

# WOUND CARE, TISSUE REPAIR & REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

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## PREVALENCE AND PREDICTORS OF METHICILLIN-RESISTANT *STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS* (MRSA) IN PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH DIABETIC FOOT ULCER

**Daniel Asfaw Erku\***

\*University of Gondar, Ethiopia

Diabetic foot ulcer is one of the long-standing complications of diabetic mellitus with the life time risk close to 30%. In Ethiopia, there are limited epidemiological studies related to diabetic foot ulcer. This study investigated the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in diabetic foot ulcers among patients with both type 1 and 2 diabetes mellitus. An institutional-based prospective cross-sectional study was conducted in Gondar University Hospital, Ethiopia. Systematic random sampling was used to select 102 study participants. Diabetic foot ulcer was diagnosed according to the criteria proposed by the international consensus on the diabetic foot and all analyses were done using statistical software for social sciences (SPSS) for windows version 21. A total of 98 patients were included in the final analysis, among which 41.8 of them were men with a mean age of 59.2 ( $\pm$  9.43). Overall, 113 microorganisms were isolated from the ulcers (both neuropathic and ischemic) of the patients. Among the Gram-positive bacteria, *S. aureus* predominated (31.7% of Gram-positive isolates), among which MRSA constituted half of the isolates (49.7%). Patients with infected foot ulcers were found to be highly susceptible for MRSA colonization than uninfected foot ulcers. MRSA colonization was significantly associated with previous hospitalization. The relatively higher colonization of MRSA among diabetic patients with foot ulcers reflect the increased prevalence of MRSA in the community. The present study emphasizes the need for health care providers to be aware of the common bacterial isolates in the hospital and their antibiotic susceptibility pattern.