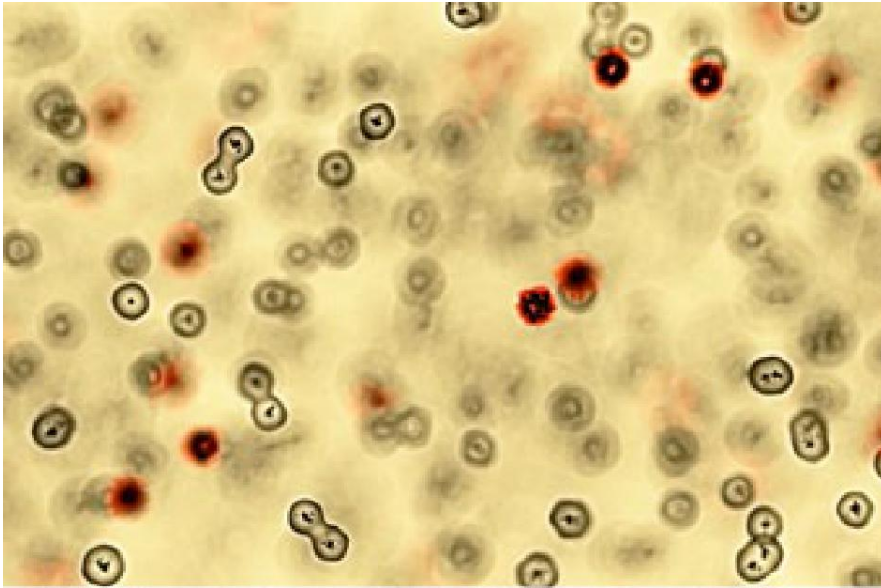




MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) Infection



Overview

This type of infection is caused by a strain of bacteria that is resistant to many antibiotics. Because of this, it is hard to treat. A MRSA infection can cause serious complications. It can be life-threatening.

Causes

MRSA infection is typically caused by direct contact with the bacteria. Most people who get a MRSA infection contract it while in a hospital or other healthcare setting. Healthcare workers can spread it to patients by touching them with contaminated hands. It can be spread during surgical procedures, and through contaminated intravenous tubing or other equipment. Also, some people carry this bacteria in their nasal passages. They may not show signs of illness, but they can spread infection to others.

Symptoms

A MRSA infection usually begins in the skin as a series of small, red bumps. As the infection progresses, these bumps turn into abscesses. They are painful, and full of fluid. The infection can travel deep within the skin. It can infect other tissues, bones and joints.

Treatment

A MRSA infection can be difficult to treat. It requires a doctor's care. A doctor can treat a MRSA infection in the skin by draining fluid from the infection. The infection can also be treated with certain antibiotics that are not used for more common infections.

Complications

A MRSA infection that is not treated properly can lead to serious complications. It can spread through the bloodstream to other parts of the body. MRSA can infect the lungs, the heart and other organs. It may cause symptoms such as headache, cough, fever and chills. A severe infection can be fatal.