and other HRMO

To find out whether you are a carrier of MRSA 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 a carrier of the MRSA 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.

We will also place a note in 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 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 HRMO, you will not be treated with antibiotics. That is because so far this has not proved useful.

As well as acquiring carrier status, people with reduced resistance can also develop an MRSA or HRMO infection. Infections are usually 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/

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