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Veterinary Medicines and Inspections

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**COMMITTEE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR VETERINARY USE
(CVMP)**

**CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE PREPARATION OF A REFLECTION PAPER ON
METICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS (PSEUD)INTERMEDIUS**

AGREED BY SAGAM (SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIALS)	11 June 2009
ADOPTION CVMP FOR RELEASE FOR CONSULTATION	16 July 2009
END OF CONSULTATION (DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS)	30 September 2009

Comments should be provided using this [template](#) to [vet-guidelines@emea.europa.eu](mailto:veter-guidelines@emea.europa.eu) or by
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KEYWORDS	<i>Staphylococcus pseudintermedius, antimicrobial resistance, meticillin-resistance</i>
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1. INTRODUCTION

Staphylococcus pseudintermedius (*S. pseudintermedius*) can colonize the skin and mucosa of healthy dogs and cats, but is also a common opportunistic pathogen that can cause infections of the skin (pyoderma, woundinfections, abscesses), ear, and other body tissues and cavities. In the past, *S. pseudintermedius* isolates were generally reported to be susceptible to beta-lactam antibiotics, but since 2006 meticillin-resistant strains are being reported from different countries in Europe with increasing frequency. As in MRSA, the meticillin resistance of *S. pseudintermedius* is mediated by the *mecA* gene. The isolates are multidrug resistant and there are isolates which are not susceptible to any of the antimicrobials licensed for use in veterinary medicine. Most infections with meticillin-resistant *S. pseudintermedius* (MRSP) are surgical wound infections, but non-surgical wound infections, pyoderma, otitis externa, pneumonia, UTI (urinary tract infection) and other infections can also be caused by MRSP. The treatment of infections with MRSP is a challenge in veterinary medicine because of the limited therapeutic options. An important difference between MRSA and MRSP is that MRSP colonization or infection is rarely reported in humans.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Meticillin-resistant *S. pseudintermedius* has recently emerged as a significant animal health problem in veterinary medicine. Infections with MRSP are common in dogs and to a lesser extent cats. If antimicrobials are needed for the treatment of the infection, the choice is often very limited.

3. DISCUSSION (ON THE PROBLEM STATEMENT)

The limited therapeutic options may lead to suffering of the infected animal. Veterinary practices and hospitals play a role in the nosocomial spread of the organism. In addition, the animal colonized or infected with MRSP might create an occupational health risk for veterinary personnel, although it must be noted that the chance of transmission of MRSP between dogs or cats and humans is much smaller for MRSP than for MRSA. The dissemination of multidrug-resistant staphylococci and the possible subsequent use of antimicrobial drugs that are important for the treatment of serious infections in humans may increase scrutiny of off-label drug use practices in companion animals (Weese and van Duijkeren, 2009).

4. RECOMMENDATION

The CVMP recommends drafting a reflection paper on meticillin-resistant *S. pseudintermedius*.

The reflection paper should include information on:

- the definitions of MRSP and the methods used for typing,
- occurrence of MRSP and risk factors involved,
- prevention of spread of MRSP strains between companion animals,
- therapeutic options,
- control options for colonized or infected animals,
- the zoonotic potential of MRSP and prevention of spread to humans,

5. PROPOSED TIMETABLE

The CVMP, with the scientific support of SAGAM, will consider the comments received to this concept paper (release for consultation 16 July 2009, deadline for comments 30 September 2009). Initial discussion will take place in SAGAM in November 2009. Following discussions in SAGAM and CVMP, the proposed date of release of a draft report is fall 2010.

6. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPARATION

The development of the reflection paper will require the appointment of one SAGAM rapporteur and physical and virtual meetings of the SAGAM rapporteur and experts.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ANTICIPATED)

The reflection paper can provide information on epidemiology and ecology of MRSP, options for control and therapy and to provide further clarification on the need and priority of risk management measures. In addition the reflection paper may detect gaps in our knowledge and identify subjects for future research.

8. INTERESTED PARTIES

Veterinarians (especially companion animal clinicians and practitioners), veterinary pharmaceutical industry, human health care workers, pet owners.

9. REFERENCES TO LITERATURE, GUIDELINES ETC

Weese, J.S. and van Duijkeren, E. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in veterinary medicine. Veterinary Microbiology 2009 online. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetmic.2009.01.039>