

ABSTRACT

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Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a specific strain of the *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium which has developed resistance to penicillins, methicillin and other β lactamase-resistant broad-spectrum antibiotics. MRSA has been especially prevalent in hospitalized patients, causing numerous post-surgical infections. Current guidelines require pre-surgical patients to be screened for MRSA colonisation, but dentures are not included in this regime, despite previous studies showing that the presence of an oral prosthesis may encourage oral MRSA colonisation. This study determined the prevalence of *Staph. aureus* and MRSA isolated from the dentures in a group of UCLH in-patients. ~~he denture acting as a source of reservoir of infection, causing healthcare workers to pass on the pathogen to other patients in the wards.~~

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~~Before this study could be undertaken, ethical approval had to be obtained through the submission of a COREC form with strict protocols in place to maintain patient confidentiality. A patient information leaflet was created to ensure that informed consent was obtained from all patients who took part in the study, and protocols informed Denture consent. This study took Denture plaque samples belonging to 42 hospital in-patients and were cultured and screened for them for MRSA, identified using guidelines laid out by the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.~~

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Of the 42 samples collected, 24 (57.1 %) were identified as *Staph. aureus* of which 35.7-9.5% (154) were classified as Methicillin-sensitive *Staph. aureus*

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~~but~~ 21% (9) were found to contain MRSA. ~~—~~ This contrasts notably with the 1% MRSA prevalence found in a cohort of 100 UCLH out-patients ~~study of 100 patients~~ (Lewis et al, ~~2006~~). ~~—~~ and 9.5% (4) were classified as Methicillin sensitive *S.aureus*. ~~It was concluded~~ Our findings support the ~~concept~~ ~~that~~ ~~concept that~~ MRSA ~~was~~ is able to ~~survive on~~ colonise oral prostheses and ~~that we found that~~ hospital in-patients ~~may be~~ appear to be susceptible to having ~~this bacterium on~~ colonise their dentures. ~~—~~ Further studies on the prevalence of MRSA on dentures at different hospitals are required with the construction of ~~effective~~ effective denture cleansing protocols for all hospital in-patients ~~—~~ need to be instated.

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