

When Is a MRSA Infection Grounds For a Baltimore Medical Malpractice Lawsuit?

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As [Baltimore medical malpractice attorneys](#), we are often asked to evaluate cases involving hospital-acquired infections. This is not surprising given that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 1 out of every 20 hospitalized patients will contract an HAI.

Severe MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) is one type of infection that occurs most frequently among patients in healthcare settings. However, these infections are not always grounds for a medical malpractice lawsuit.

Viable MRSA claims include:

1. Soft tissue infections with agents such as cephalexin or its intravenous counterpart, cefazolin. Patients who fail to respond require either or both a culture and switch in treatment to include an agent that covers MRSA such as vancomycin, trimethoprim-sulfa, or linezolid. Failure to do so or delay in doing so can lead to necrotizing fasciitis, osteomyelitis and other life-threatening complications and death.
2. Patient with history of MRSA and recurrent soft-tissue infection is assumed to have MRSA until proven otherwise. To treat such a patient with a wound infection with an agent such as cephalexin delays appropriate therapy and subjects the patient to unnecessary complications.
3. Failure to appropriately screen for MRSA. Preoperative patients who undergo hardware or prosthesis material placement including vascular grafts are now recommended to be screened pre-op for MRSA. If screened is positive, the options are decolonization (which can take several days to a week) or use of prophylactic vancomycin preoperatively. Failure to take either of these steps can lead to hardware and wound infection.
4. Delays in recognition and treatment of MRSA bloodstream infections still occur, often with devastating results. No bacteremia with *S. aureus*, MRSA or MSSA is ever considered a "skin contaminant" (such thinking was common years ago but has been shown to be incorrect).
5. Failure to appreciate that a deep space infection usually requires drainage. This can occur with MRSA or MSSA but is more likely to be devastating with MRSA.

If you believe that you may have suffered from medical malpractice, it is important to speak with an attorney who specializes in this area as soon as possible. Upon meeting with a medical

malpractice attorney, you will be asked to explain what happened in as much detail as possible. It is helpful to bring a copy of your medical records as well. The attorney will then be able to discuss your legal options with you.

The Baltimore medical malpractice lawyers of [Hyatt & Weber, P.A.](#) understand the potentially devastating impact of a serious medical mistake. If you or someone you love has been injured due to someone else's negligence, we are here to help. Our Baltimore injury attorneys are experienced and dedicated to pursuing the compensation you deserve.

To better understand your rights, contact us today at leads@hwlaw.com or 410-777-5707 for a free consultation.