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Resistant bacteria and screening

This leaflet provides information about resistant bacteria and the procedures followed at Rotterdam Eye Hospital. The collective term for resistant bacteria is AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance), of which MRSA is the best-known example.

Bacteria

Everyone carries bacteria. Bacteria are found on and inside the body. These bacteria belong to humans and often have useful functions. In general, bacteria do not cause problems and, if they do, they can usually be treated effectively with standard antibiotics.

There are also bacteria (AMR) that are resistant to commonly used antibiotics. This means that they can survive despite antibiotic treatment, making infections more difficult to treat. Like ordinary bacteria, resistant bacteria usually do not cause problems. Most people can carry these bacteria without noticing any symptoms.

Consequences in a hospital

Hospitals bring people together in a relatively small space, increasing the risk of bacterial transmission. Because patients often have reduced resistance to infection, they are more vulnerable to developing serious infections, such as a wound infection after surgery. It is therefore important to identify carriers of resistant bacteria in time. For this reason, patients who undergo surgery are screened.

Detection

We ask you to complete the MRSA/AMR-questionnaire so that we can assess the risk of you carrying MRSA or AMR. If there is an increased risk, tests will be taken. For AMR, a rectal swab is required. For MRSA, swabs are taken from the throat, nose, and perineum. The results are usually available within one week. If the result is positive, we will inform you.

Consequences for your appointment

Possible carriage of resistant bacteria does not affect your surgery. However, additional precautionary measures may be taken to protect our staff and patients.

Contact

It is important to contact us if:

- you have been admitted to a hospital abroad between completing the questionnaire and your operation;
- you have any questions after reading this leaflet.

Information in this patient leaflet is also available at www.oogziekenhuis.nl.