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1 Chlorhexidine and Mupirocin for Clearance of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
2 Colonization After Hospital Discharge: A Secondary Analysis of the CLEAR Trial

3
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19
20 **Running Title:** Post-Discharge MRSA Decolonization Randomized Trial

1 ABSTRACT

2 **BACKGROUND:** The CLEAR trial demonstrated that a multi-site body decolonization regimen
3 reduced post-discharge infection and hospitalization in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus*
4 *aureus* (MRSA) carriers. This report describes decolonization efficacy in clearing site-specific
5 MRSA colonization during the trial.

6 **METHODS:** We performed a large, multi-center, randomized clinical trial of MRSA
7 decolonization among adult patients after hospital discharge with MRSA infection or
8 colonization. Participants were randomized 1:1 to either MRSA prevention education or
9 education plus decolonization with 4% topical chlorhexidine daily, 0.12% oral chlorhexidine
10 rinse twice daily, and 2% nasal mupirocin twice daily. The intervention was given for five
11 consecutive days twice monthly. Participants were swabbed in the nares, throat, axilla/groin, and
12 wound (if applicable) at baseline, 1, 3, 6, and 9 months after randomization. The primary
13 outcomes of this report are follow-up colonization differences between groups.

14 **RESULTS:** Among 2,121 participants, 1,058 were randomized to the decolonization group. By
15 one month, MRSA colonization was lower in the decolonization group compared to the
16 education only group (OR=0.44 [95% Confidence Interval 0.36-0.54, $p \leq 0.001$). Similar
17 magnitude of reduction was seen in the nares (OR=0.34 [0.27-0.42], $p < 0.001$) throat (OR=0.55
18 [0.42-0.73], $p < 0.001$), and axilla/groin (OR=0.57 [0.43-0.75], $p < 0.001$). These differences
19 persisted through month 9 except at the wound site, which had a relatively small sample size.
20 Higher regimen adherence was associated with lower MRSA colonization ($p \leq 0.01$).

21 **CONCLUSION:** In a randomized clinical trial, a repeated post-discharge decolonization
22 regimen for MRSA carriers reduced MRSA colonization overall and at multiple body sites.
23 Higher treatment adherence was associated with greater reductions in MRSA colonization.

1 **Key Words:** MRSA, decolonization, clinical trial, post-discharge

2

3 *Staphylococcus aureus* remains a common cause of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and
4 the most common pathogen responsible for device and procedural infections.[1] As the dominant
5 resistant form, MRSA infections cause or complicate 278,000 hospitalizations annually in the
6 US, including 56,000 septic events, and 19,000 MRSA-related deaths.[2]
7 Furthermore, hospitalized MRSA colonized or infected persons are at high risk for post-
8 discharge MRSA infection.[3-5] MRSA carriers from a tertiary care hospital were reported to
9 have a 14% risk of post-discharge MRSA infection in the subsequent year associated with a 9%
10 attributable risk of death.[3] Others have estimated that 23.5/10,000 hospital admissions are
11 associated with a post-discharge MRSA infection.[6] The Centers for Disease Control and
12 Prevention (CDC) estimated that 79% of community-onset healthcare-associated MRSA
13 infections occurred among patients hospitalized in the prior year.[7]
14 MRSA prevention studies have largely focused on hospitalized patients where decolonization
15 protocols with chlorhexidine have reduced infection risk among surgical patients[8, 9] and in the
16 ICU setting.[10-12] The Changing Lives by Eradicating Antibiotic Resistance (CLEAR) Trial
17 was a randomized controlled clinical trial of repeated decolonization versus standard-of-care
18 among adult MRSA carriers discharged from acute care hospitals. The CLEAR Trial found that
19 decolonization reduced the main outcomes of MRSA infection by 30% and all-cause infection by
20 17% compared to education alone.[13] The report herein describes in details the efficacy of this
21 decolonization regimen on nasal, oropharyngeal, and skin MRSA colonization.

22

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1 METHODS

2 Study Design

3 The CLEAR Trial was a previously published unblinded randomized controlled superiority trial
4 comparing a twice-monthly 5-day decolonization regimen involving chlorhexidine bathing, oral
5 chlorhexidine rinse, and intranasal mupirocin plus patient education versus patient education
6 alone following discharge from acute care hospitals.[13] In this report, we describe the impact of
7 the trial on the secondary outcome of MRSA colonization. This study was approved by a
8 centralized Institutional Review Board at the University of California Irvine.

9 Recruitment

10 Details of the CLEAR Trial have been previously published.[13] In brief, participants were adult
11 (≥ 18 years) inpatients with microbiologically-confirmed MRSA colonization or infection at
12 several Southern California hospitals. Informed written consent to participate in the post-
13 discharge trial was obtained from all participants or legal representatives. Inclusion criteria
14 included being able to bathe or shower regularly, either independently or with the aid of a
15 caregiver.[13] Exclusion criteria included allergy to study products and moribund state unlikely
16 to survive hospitalization. A full list of inclusion and exclusion criteria are found in
17 Supplemental Table 1.

18 Randomization and Intervention

19 Participants were randomized at 1:1 ratio to the standard-of-care group or the intervention group
20 using a stratification scheme described previously.[13] The standard-of-care education group
21 participants received education on enhanced hygiene to prevent MRSA infection. The
22 intervention group received the same education plus nasal 2% mupirocin, 4% rinse-off

1 chlorhexidine body wash, and 0.12% chlorhexidine mouth wash to use Monday-Friday twice
2 monthly (every other week) for six months.

3 Initial and Follow-up Visits, and Laboratory Studies

4 Participants underwent an initial in-person evaluation prior to, or shortly after, hospital discharge
5 (baseline visit), and also had in-person follow-up visits at 1, 3, 6, and 9 months (M1, M3, M6,
6 and M9 visits). During each in-person visit, participants completed a risk factor survey to collect
7 demographic, socio-economic, medical, and behavioral history, and were swabbed at up to four
8 body sites: 1) anterior nares, 2) pharyngeal arches, 3) bilateral groin and axilla (using a single
9 swab), and 4) open wounds (if present). Pre-moistened cotton tip swabs (BD BBL™
10 CultureSwab™) were used for sampling, and all samples were processed within 48 hours of
11 collection for detection of MRSA using selective media: SPECTRA MRSA plate (Remel,
12 Lenexa, KS). A final 12-month follow-up phone visit was performed without sampling.

13 Participants in the decolonization group provided self-reported adherence estimates for the
14 topical chlorhexidine, nasal mupirocin, and chlorhexidine oral rinse using a standardized survey
15 during the M1, M3, and M6 visit (no adherence assessment was done at the M9 visit given the
16 decolonization intervention lasted only through the M6 visit). Participant adherence was
17 trichotomized into 3 groups: full adherence (all prescribed doses taken), partial adherence (at
18 least some of prescribed doses taken), and non-adherence (no prescribed doses taken).

19 Statistical Analysis

20 Overall and body site-specific colonization proportions were calculated for each group by visit
21 and compared between groups using chi-square tests. Odds ratios and confidence intervals were
22 calculated using standard techniques. In accordance with the trial design, MRSA colonization
23 proportions were also evaluated in 4 subgroups between baseline and month 6 (Hispanics, non-

1 Hispanics, recent surgery patients, and nursing home residents). To understand predictors of
2 persistent colonization, we performed multivariable generalized linear mixed effects models to
3 assess predictors of colonization at months 1, 3, 6, and 9, accounting for clustering on the
4 participant, age, gender, race/ethnicity, insurance status, nursing home residence, comorbidities,
5 and treatment allocation. Independent variables assessed included adherence reported at each
6 visit as time varying covariate. Models were assessed for overall colonization and body site-
7 specific colonization whereby adherence was limited to the body site-specific product (e.g.
8 mupirocin for the outcome of nasal colonization; chlorhexidine body wash, axilla/groin
9 colonization; and chlorhexidine mouth wash, throat colonization).

10 RESULTS

11 A total of 2121 participants were enrolled, with 1063 patients randomized to the education only
12 group and 1058 patients to the decolonization group. The majority of hospital enrollment
13 cultures were from nasal surveillance (n=1182, 56%), followed by wound (n= 625, 29%),
14 respiratory (n= 89, 4.2%), blood (n =74, 3.5%), urine (n= 63, 3.0%), bone/joint (n=29, 1.4%),
15 and other (n = 59, 2.8%). Participant characteristics were similar between study groups (Table 1).
16 Median age was 56.0 years (range 18.1-97.4; mean 55.9 years with standard deviation=17). The
17 most common comorbidities included diabetes (40%), COPD (20%), and immunocompromised
18 state (19%) (Table 1). Visit completion was 76% at M1 (78% in the education group vs. 74% in
19 the decolonization group, p=0.04), 72% at M3 (73% vs. 70%, p=0.12), 66% at M6 (68% vs.
20 64%, p=0.06), and 61% at M9 (62% vs. 60%, p=0.34).

21 At enrollment, all participants had recent hospital cultures for MRSA per eligibility criteria.
22 Swabs taken after enrollment were performed from the nose, throat, axilla/groin, and wound (if
23 any) revealed similar proportions of participants who were positive for MRSA: 60% in the

1 decolonization group and 61% in the education group ($P=0.86$). Site-specific baseline
2 colonization at the nares, throat, and axilla, did not differ between groups (Table 2). On all
3 follow up visits, MRSA colonization was higher in the education versus decolonization group:
4 M1 (48% (399/828) vs. 29% (226/783), $p<0.001$), M3 (49% (381/780) vs. 24% (177/739),
5 $p<0.001$), M6 (44% (319/721) vs. 24% (159/675), $p<0.001$), and M9 (43% (282/663) vs. 27%
6 (174/636), $p<0.001$) (Figure 1a). Similar colonization differences were seen in the nares,
7 throat, axilla/groin (Figure 1b-d). Figure 2 illustrates similar differences in MRSA colonization
8 between groups in the subset of participants who completed all visits.

9 At the M1 visit, overall MRSA colonization was lower in the decolonization group compared to
10 the education group (OR=0.44 [95% confidence interval 0.36-0.54], $p<0.001$). Significant
11 reductions were seen in the nares (OR=0.34 [0.27-0.42], $p<0.001$), throat (OR=0.55 [0.42-0.73],
12 $p<0.001$), and axilla/groin (OR=0.57 [0.43-0.75], $p<0.001$). At the M6 visit, overall MRSA
13 colonization remained lower in the decolonization group for nares (OR=0.37 [0.28-0.47],
14 $p<0.001$), throat (OR=0.61 [0.43-0.85], $p=0.003$), axilla/groin (OR=0.39 [0.28-0.57, $p<0.001$),
15 and wounds (OR=0.38 [0.16 – 0.90], $p=0.02$). At the M9 visit, overall MRSA colonization
16 remained lower in the decolonization group for nares (OR=0.53 [0.42-0.68], $p<0.001$), throat
17 (OR=0.60 [0.43-0.85], $p=0.003$), axilla/groin (OR=0.67 [0.49-0.91, $p=0.01$), but not for wounds
18 (OR=0.66 [0.26 – 1.66], $p=0.38$).

19 Among prespecified trial subgroups, MRSA colonization significantly decreased among
20 Hispanics, non-Hispanics, recent surgery participants, and nursing home residents when
21 comparing the decolonization to education groups ($p<0.01$ for comparisons at all time points, -
22 Table 3). There were also differences in colonization among diabetics, non-diabetics, participants
23 on hemodialysis, and those not on hemodialysis at all time points except among participants with

1 hemodialysis at month 9, although the sample size of that population was relatively small (Table
2 3).

3 Among participants in the decolonization group, self-reported product adherence to
4 chlorhexidine body wash, chlorhexidine mouthwash, and mupirocin was 82%, 79%, and 80% at
5 M1, 88%, 87%, and 85% at M3, and 88%, 86%, and 85% at M6, respectively. At M6, study
6 participants' adherence to chlorhexidine body wash, chlorhexidine mouthwash, and mupirocin,
7 respectively were grouped as follows: 12%, 14%, and 15% participants were non-adherent; 16%,
8 13%, and 20% were partially adherent; and 73%, 74%, and 65% were fully adherent. For all
9 subgroups of adherence at all time points (M1 through M6), site-specific colonization was
10 significantly lower than the education only group for all comparisons ($p < 0.01$ for all
11 comparisons, Figure 1b-d).

12 In the multivariate model, factors associated with MRSA colonization at month 9 included
13 Medicaid insurance (OR=1.43 [1.20-1.70], $p < 0.001$) and cancer (OR=1.23 [1.05-1.60], $p = 0.02$).
14 Decolonization group (OR=0.60 [0.52-0.69], < 0.001) and Hispanic ethnicity were inversely
15 associated with MRSA colonization (OR=0.66 [0.56-0.79], < 0.001).

16 DISCUSSION

17 The CLEAR Trial demonstrated that post-discharge decolonization of the nares, throat, and skin
18 reduced MRSA infection and all-cause infection in MRSA carriers in the year following
19 hospitalization.[13] This analysis identified significant reductions in MRSA nares, throat, skin,
20 and overall colonization associated with the decolonization strategy.

21 This report describes the efficacy of a MRSA decolonization regimen using widely available
22 chlorhexidine antiseptic products plus mupirocin as a common nasal antimicrobial agent. This
23 report affirms the efficacy of self-administration of anti-MRSA topical products by patients

1 and/or their caregivers after hospital discharge. Other investigations have examined the ability of
2 outpatients to perform decolonization, for example among patients on maintenance hemodialysis
3 and prior to major surgical procedures.[9, 14, 15] This trial provides a randomized controlled
4 investigation to examine decolonization in MRSA carriers (colonized or infected) following
5 hospital discharge. While a prior investigation examined the impact of polyhexanide-based
6 topical decolonization combined with thrice daily mupirocin for 5 days, the study was not
7 randomized and examined only 77 post-discharge patients.[16] In that study, decolonization was
8 successful in >50% of subjects, although the efficacy in the outpatient post discharge subgroup
9 was not described. Our study's findings demonstrate that verbal and written instructions, which
10 were provided by trained research associates,[13] are a feasible mechanism to educate patients
11 on how to perform decolonization. Participants were able to carry out these instructions
12 successfully, despite many of them being of older age with a high prevalence of comorbidities.
13 Adherence to study products was not 100%, as would be expected given most patients'
14 adherence to any treatment is imperfect.[17] The mean self-reported adherence to the three study
15 products was 79-88%, which was likely overestimated given patients' self-reported adherence
16 typically overestimates true adherence.[18] Nevertheless, the relationship between higher
17 adherence and lower subsequent colonization indicates three things. First, the findings strongly
18 support the validity of the self-reported measure given the observed "dose-dependent"
19 relationship between adherence and colonization. Second, the findings suggest that our
20 decolonization strategy is effective, even in the partially adherent. Third, these data suggest that
21 decolonization outcomes may be further enhanced by additional educational or other
22 interventions to improve adherence and successful clearance or infection reduction given the
23 sizable minority (15%) that reported non-adherence to at least one decolonization product. Of

1 note, in a single center study of post-discharge MRSA decolonization, adherence to
2 decolonization regimens was very poor (14%).[19] We also found that patients who had
3 Medicaid insurance or cancer were more likely to be MRSA colonized at subsequent study visits.
4 The reasons for these differences are unclear, although persons with Medicaid are of lower
5 socioeconomic status and previous studies have found a link between this and MRSA
6 colonization,[20] and cancer is a known risk factor, likely due to repeated exposures to the
7 healthcare system,[21, 22] although it is unclear why this relationship was not seen other groups
8 with repeated exposures (hemodialysis, nursing home residence). Increased likelihood of
9 colonization clearance was independently associated with Hispanic ethnicity, although reasons
10 for this association are unclear and should be confirmed in other studies.

11 Decolonization efficacy differed slightly by body site. Overall, at month 6, MRSA colonization
12 significantly decreased in the decolonization group compared to the control group by over 60%.
13 Nasal and wound colonization were similarly reduced by 63% and 62%, respectively, followed
14 by skin carriage by 55%, and throat carriage by 39%. Nasal mupirocin decolonization success is
15 no surprise as it has been demonstrated repeatedly and consistently.[23] Skin decolonization has
16 been used widely in studies of MRSA prevention in conjunction with nasal mupirocin, has the
17 added benefit of reducing infection due to pathogens other than *S. aureus*. [24] In our trial, the
18 magnitude of reduction of MRSA skin colonization was similar to that of nares.

19 Throat decolonization, however, is less well studied. Oral 0.12% Chlorhexidine mouthwash is
20 the gold standard in periodontal hygiene, including oral care in ventilated patients.[25, 26]
21 However, data on chlorhexidine pharyngeal MRSA decolonization are relatively sparse and
22 largely limited to hospitalized patients.[27] While throat colonization with MRSA and *S. aureus*
23 can be substantial,[28-30] it was similar to the baseline skin colonization in our population (22-

1 23%). Notably, the 80% reported adherence with chlorhexidine mouthwash only generated half
2 the odds of throat clearance compared to the effect of chlorhexidine body wash on skin
3 clearance. More studies are needed to assess effective methods for eradicating throat
4 colonization and to quantify the increased value beyond mupirocin and chlorhexidine body wash.
5 It is worth highlighting that the reductions in MRSA clearance were sustained over time, even
6 after the decolonization protocol ended. Overall MRSA colonization in the decolonization group
7 at follow up visits at month 3, 6, and even 9 (three months after the decolonization protocol
8 ended) were similar or slightly lower than MRSA clearance gains noted one month into the
9 regimen. Sustained decolonization was seen at all individual body sites evaluated (nares, throat,
10 axilla/groin and wound). These data are consistent with the fact that participants continued to be
11 adherent to the decolonization regimens, despite the time and effort that the treatments impose.
12 Alternately, our findings may suggest there is a cumulative decolonization effect that may
13 mitigate any waning of medication adherence, as suggested by the persistent benefit seen three
14 months after decolonization was stopped. This effect may be due to achieving permanent
15 clearance versus MRSA suppression. Similar long lasting effects have been previously reported
16 in some studies of medication adherence.[31-33]

17 There are limitations to our study. First, the frequency and duration of the decolonization
18 regimen, five days twice monthly for six months, was selected as the protocol for the CLEAR
19 Trial. It is not known whether more frequent administration may be more effective, or
20 alternatively, so burdensome that it would lower adherence to the regimen. Nevertheless, the
21 reduction in the odds of MRSA colonization by over half and the associated infection reduction
22 seen in the CLEAR Trial's primary outcomes, suggest that this is a highly successful
23 decolonization regimen.[13] Second, since we gave all interventions (chlorhexidine body wash,

1 chlorhexidine mouth wash, nasal mupirocin) synchronously, and it is unclear if individual
2 components, such as oral chlorhexidine, are truly needed to reduce decolonization. Finally, we
3 did not perform strain typing on MRSA isolates. It is possible that some of the decolonization
4 “failures” were actually colonization with new strain, a phenomenon that has been observed in
5 studies of decolonization.[34, 35] Nevertheless, even if colonization with new strains occurred,
6 such findings would further confirm the need for repeated decolonization of colonizing strains in
7 the post-hospitalization setting.

8 There are strengths to our study. First, our study is the first randomized trial to evaluate MRSA
9 decolonization after hospital discharge. Second, our trial included an oral decolonization
10 component that is generally lacking in prior studies of decolonization and may be an important
11 neglected reservoir of *S. aureus* colonization. Finally, a third strength is the very large sample
12 size and diverse patient population, which includes relatively healthy persons and those with
13 multiple comorbidities, younger and older persons, and those who are colonized and those who
14 are infected at hospital discharge.

15 In summary, we found a self-performed periodic six-month regimen of chlorhexidine body wash,
16 chlorhexidine mouth wash, and nasal mupirocin was highly effective at persistently reducing
17 MRSA colonization by over 50% among MRSA carriers discharged from hospitals. These
18 findings demonstrate that a home decolonization strategy is a practical and feasible means to
19 reduce MRSA colonization in the nares, throat, and skin during a time highly vulnerable to
20 infection. The reduction in colonization reinforces the previously reported trial findings of
21 significantly reduced MRSA infections and all-cause infections in the year following
22 discharge[13] and strongly suggests the benefits were driven by reduction in MRSA colonization
23 at multiple body sites.

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19

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1 Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants at Recruitment Hospitalization

	Decolonization Group N (%)	Education Group N (%)	P-Value
N	1058	1063	
Mean Age in Years (SD)	56 (17)	56 (17)	0.78
Male	565 (53.4)	583 (54.8)	0.51
Hispanic	339 (32.0)	339 (31.9)	0.94
Race ¹			0.87
White	840 (80.4)	844 (80.2)	
Black	132 (12.6)	124 (11.8)	
Asian	47 (4.5)	58 (5.5)	
American Indian	6 (0.6)	6 (0.6)	
Other	20 (1.9)	21 (2.0)	
Primary Insurance ¹			0.48
Medicaid Insurance	378 (38.7)	408 (41.3)	
Medicare	124 (12.7)	132 (13.4)	
Private	283 (28.9)	259 (26.2)	
Other	193 (19.7)	188 (19.0)	

Less Than High School Education	231 (22.5)	210 (20.4)	0.59
Bathe Daily or Every Other Day	927 (89.7)	926 (89.3)	0.73
Bathing Assistance Needed	224 (22.1)	200 (19.5)	0.15
Comorbidities ²			
Diabetes	462 (43.8)	424 (39.9)	0.08
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	203 (19.4)	212 (20.1)	0.70
Congestive Heart Failure	149 (14.3)	145 (13.7)	0.73
Cancer	161 (15.4)	153 (14.5)	0.56
Renal Disease	134 (12.7)	140 (13.2)	0.74
Cerebrovascular Disease	104 (10.0)	115 (10.9)	0.48
Liver Disease	91 (8.7)	81 (7.7)	0.39
Charlson Comorbidity Score (mean, SD)	1.7 (1.6)	1.7 (1.6)	0.49
Enrollment MRSA Source			0.79
Nares ³	602 (56.9)	580 (54.6)	
Wound	305 (28.8)	320 (30.1)	
Respiratory	45 (4.3)	44 (4.1)	
Blood	31 (2.9)	43 (4.0)	
Urine	33 (3.1)	30 (2.8)	

Bone/Joint	13 (1.2)	16 (1.5)	
Other	29 (2.7)	30 (2.8)	
Recruitment Hospitalization ⁴			
Hospitalized in Prior Year ²	598 (57.4)	595 (56.9)	0.80
Nursing Home Stay in Prior Year ²	168 (16.2)	165 (15.8)	0.84
ICU Stay	206 (19.7)	188 (17.8)	0.27
Surgery	399 (38.2)	392 (37.2)	0.63
Decolonizing Agents	81 (7.8)	92 (8.7)	0.40
Mupirocin	76 (7.3)	78 (7.4)	0.89
Chlorhexidine body wash	5 (0.5)	14 (1.3)	0.06
MRSA Infection ⁵	438 (41.4)	447 (42.1)	0.76
Wound at Discharge	588 (56.3)	587 (55.6)	0.77
Medical Device at Discharge	307 (23.7)	320 (30.3)	0.63
Discharged to Nursing Home	116 (11.0)	120 (11.3)	0.81

1 Table 1 Legend

2 Parts of this table have been published previously.[13]

3 ¹ Reflects respondents to the survey question among participants. Not all participants responded
4 to every question.

5 ² Data reflect a positive response to either a survey question or chart review. Not all participants
6 responded to every question, and not all enrollment charts were received from recruiting
7 hospitals despite a signed release request (N=21 missing).

8 ³ By law, California requires hospitals to screen five patient groups for MRSA on hospital
9 admission (patients who are transferred from a nursing home, hospitalized in the past 30 days, on
10 hemodialysis, undergoing imminent surgery, and admitted to an ICU).

11 ⁴ Data reflect chart review from received medical records. Not all recruiting hospitals released
12 participant's medical records to the study despite a signed release request (N=21 missing).

13 ⁵ Reflects primary study outcome based upon CDC criteria.

14

- 1 Table 2. MRSA Colonization Differences between Treatment Groups at Baseline and Follow up
- 2 Visits

Decolonization % (N/D)	Education % (N/D)	Decolonization Group Baseline vs. Follow Up, P-Value	Education vs Decolonization Groups at Each Visit, P-Value
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Baseline

Any Site	60.3 (629/1044)	60.6 (633/1044)	–	0.86
Nares	48.0 (501/1044)	47.9 (500/1044)	–	0.96
Axilla/Groin	23.6 (246/1044)	24.7 (258/1044)	–	0.53
Throat	22.6 (236/1044)	22.0 (230/1044)	–	0.75
Wound	46.3 (101/218)	45.8 (87/190)	–	0.91

Month 1 Follow Up (M1)*

Any Site	28.9 (226/783)	48.2 (625/1611)	<.001	<.001
Nares	18.3 (143/783)	39.9 (330/828)	<.001	<.001
Axilla/Groin	12.4 (97/783)	19.9 (165/828)	<.001	<.001
Throat	11.8 (92/783)	19.4 (161/828)	<.001	<.001

Wound	36.2 (34/94)	38.5 (40/104)	0.1	0.74
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Month 3 Follow Up (M3)*

Any Site	24.0 (177/739)	48.9 (558/780)	<.0001	<.0001
Nares	17.1 (126/739)	41.4 (323/780)	<.0001	<.0001
Axilla/Groin	10.7 (79/739)	21.2 (165/780)	<.0001	<.0001
Throat	10.6 (78/739)	17.7 (138/780)	<.0001	<0.0001
Wound	30.0 (15/50)	53.5 (38/71)	0.03	0.01

Month 6 Follow Up (M6)*

Any Site	23.6 (159/675)	44.2 (319/721)	<.0001	<.0001
Nares	17.6 (119/675)	36.9 (266/721)	<.0001	<.0001
Axilla/Groin	8.3 (56/675)	18.9 (136/721)	<.0001	<.0001
Throat	8.89 (60/675)	13.87 (100/721)	<.0001	0.0035
Wound	23.91 (11/46)	45 (27/60)	0.0052	0.025

Month 9 Follow Up (M9)*

Any Site	27.36 (174/636)	42.53 (282/663)	<.0001	<.0001
Nares	22.01 (140/636)	34.54 (229/663)	<.0001	<.0001
Axilla/Groin	11.95 (76/636)	16.89 (112/663)	<.0001	0.01
Throat	9.91 (63/636)	15.38 (102/663)	<.0001	0.003
Wound	27.03 (10/37)	35.85 (19/53)	0.02	0.38

1 Table 3: Changes in Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Carriage in Selected Subgroups

	MRSA Carriers Decolonization Group, % (N/D)	MRSA Carriers Education Group, % (N/D)	Decolonization Group, Baseline vs Follow Up: P-Value	Education vs Decolonization Groups at Each Visit: P-Value
	Baseline			
Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	58.3 (14/ 24)	63.6 (14/ 22)	–	0.71
Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	53.3 (168/315)	52.1 (162/311)	–	0.75
Non-Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	62.9 (56/89)	63.8 (60/94)	–	0.90
Non-Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	63.5 (391/616)	64.3 (397/617)	–	0.75
Recent Surgery at Time of Enrollment	51.1 (201/393)	51.9 (200/385)	–	0.82
Diabetes	62.1 (283/456)	59.4 (246/414)	–	0.42
No Diabetes	58.8 (344/585)	61.4 (386/629)	–	0.36

Hemodialysis	67.4 (89/132)	62.8 (86/137)	–	0.42
No Hemodialysis	59.2 (538/909)	60.3 (546/906)	–	0.63

Month 1 Follow Up (M1)

Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	31.6 (6/19)	88.2 (15/17)	0.08	0.001
Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	22.0 (56/254)	44.4 (111/250)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Non-Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	35.4 (23/65)	46.3 (37/80)	< 0.001	0.18
Non-Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	31.7 (141/445)	49.1 (236/481)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Recent Surgery at Time of Enrollment	22.3 (67/300)	38.9 (119/306)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Diabetes	33.8 (120/355)	44.9 (149/332)	< 0.001	0.003
No Diabetes	24.8 (106/428)	50.4 (250/496)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Hemodialysis	30.8 (28/91)	49.5 (52/105)	< 0.001	0.008
No Hemodialysis	28.6 (198/692)	48.0 (347/723)	< 0.001	< 0.001

Month 3 Follow Up (M3)

Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	31.6 (6/ 19)	76.5 (13/ 17)	0.08	0.007
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Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	18.1 (45/249)	44.8 (107/239)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Non-Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	39.3 (22/56)	55.1 (38/69)	0.005	0.07
Non-Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	25.1 (104/415)	49.0 (223/455)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Recent Surgery at Time of Enrollment	18.6 (54/291)	41.3 (119/288)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Diabetes	25.9 (88/340)	49.4 (156/316)	< 0.001	< 0.001
No Diabetes	22.3 (89/399)	48.5 (225/464)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Hemodialysis	23.3 (21/90)	52.1 (50/96)	< 0.001	< 0.001
No Hemodialysis	24.0 (156/649)	48.4 (331/684)	< 0.001	< 0.001

Month 6 Follow Up (M6)

Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	29.4 (5/ 17)	73.3 (11/ 15)	0.06	0.01
Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	19.5 (44/226)	35.9 (80/ 223)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Non-Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	27.5 (14/51)	41.7 (25/ 60)	< 0.001	0.11
Non-Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	25.2 (96/381)	48.0 (203/423)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Recent Surgery at Time of Enrollment	21.3 (57/268)	36.6 (102/279)	< 0.001	< 0.001

Diabetes	24.1 (74/307)	43.2 (128/296)	< 0.001	< 0.001
No Diabetes	23.1 (85/368)	44.9 (191/425)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Hemodialysis	22.5 (18/80)	47.7 (41/86)	< 0.001	< 0.001
No Hemodialysis	23.7 (141/595)	43.8 (278/635)	< 0.001	< 0.001

Month 9 Follow Up (M9)

Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	30.8 (4/ 13)	64.3 (9/ 14)	0.11	0.08
Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	21.5 (46/214)	37.7 (80/212)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Non-Hispanic, Nursing Home Resident	32.0 (16/50)	45.8 (22/48)	0.0005	0.16
Non-Hispanic, Non-Nursing Home Resident	30.1 (108/359)	44.0 (171/389)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Recent Surgery at Time of Enrollment	24.8 (64/258)	38.0 (98/258)	< 0.001	0.001
Diabetes	28.4 (82/289)	46.3 (126/272)	< 0.001	< 0.001
No Diabetes	26.5 (92/347)	39.9 (156/391)	< 0.001	< 0.001
Hemodialysis	36.5 (27/74)	49.4 (38/77)	< 0.001	0.11
No Hemodialysis	26.2 (147/562)	41.6 (244/586)	< 0.001	< 0.001

1 FIGURE LEGENDS

2 Figure 1: Differences in MRSA Carriage Between Study Groups (All Patients)

3 Figure 1 legend.

4 Figure 1a shows the proportion of overall and site-specific MRSA colonization among trial
5 participants by decolonization and education groups. Note that the intervention lasted 6 months
6 total, so that month 9 data represent colonization 3 months post discontinuation of decolonization
7 agents (treatment group only). Also note that not all participants had wounds amenable to
8 culture. MRSA colonization at any site was significantly different between the groups at months
9 1, 3, 6, and 9.

10 Figures 1b-1d display colonization at nares (1b), throat (1c), and axilla/groin (1d) by group at
11 each follow-up time point stratified by adherence of each corresponding product (1b: nasal
12 iodophor; 1c: chlorhexidine body wash; 1d: chlorhexidine mouthwash. In a repeated measures
13 model, differences in colonization prevalence at the nares, throat, and axilla/groin were
14 significantly different at between the education only group and each of the 3 strata of adherence
15 in intervention group ($P < 0.01$ for all comparisons; see text for details).

16 Abbreviations: MRSA=Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; Base=Baseline; M1= Month
17 1; M3= Month 3; M6= Month 6; M9= Month 9.

1 Figure 2: Differences in MRSA Carriage between Study Groups in the Subgroup of Participants

2 Who Completed All Visits

3 Figure 2 Legend

4 The above figure shows MRSA colonization prevalence for the decolonization and education
5 only groups among only patients that completed all visits (n=1134). Note that the intervention
6 lasted 6 months total, so that month 9 data represent colonization 3 months post discontinuation
7 of decolonization agents (treatment group only). Also note that not all participants had wounds
8 amenable to culture. Differences in colonization prevalence were significant (<0.001) at months
9 1, 3, 6, and 9 (see text).

10 Comparisons of any colonization (1a), colonization in the nares (1b), throat (1c), and axilla/groin
11 (1d) at each time point stratified by adherence of each corresponding product (1b: nasal
12 iodophor; 1c: topical chlorhexidine gluconate; 1d: oral chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash. In a
13 repeated measures model, differences in colonization prevalence at the nares, throat, and
14 axilla/groin were significantly different at between the education only group and each of the 3
15 strata of adherence in intervention group (P <0.01 for all comparisons; see text for details).

16 Abbreviations: MRSA=Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; CHG=chlorhexidine
17 gluconate; Base=Baseline; M1= Month 1; M3= Month 3; M6= Month 6; M9= Month 9.

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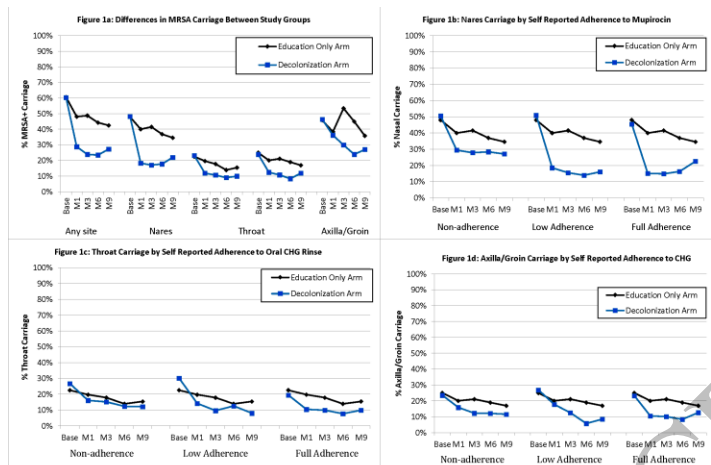


Figure 1
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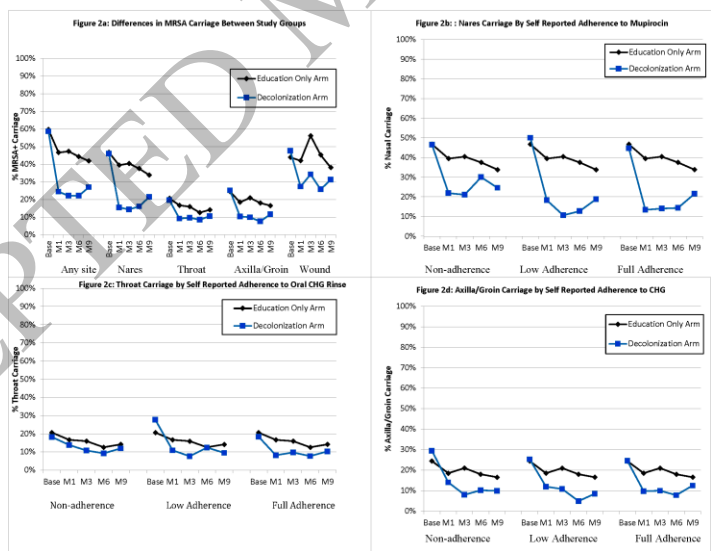


Figure 2
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