



About Decolonization for *Staphylococcus aureus* Before Your Surgery...

Staphylococcus aureus is a germ that lives on the skin and in the noses of many healthy people. *Staphylococcus aureus* germs do not cause any problems for most people, but sometimes these germs can cause serious infections including surgical wound infections. There are two main kinds of *Staphylococcus aureus*:

Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or "**MRSA**" is resistant to some antibiotics that are commonly used to treat these infections.

Methicillin-Sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* or "**MSSA**" is not resistant to antibiotics that are commonly used to treat these infections.

What does decolonization mean?

Decolonization is the process to reduce these *Staphylococcus aureus* germs from your skin and nose. Decolonization helps to prevent surgical site infections and other infections in people who carry the *Staphylococcus aureus* germ by reducing the number of these germs on your skin and in your nose.

Why are we decolonizing for *Staphylococcus aureus*?

Decolonization helps to prevent surgical site infections and other infections in people who carry the *Staphylococcus aureus* germ by reducing the number of these germs on your skin and in your nose.

How am I decolonized for *Staphylococcus aureus*?

A nasal ointment will be applied and special soap will be used to clean your body for the five days before your surgery. If your surgery is scheduled within five days and all five days of decolonization are unable to be completed prior to surgery it will be finished after surgery.

Thank you for your help with infection prevention control.

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