Patient Education

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

MDR Acinetobacter

What is it?

- MDR Acinetobacter stands for multi-drug resistant Acinetobacter.
- Acinetobacter is a germ (bacteria) that is found naturally in soil, water and on skin.
- MDR Acinetobacter sometimes causes infections.
- This bacteria is resistant to many antibiotics commonly used to treat infections.
- Infections can occur in wounds, blood, lungs or the urinary system.
- It can be found on the skin or in the rectal area without causing infection. This is called the carrier state.
- MDR Acinetobacter is not harmful to healthy people. Some of the reasons that put a person at risk of getting it include:
  - poor nutrition
  - being elderly
  - use of a urinary catheter
  - frequent use of antibiotics
  - frequent admissions to the hospital
  - having open wounds

How is it spread?

- It is spread from one person to another, usually on the hands of caregivers. It can be spread by not cleaning your hands after having contact with people who have it or by handling things that they have used.

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Is there treatment for it?

- If you have an infection there are some antibiotics that can be used.
- If you have it, but are not sick from it (carrier state) no treatment is needed.
- It may clear up on its own.

What can be done to prevent the spread of it?

- Cleaning your hands with alcohol based hand rub or soap and water is the best way to stop the spread of MDR Acinetobacter.
- If you are in the hospital, you will be cared for using Contact Precautions and will need follow-up laboratory testing.
- Always remember to tell your doctor, nurses, dentist, paramedics or other care providers that you may have MDR Acinetobacter.

Stop the spread of germs and infection. Clean your hands.

This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask Infection Prevention & Control, your physician or health care provider.

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