

Meet the Superbugs

Methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus*

Also called: MRSA **Say it:** meth-eh-SILL-in ri-ZIST-uhnt staff-ill-oh-KOK-us AW-ree-us

About: Commonly found worldwide, MRSA is a bacterium resistant to the antibiotic methicillin. Risk factors include recent hospitalization, surgery, living in a nursing home or use of catheter. Infection can also be acquired from the community¹

Shape: Spherical, 'grape like' clusters² **Year identified:** 1960³

Potential threats include: Hospital-related pneumonia, bacteria in the bloodstream, skin and soft tissue infections, and sometimes rapidly fatal necrotizing pneumonia¹

One way to fight this superbug: Use antibiotics as directed by your doctor^{1,4}

1. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 7th edition, edited by Gerald L. Mandell, John E. Bennett, and Raphael Dolin, 2009.
2. Taylor TA, Unakal CG. *Staphylococcus Aureus*. StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2020 Jan. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK441868/> Last accessed: June 2020
3. Harkins, CP *et al.* "Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* emerged long before the introduction of methicillin into clinical practice." *Genome biology*, 2017;18(1):130. doi:10.1186/s13059-017-1252-9
4. Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC). Antibiotic do's and don'ts: what you can do. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/antibioticuse/community/about/can-do.html>. Last accessed August 2020

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