Infection Prevention and Control Department

Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae I am a contact of someone who is a carrier or has an infection. What does this mean?

What does 'Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae' mean?

Enterobacteriaceae are bacteria that usually live harmlessly in the gut of humans. This is called 'colonisation' (a person is said to be a 'carrier'). However, if the bacteria get into the wrong place, such as the bladder or bloodstream they can cause infection. Carbapenems are one of the most powerful types of antibiotics. Carbapenemases are enzymes (chemicals), made by some strains of these bacteria, which allow them to destroy carbapenem antibiotics and so the bacteria are said to be resistant to the antibiotics.

Why does Carbapenem resistance matter?

Carbapenem antibiotics can only be given in hospital directly into the bloodstream. Until now, doctors have relied on them to successfully treat certain 'difficult' infections when other antibiotics have failed to do so. Therefore, in a hospital, where there are many vulnerable patients, spread of resistant bacteria can cause problems.

Does carriage of Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae need to be treated?

If a person is a carrier of Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (sometimes called CPE), they do not need to be treated. As mentioned, these bacteria can live harmlessly in the gut. However, if the bacteria have caused an infection then antibiotics will be required.

How is Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae spread?

If a patient in hospital is carrying this bacteria it can get into the ward environment and can also be passed on by direct contact with that particular patient. For that reason, the patient will normally be accommodated in a single room. Effective environmental cleaning and good hand hygiene by all, staff and patients, can reduce the risk of spread significantly.

Do I need to be screened?

Occasionally, it isn't immediately known that a patient is carrying this bacteria and so they may not be placed into a single room straight away. Screening will be offered if you have shared the same bay (or ward) with a patient who has been found to be carrying carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae. This screening is offered as there is a slight chance that you could have picked up the bacteria and are carrying it too.

compassionate care

How will I be screened for Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae?

Screening usually entails taking a rectal swab by inserting it just inside your rectum (bottom). Alternatively, you may be asked to provide a sample of faeces. The swab / sample will be sent to the laboratory and you will normally be informed of the result within two to three days. If the result is negative nothing further is required unless you are staying in hospital for some time. In that case, you will probably be asked to provide a sample on a regular basis e.g. once a week, as a precautionary measure.

What if the result is positive?

If the result is positive, ask your doctor or nurse to explain this to you in more detail and to provide a leaflet relating to positive results.You will be given a single room until you leave hospital. No treatment is necessary unless you have an infection when antibiotics will be given.

Where can I find more information?

Infection Prevention & Control Nurses at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Lindley, Huddersfield, HD3 3EA
Telephone No. 01484 342447 or at Calderdale Royal Hospital, Salterhebble, Halifax, HX3 OPW
Telephone No. 01422 222376 www.cht.nhs.uk

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Infection Prevention and Control Nurses
at
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Tel: (01484) 342447 or Calderdale Royal Hospital Tel: (01422) 222376

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obrat'te se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym fomacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z www. danych kontaktowych

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براہِ مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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