

MULTI-RESISTANT ORGANISMS IN HAEMATOLOGY



Multi-resistant organisms are microbes that have become resistant to treatment with the usual antibiotics.

Resistance is driven by the use of antibiotics.

Resistant organisms are usually spread by direct contact with others or contaminated objects

The organisms we are concerned about:

- MRSA, methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus
- VRE, Vancomycin resistant Enterococcus
- CPE, Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales

~ **200 000**

health care associated infections occur in acute Australian hospitals per year and it is the common complication of hospitalisation

SOME PEOPLE MAY CARRY RESISTANT ORGANISMS ON THEIR BODY WITHOUT SYMPTOMS



An individual may carry a resistant organism on their body without any complications. They are at risk of passing it onto others OR when their immune system is suppressed the organism may cause infection.

IN HAEMATOLOGY

haematology patients are at increased risk of acquiring a multi-resistant organism due to their underlying disease, their treatment and their requirements for hospitalisation and antibiotics



THE IMPACT

haematology patients who develop infections with resistant organisms have longer hospital admissions, more complications, delays in treatment and increased risk of death as well as increased cost to the health service

WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE SPREAD?



screening patients to find those that carry a resistant organism



cleaning our hands and equipment following physical contact with patients



using PPE when interacting with a patient known to have a resistant organism



judicious use of anti-microbial therapy



speak up when we see someone not following guidelines