Statistics?

In 2008 MRSA caused 94000 life threatening conditions and was responsible for 18650 deaths. 85% of all MRSA infections were linked to either hospital stays or health care exposures. While 15% of MRSA infections had no known health care risks. One reason MRSA is so dangerous is that it can survive for long periods outside the body; it can live for 8 weeks on a mop head, 9 weeks on a cotton towel, 7 months on dust, over six months on a blanket, and as long as it is on a person it can live forever without even showing symptoms.

MRSA

What is it?

MRSA stands for methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, it is a bacteria that causes skin infections. It is sometimes called a "super bug" because since its discovery in 1961 it has become resistant to several different forms of antibiotics. There are two forms of MRSA, one is community acquired MRSA, which you get from patients infected with MRSA. The other is hospital acquired MRSA which is acquired in hospitals. In severe cases MRSA can be life threatening if it is not treated.

How is it Spread?

You can catch MRSA by physical contact with another person who is infected, or by physical contact with objects that have MRSA bacteria on it. Thought that may sound easy to get MRSA if you have normal skin tissue it will not allow MRSA to develop. However if you have any cuts, abrasions, or skin flaws your chances of getting it go up.

Prevention

The best way to prevent MRSA is by not coming into contact with skin, clothes, or any other objects that have come into contact with MRSA patients or MRSA carriers. Some other ways to prevent it are to treat and cover any open wounds and to have excellent hygiene practices. Good hygiene practices include washing your hands regularly, showering afer practice, and not sharing towels or equipment.

Treatment

MRSA is normally just treated by having the sore drained at the doctors office. For more serious cases antibiotics such as vancomycin, linezolid, tetracycline, or clindamycin are used to treat infections. For the most serious cases patients may be hospitalized and given fluids and medications through a vein, oxygen, or kidney dialysis.