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.

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

The organisms we are concerned about.

Some people may carry resistant organisms on their body without symptoms. They are at risk of passing it onto others OR when their immune system is suppressed the organism may cause infection.

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.

Health care associated infections occur in acute Australian hospitals per year and it is the common complication of hospitalisations.

~ 200 000

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 antimicrobial therapy
Speak up when we see someone not following guidelines