

VISA / VRSA

Vancomycin Intermediate Staphylococcus aureus (VISA)

Vancomycin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (VRSA)

What is it?

- VISA stands for Vancomycin Intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* and VRSA stands for Vancomycin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.
- VISA and VRSA are bacteria (germs) that are very rare but are a big concern for hospitals and other healthcare facilities.
- *Staphylococcus aureus* (or “Staph”) is a germ (bacteria) commonly found on the skin and in the nose of people without causing infection.
- Sometimes *Staphylococcus aureus* can cause an infection. Infections can occur in wounds, lungs, blood and urinary tract.
- Staph bacteria can change and become resistant to certain antibiotics such as Vancomycin. This makes infections difficult to treat:
 - VISA has **some** resistance to Vancomycin antibiotic.
 - VRSA has **complete** resistance to Vancomycin antibiotic.
- Some of the reasons that put a person at risk of getting VISA or VRSA include:
 - chronic diseases such as diabetes or kidney disease
 - having an IV or bladder catheter device
 - having had MRSA or VRE bacteria
 - recent stay in a hospital
 - recently on Vancomycin or other antibiotics

How is it spread?

- These bacteria are spread from one person to another, usually on the hands of caregivers. VISA or VRSA can also be spread by not cleaning your hands after having contact with people who have it or by handling things that they have used.
- VISA or VRSA are **NOT** spread through the air by coughing or sneezing.

Is there treatment for it?

- VISA or VRSA bacteria are not killed by common antibiotics including Vancomycin, but if you have an infection there are some antibiotics that can be used for treatment

What can be done to prevent the spread of it?

- Cleaning your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water is the best way to stop the spread of VISA or VRSA
- If you are in the hospital, you will be cared for using Contact Precautions (isolation). Staff and visitors will wear a gown and gloves and you will need follow-up laboratory testing.
- Always remember to tell your doctor, nurses, dentist, paramedics or other care providers that you may have VISA or VRSA

Visitors/Families:

- Must clean their hands thoroughly before and after visiting, and avoid touching people's wounds or bandages.
- Must follow Contact Precautions sign posted outside your room.

For more information visit:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/visa_vrsa/visa_vrsa.html

Adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures by staff and visitors is required to prevent the spread of infection

**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 or your health care provider.