

## **Patient Information Leaflet: MRSA Screening for Orthopaedic Surgery at Ayii Anargryi Clinic**

### **What is MRSA?**

MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) is a type of bacteria that can cause infections in various parts of the body. Unlike most bacteria, MRSA is resistant to many common antibiotics, making it more difficult to treat if an infection occurs. It can sometimes cause severe infections, especially in people undergoing surgery or with weakened immune systems.

### **Why is MRSA Screening Important?**

At Ayii Anargryi Clinic, we perform routine MRSA screening for all patients who are scheduled for orthopaedic surgery. The main aim of this screening is to identify any patients who may be carrying MRSA, even if they don't have any symptoms. By identifying carriers of MRSA before surgery, we can take steps to reduce the risk of infection during and after the procedure.

### **Role and Rationale of Pre-Operative MRSA Screening**

Pre-operative MRSA screening plays a critical role in ensuring your safety during surgery. It allows us to identify any patients who are asymptomatic carriers of MRSA—people who carry the bacteria on their skin or in their nose but do not show signs of illness. If these carriers are not identified and treated, there is an increased risk of MRSA infections following surgery, which can lead to complications and longer recovery times.

### **What Does the Screening Involve?**

- 1. Body Wash**  
Before your surgery, we will ask you to use a special antibacterial wash, such as *Octenisan* liquid soap, to cleanse your body. This helps to reduce the number of bacteria on your skin, including MRSA, and lower the risk of infection. You will be instructed on how to use this wash properly, typically on the evening before and the morning of your surgery.
- 2. Swabs**  
To test for MRSA, we will take swabs from specific areas of your body, most commonly from your nose and from your skin, such your groin or armpits. These swabs are sent to the laboratory for testing. The results usually come back within a 3 days.

### **Asymptomatic Carriers**

Some people carry MRSA without showing any signs of infection, meaning they are asymptomatic carriers. This means that although they feel healthy, the bacteria are still present in or on their body and could be transmitted during surgery, leading to infection. MRSA screening helps us identify these carriers so we can take steps to eliminate the bacteria before surgery.

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## What Happens if the Test is Positive?

If your MRSA test result comes back positive, this does not necessarily mean you are sick or will become ill. It simply means that MRSA is present in your body. In most cases, we can treat MRSA carriers with a course of antibiotics or other treatments to eliminate the bacteria before surgery. This significantly reduces the risk of infection during and after the procedure.

**Important:** If your MRSA test is positive and we are unable to clear the infection before your surgery date, we may need to postpone the operation to allow for proper treatment. This is to ensure your safety and reduce the risk of post-operative infections.

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## What Happens Next?

Once your MRSA screening is complete and we have reviewed the results, we will discuss any necessary steps with you, whether that's further treatment to clear the bacteria or proceeding with your surgery as planned. If your test is negative, there is no need for further action, and we can proceed with your planned surgery.

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## Conclusion

MRSA screening is an essential part of our pre-operative procedures at Ayii Anargryi Clinic. It helps ensure that we take the necessary steps to prevent infection and protect your health before and after surgery. If you have any questions or concerns about the screening process, please feel free to ask our team.

We look forward to providing you with safe and effective care during your treatment.

