

MRSA cannot be eliminated from diabetic foot clinic

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Background: MRSA infection is common in diabetic foot ulcer. Our previous audit in 2002 the prevalence of MRSA was 33.3% so we implemented changes such as strict hand washing and restrict the use of antibiotics only in clinically infected cases. In our re-audit this reduced to 16.7% of total positive cultures by 2006/07 but subjects with MRSA infection had worse clinical outcome. **Aim:** The aim of this audit was to study if the prevalence of MRSA can further be reduced and to evaluate outcome of these patients and their foot ulcers. **Subjects & Methods:** This was a retrospective audit conducted on patients attending foot clinic from January 2011 to December 2012. The list of subjects attending foot clinic at 2 local hospitals was obtained from clinical coding department. Their clinical, biochemical and microbiology record were studied and relevant information collected. **Results:** Electronic results of 126 patients (mean age 69.3 +/- 12.8 years & 81 males) with diabetic foot ulcers presenting to foot clinic from 2011 to 2012 were analysed. 16 had Type 1 and 110 had Type 2 diabetes, out of which 45 were on insulin. 115 had surface swab and 17 (14.8%) had MRSA, which was similar to that 5 years back but lower than 10 years previously.

Organism	2002 (n=32)	2006/07 (n=114)	2011/12 (n=115)
MSSA	11	34	46
MRSA	12	19	17
Strep	7	20	17
Coliform	5	8	2
Anaerobes	1	27	17
No growth	8	22	17
Mixed Growth	1	27	19
Other organism	0	10	15

There was no difference ($P > 0.05$) in age, sex, type of diabetes, HbA1c, presence of cardiovascular disease, serum creatinine and total cholesterol between subjects with and without MRSA. There was no difference in mortality or recurrence of ulcers between subjects with and without MRSA infection. **Discussion:** Our observation shows that incidence of MRSA can be reduced but not eliminated from the foot clinic. However, outcome of its treatment can be as good as those without MRSA.