

Infection Prevention and Control Department

ESBLs

Extended-spectrum Beta-Lactamase-producing Bacteria

What are they?

Extended-spectrum Beta-Lactamases (ESBLs) are enzymes that are produced by some bacteria, making them resistant to multiple antibiotics.

Colonisation

Some people carry ESBL-producing bacteria in the body with no ill effects; this is known as colonisation.

Illness

E-coli are bacteria that colonise the bowel and are a common cause of urinary tract infections. Some strains of E-coli are ESBL-producers; in a minority of cases, these can progress and cause a more serious infection. Other ESBL-producing bacteria include Klebsiella and Enterobacter.

Transmission

Within the hospital environment, bacteria can be spread directly from person to person on the hands of healthcare workers, other patients or visitors and indirectly via equipment and within the environment.

Infection prevention and control measures

Hand washing and a high standard of cleaning are very important in helping to prevent the spread of potentially harmful bacteria within the hospital setting. The use and correct disposal of personal, protective equipment such as plastic aprons and gloves is also an important measure by healthcare workers providing care for patients who may be colonised or have an infection caused by ESBL-producing bacteria.

In some instances, it may be necessary for you to be nursed in a side-room in order to minimise the risk of spreading the bacteria to other patients.

Your visitors should wash their hands when they enter the ward area and also when they leave, either using soap and water or the alcohol hand gel.

Treatment

In many cases, antibiotic treatment is not required. ESBL-producing bacteria are resistant to a number of antibiotics, therefore in the event that an infection develops, your Doctor will discuss antibiotic treatment with the Microbiologist in order to ensure that you receive appropriate antibiotics.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Infection Prevention and Control Nurses

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01422 222376

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If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

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برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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