

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Where do you find MRSA?

- Anterior nares
- Axilla, groin, perineum, rectum
- Dermatic skin, skin ulcers
- I.V. sites
- Indwelling catheters
- Tracheostomy tubes
- Feeding tubes

Antibiotic Resistance Profiles of MRSA:¹

- All B-lactam antibiotics
- 94% resistant to clindamycin and erythromycin
- 89% resistant to ciprofloxacin
- 56% resistant to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
- 33% resistant to tetracycline
- 3% resistant to rifampin
- 3% resistant to fusidic acid
- 2% resistant to mupirocin

Antibiotic resistance varies from region to region in Canada

Suggestions for office practice involving MRSA patients:

- Hand hygiene
- When dealing with open wound:
 - * Gloves, Mask, Gown
 - * Contact isolation
 - * Barrier precautions
- Book MRSA patients at the end of the clinic day
- Educate patient about MRSA at home
- Educate office staff about reducing MRSA spread

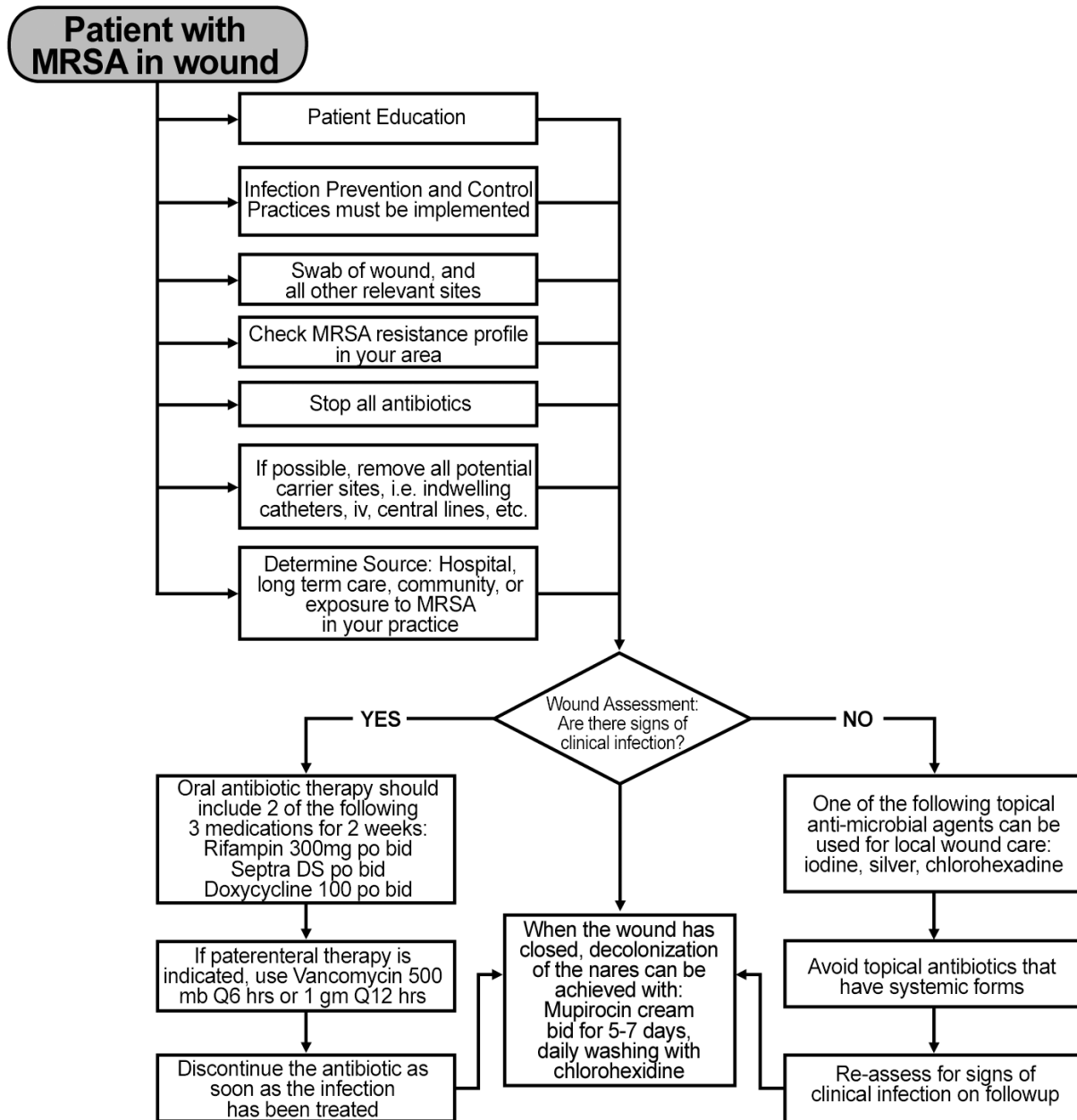
Practical Points in Wound Care:

- Open wounds always contain bacteria
- Don't try to eliminate bacteria from a wound
- Don't try to decolonize the nares, if there is an open wound
- Don't use oral antibiotics to "treat" wound colonization or wound contamination
- Don't try to prevent wound infection with antibiotics
- Discontinue antibiotics when symptoms and signs of infection improve.
- Do not let the presence of MRSA affect your decision about the diagnosis of infection.

¹ Andrew E. Simor, Marianna Ofner-Agostini, Elizabeth Bryce, Karen Green, Allison McGeer, Michael Mulvey, and Shirley Paton **The evolution of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Canadian hospitals: 5 years of national surveillance.** *Can. Med. Assoc. J.* Jul 2001;165:21-26.

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Treatment Flowchart



*Immunocompromised patients may NOT show typical signs and symptoms of infections, but may require a limited course of systemic antibiotics to control critical colonization of MRSA in their wounds.

Visit www.SkinTherapyLetter.ca for more information on the treatment of Bacterial Infection.

Patients can visit www.SkinCareGuide.ca

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