

Multi resistant *Acinetobacter*

What is *Acinetobacter*?

Acinetobacter is a type of bacteria (germ) that is found in the environment, for example it can be found in the soil and surface water. It is found harmlessly on the skin of healthy people.

In the majority of people, the bacteria will simply stay on the skin causing no problems (known as colonisation). However, in some vulnerable people *Acinetobacter* can cause pneumonia, urine, wound and blood stream infections.

Some strains of *Acinetobacter* are resistant to antibiotics; these are called multi resistant strains and can be difficult to treat.

Does it need treatment?

No treatment is required if it is living harmlessly on the skin (colonisation).

However, if you have an infection caused by *Acinetobacter* then you will be given appropriate antibiotics. Your condition will be monitored to ensure that the correct treatment is given to you.

How is it spread?

It is mainly spread by person to person contact, for example on hands. It can also be spread through contaminated surfaces and equipment.

What precautions are taken to stop it spreading?

You will be nursed in a side room to prevent the spread of infection and people providing direct care will wear protective clothing. Attention will be given to environmental cleaning. It is very important that thorough hand hygiene is carried out, washing hands with soap and water or alcohol hand rub.

Are my family or friends at risk?

Acinetobacter is not a risk to healthy individuals, including babies and children. There is no need for visitors to wear aprons and gloves whilst visiting. However, all visitors are encouraged to wash their hands or use alcohol rub before entering and leaving the side room.

How do I find out more?

More information is available from your doctor or nurse. Other people that can answer your questions include the Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) at the local Health Protection Unit and members of the Infection Prevention and Control Team at the hospital.

Public Health England

0345 279 9879

Infection Prevention and Control Team

0118 322 7114 email: infection.control@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Reviewed Infection Prevention & Control: November 2017

Review due: November 2019