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*The Nose Knows: The Incidence And Susceptibility Of MRSA*

I wanted to determine the incidence of MRSA in the general population in my community, and to find out if MRSA was resistant to some antibiotics. I asked one of the doctors in my town about it and followed his advice. I began by going to a public place where I would likely find a good variety of the population, at a local grocery store. I asked people to volunteer for my project. Those who volunteered had their noses swabbed and inoculated on agar to grow the sample. I then took the samples to a local hospital for incubation and further testing. I followed an algorithm in order to identify MRSA, by performing tests, and further inoculation of the colonies. After I completed the identification of MRSA specimens, the laboratory technologists assisted me in performing a D test on all samples. My research showed that 34 percent of people tested had MRSA, and that males were twice as likely to be colonized as females. Children and young adults were also more likely to be colonized. My D test results showed none of my specimens as being resistant to clindamycin.