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MRSA in Wales

Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
Martin S. Favero, PhD

Over the past 5 years, hospitals in Wales have experienced difficulties with increasing numbers of isolates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

Morgan and coinvestigators from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Wales, collected data on each MRSA isolate and patient. Surveillance started in January 1996, and, at the end of this first year, 2,700

new isolates of MRSA had been reported in Wales, for a rate of 92.43 per 100,000 population.

The incidence of MRSA from bacteremias and CSF was 5.20 per 100,000 compared with 12.70 per 100,000 for MSSA. MRSA patients were significantly older and more likely to be male: for all MRSA isolates, the highest reporting rate was in men aged 75 and older (647/100,000). The highest incidence of invasive disease was also in men aged 75 and older (46/100,000). Isolates from post-surgical patients

were more likely to be involved in invasive disease (odds ratio, 2.59; $P < .001$) than strains from other sources. The majority of isolates were resistant to at least two antibiotics in addition to methicillin, most frequently erythromycin and the fluoroquinolones.

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