

## Mupirocin reduces infections in *Staphylococcus aureus* carriers

<b>Clinical question</b>	How effective is mupirocin ointment in reducing infections in patients who are nasal carriers of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ( <i>S. aureus</i> )?
<b>Bottom line</b>	Compared to placebo, mupirocin ointment produces a statistically significant reduction in <i>S. aureus</i> infections in nasal carriers. Short term use (up to 7 days) does not seem to be associated with resistance. Intranasal mupirocin should be considered for use in proven nasal carriers of <i>S. aureus</i> in hospitalised surgical, dialysis and non-surgical patient groups at risk of infection.
<b>Caveat</b>	Only 2 trials, 1 with 72 participants and the other with 20 participants, were included in this review. The second study failed to report several methodological items and was inconsistent in its reporting of the outcomes measured.
<b>Context</b>	<i>S. aureus</i> is the leading nosocomial (hospital-acquired) pathogen in hospitals throughout the world. Traditionally, control of <i>S. aureus</i> has been focused on preventing cross-infection between patients. However, it has been shown repeatedly that a large proportion of nosocomial <i>S. aureus</i> infections originate from the patient's own flora. Nasal carriage of <i>S. aureus</i> is now considered a well-defined risk factor for subsequent infection in various groups of patients. Local antibiotic treatment with mupirocin ointment is often used to eradicate <i>S. aureus</i> . Until now, routine use of mupirocin has not been applied in many hospitals, mainly due to concern about the development of mupirocin resistance and the absence of convincing evidence that it reduces the infection rate.
<b>Cochrane Systematic Review</b>	Van Rijen M et al. Mupirocin ointment for preventing <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infections in nasal carriers. Cochrane Reviews 2008, Issue 4. Article No. CD006216. DOI:

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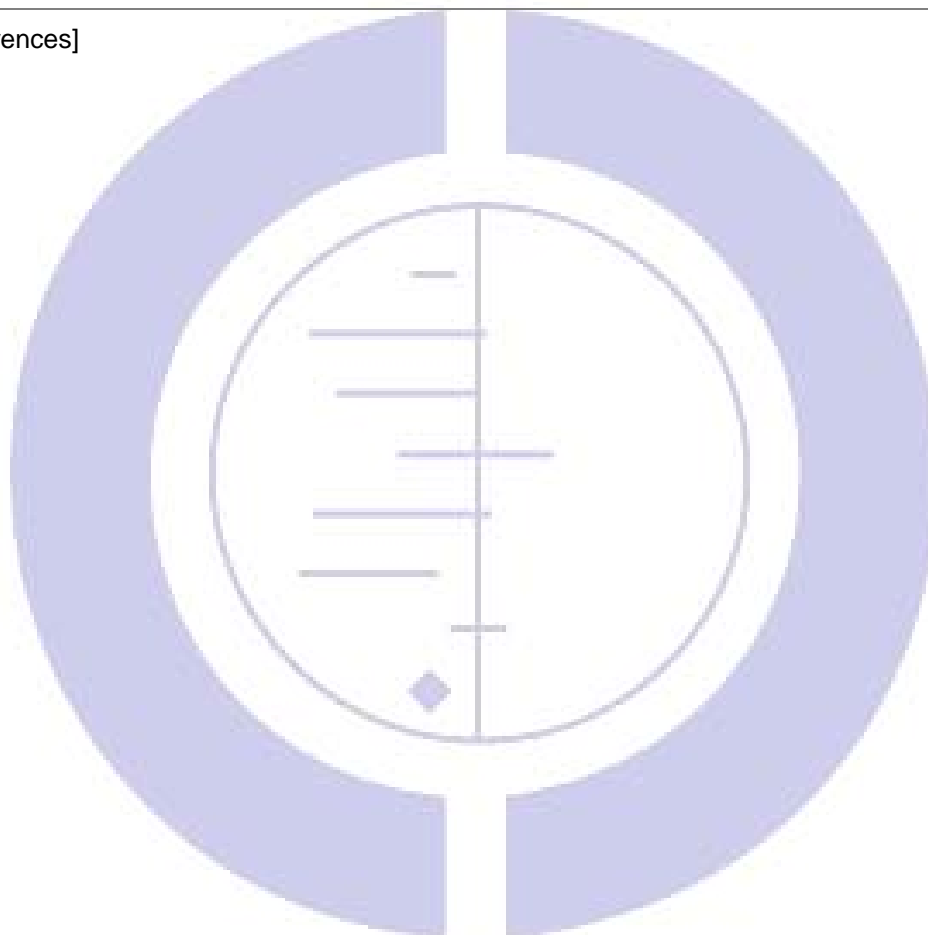
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10.1002/14651858.CD006216.pub2. This review contains 9 trials involving 3396 participants.

**PEARLS 128, November 2008, written by Brian R McAvoy**

[References]



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