

6. Staphylococci

Question	Answer
Can cefoxitin be used to detect resistance in coagulase negative staphylococci?	Currently the recommendations are for <i>S. aureus</i> only.
Can all β -lactams be used to detect methicillin resistance in staphylococci?	Only methicillin, oxacillin or cefoxitin should be used for detecting resistance in staphylococci; BSAC only give recommendations for these agents.
If an organism is resistant to methicillin/oxacillin/cefoxitin is it resistant to all of the β -lactam antibiotics?	Staphylococci exhibiting resistance to methicillin/oxacillin/cefoxitin should be regarded as resistant to other penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenems and combinations of β -lactam and β -lactamase inhibitors.
Is there a need to detect LLR to mupirocin?	Harbath <i>et al</i> (Risk factors for persistent carriage of methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> . Harbath <i>et al</i> <i>Clin Infect Dis</i> 2000 Dec; 31 (6):1380-5) suggest that there is a need to detect LLR because there is an association with persistence of carriage.
What mupirocin disc content does the BSAC recommend?	A 20 μ g mupirocin disc which will detect HLR and LLR. An MIC is not needed to determine the level of resistance.
Who supplies 20 μ g mupirocin discs?	Mast and Oxoid.
Why are there no recommendations for disc diffusion tests for susceptibility of coagulase-negative staphylococci to teicoplanin?	Studies undertaken by the BSAC have shown that in disc diffusion tests there is unacceptable merging of the susceptible and resistant populations. An MIC determination is therefore advised.