

## New Study-Staph infections place significant burden on hospitals

A just released two-year study finds that Staphylococcus aureus (S aureus) infections strain hospitals by significantly increasing costs, length of patient stays and mortality rates. The study analyzed patient discharge data from 994 hospitals in 28 states during 2000 and from 986 hospitals in 33 states during 2001.

Major findings about S. aureus hospital stays (when compared to non-infection hospital stays) include:

- S. aureus stays are, on average, three times longer
- S. aureus stays require three times the total charges
- S. aureus stays present a five times greater risk of in-hospital death

S. aureus is often responsible for hospital acquired pneumonia. To view the entire text of the study, click on this link:

<http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/165/15/1756>