

NASAL COLONIZATION WITH STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES

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Introduction: Individuals with diabetes present with an increased sensitivity to staphylococcal infections. The nasal colonization with *S. aureus* in children with type 1 diabetes was investigated and compared with members of their family and with healthy children.

Methods: The population consisted of 3 groups: 50 children and adolescents (aged 3.5 to 25.5 years) with type 1 diabetes; 32 parents and siblings of these diabetic children; and 27 healthy children examined at the Department of Accidents and Emergencies for usual paediatric conditions and without recent hospital admission. The culture of the nasal swab, the identification of *S. aureus* and the resistance to antibiotics were performed according to the NCCLS guidelines.

Results: The children with diabetes had increased frequency ($p=0.049$) of nasal colonization with *S. aureus* compared with both their family members and their non diabetic peers (relative risks 2.56, 95% CI 0.783-8.37 and 2.16, 95% CI 0.667-7.0, respectively). **Table 1** **Conclusion:** Nasal colonization with *S. aureus* is frequent in children with type 1 diabetes. A remarkably high proportion of methicillin resistant strains was observed. The clinical importance of these findings remains uncertain and further investigation is required.

	Diabetic children N=50	Family members N=32	Control group N=27
Nasal colonization with <i>S. aureus</i>	12 (24%)	3 (9%)	3 (11%)
Methicillin resistance	7/12 (58%)	2/3 (66%)	1/3 (33%)

Table 1

