

Presence of methicillin resistance and heteroresistance among Coagulase Negative Staphylococci (CoNS) isolates obtained from health sciences students at a Public University

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to investigate the Coagulase Negative Staphylococci (CoNS) nasal carriage and the presence of methicillin resistant Coagulase Negative Staphylococci (MR-CoNS) among health sciences students at Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia. A total of 120 isolates of CoNS (62.5%) was isolated from 192 student volunteers. The *mecA* gene was detected in 15 isolates of CoNS (12.5%). Eight out of the 15 isolates of *mecA* positive CoNS were resistant to cefoxitin in disc diffusion test whereas the remaining seven isolates of *mecA* positive CoNS were susceptible to cefoxitin. Analysis of questionnaires showed no significant association between CoNS nasal carriage and the socio-demographic and risk factors except for the genders and history of cold ($P < 0.050$). Generally, this finding showed a relatively low level of methicillin resistance among CoNS nasal carriage from student volunteers.