

Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit--Taipei City

During the period January 1984 through April 1985, the infection control committee at Mackay Memorial Hospital (MMH) identified 13 nosocomial infections among infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) due to methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)*. MRSA isolates accounted for 13 of 17 (76.5%) *S. aureus* infections in the NICU compared with 18 of 64 (28.1%) *S. aureus* infections for the entire hospital during this time period. In the NICU, the incidence of nosocomial infections due to MRSA increased from 6.7 per 1,000 discharges in 1983 to 10.3 in 1984, but the increase was not statistically significant. During this two year period, the overall incidence of nosocomial infections due to MRSA in all other units of the hospital was relatively stable at about 0.3 per 1,000 discharges.

*Although many hospitals use oxacillin or nafcillin discs for susceptibility testing, all *S. aureus* isolates resistant to the penicillinase-resistant penicillins are referred to as "methicillin-resistant".