

Recurrent skin infections caused by PVL-positive Staphylococcus aureus

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Panton-Valentine leukocidin (PVL) is a pore-forming protein produced by certain Staphylococcus (S.) aureus strains. Both methicillin-susceptible (MSSA) and methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) strains may carry the lukS-lukF gene responsible for PVL production. The clinical presentation of infections caused by PVL-positive S. aureus ranges from isolated recurrent abscesses to extensive furunculosis. Despite adequate treatment of primary infections, approximately 40 % of patients develop recurrent disease. Thus, recurrent mucocutaneous infections caused by PVL-positive S. aureus strains represent a challenge in the clinical practice. The choice of treatment regimen is guided by the clinical presentation of the infection. In addition, some scientific literature recommends bacteriological screening of patients and their contacts, followed by decolonization of affected individuals.