

Infection Prevention and Control/Renal

Prevention of MRSA infections from renal vascular catheter (line) insertions

This information is for patients receiving preventative treatment for MRSA before having a dialysis line inserted or for patients who already have a dialysis line which needs changing.

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust takes MRSA and other healthcare associated infections extremely seriously. We are committed to reducing infections in our hospitals and giving our patients high quality health care.

What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for **(M)** Methicillin **(R)** Resistant **(S)** Staphylococcus **(A)** Aureus. MRSA are varieties of Staphylococcus Aureus that have developed resistance to Methicillin (a type of penicillin) and some other antibiotics that are used to treat infections.

Most people who have MRSA are known as colonised. This means that the germ is present on the surface of the skin and does not cause any harm to the person. People who are colonised will have no signs or symptoms of infection and feel well.

However, if you come into hospital to undergo a procedure, such as a line insertion or line change, there may be an opportunity for MRSA to enter the body. This is why patients are given a skin wash to suppress the germ from the skin and nasal ointment to suppress the germ from the nose, this is known as decolonisation.



Why do we need to decolonise for MRSA?

As part of the process when your haemodialysis line is inserted, or changed, patients will be routinely given preventative treatment for MRSA. This helps to suppress the germ and prevents it being introduced into your blood stream as your line has been inserted. MRSA may cause harm when it gets the opportunity to enter the body. It can cause simple infections such as pimples, boils or more serious problems such as wound infections, chest infections or blood stream infections (septicaemia). If a patient has an infection caused by MRSA then there are a number of antibiotics that can be given that are effective.

What will happen when my dialysis line is inserted?

If your line insertion, or line change, is planned, you will be given a wash to use once a day and an ointment to apply to your nostrils three times daily. Use both products for five days in a row before your line is inserted. If you have had a line inserted, or line change as an emergency, or an unplanned procedure, you will need to use the wash and ointment for five consecutive days afterwards.

Decolonisation programme

You will need to follow plan below, the name of the wash solution will be Octenisan or Hibiscrub and the name of the nasal cream will be Mupirocin. The member of staff supplying you with this treatment should explain but if you are unsure please ask your renal nurse or renal doctor to explain further. It is important you follow the plan and apply the products correctly.

Plan

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Use nose cream				
Use wash				

Patient Information

How to use the wash

- Ensure all skin surfaces are covered when using the body wash;
- Ensure that your hair and body are wet;
- Put lotion onto a damp disposable wet cloth;
- Apply lotion all over hair and body, paying special attention to your armpits, groin and feet;
- Leave the lotion on your skin for one minute before rinsing;
- Rinse off thoroughly;
- Dry with a clean, dry towel;
- Put on clean underclothes or nightwear every day.

Method of application of nasal ointment

- Place a small amount of ointment, about the size of a match head, on a cotton bud or on your finger;
- Apply to the inside of each nostril (apply to the front part of the nostril);
- Close the nostril by pressing the sides of the nose together; this will spread the ointment through the nostrils.

Further advice

If you wish to discuss any part of your preventative treatment for MRSA or have any further concerns please contact:

Infection Prevention and Control Team on 024 7696 4791

Or

Member of the renal team on 024 7696 6785

General Advice and Consent

Most of your questions may have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only the starting point for discussion with your healthcare team.

Patient Information

Before any doctor, nurse or therapist examines or treats you, they must seek your consent or permission. In order to make a decision you need to have the information from health professionals about the treatment or investigation which is being offered to you. You should always ask them more questions if you do not understand or if you want more information.

The information you receive should be about your condition, the alternatives available to you, and whether it carries risks as well as benefits.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7777 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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