

**ORIGINAL PAPER**

**Nasal Staphylococcus Aureus Carriage in Nurses and their Household Members**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Staphylococcus aureus colonization is common in normal population and the prevalence is higher in health care staff. Transmission of this organism is possible from the nose to the hands and with the contact of the individual's hands to the nose during the routine work.

**Aims:** The aim of this study is to investigate the nasal *S.aureus* carriage in nurses working in the crucial departments and in their household members.

**Methodology:** This study consisted of 50 nurses working in a Medical Faculty Hospital and their 128 family members between January 14<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. The bacterial strains were identified by conventional method and the antibiotic resistance was carried out by disc diffusion method.

**Results:** *S.aureus* carriage was 18% (9/50) for nurses and 24.2% (31/128) for household members and methicillin resistance was not determined. There was no significant relationship among the risk factors in the nurses group but a meaningful relationship was observed between the carriage state and chronic sickness and using antibiotics in the nurses' household group.

**Conclusions:** It is necessary to detect the carriers among the apparently healthy nurses and it could be beneficial to control their family members particularly if they have a chronic disease or use antibiotics.

**Keywords;** Family, Hospital, Nasal carriage, Nurses, *Staphylococcus aureus*