Low Prevalence of MRSA in Physiotherapy and Gym Facilities in a Greek Refugee Camp

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An etiology of skin and soft tissue infections (SSTI) is commonly associated with *S. aureus* and *S. pyogenes*. A wet environment, physiotherapy procedures, towels and massages are commonest risk factors. Football players often require physiotherapy procedures after a match. The aim of this study was a survey on MRSA among amateur football players in a Greek refugee camp.

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Among 44 players screened, only 8 pathogenic isolates were cultivated, two of them were *S. aureus* and other 6 *Candida albicans*. All *S. aureus* isolates were susceptible to methicillin. According to recently published surveys, prevalence of MRSA among football players is from 15% to 33%. A probable explanation of our findings is a lower consumption of ATB among the migrant population. Other factors, such as lower towel use, less physiotherapy procedures, decreased overcrowding in the camp and some others, can also contribute to low MRSA prevalence in this sporting community.

The prevalence of MRSA skin colonization in migrants who play football in the refugee camp remains low. Increased hygiene and regular towel changing should be useful measures which will keep resistance levels low in the future.
Reference


