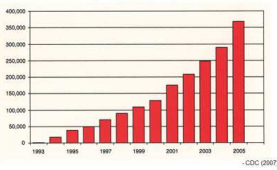


Annual Hospital Admissions with MRSA  
Silent Epidemic



**MRSA:** Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a bacterium responsible for difficult-to-treat infections in humans. MRSA are by definition strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* that are resistant to a large group of antibiotics called the beta-lactams. CDC reported (JAMA, 2007) that the number of serious infections by MRSA in 2006 was close to 100,000, with approximately 19,000 associated deaths.



**GARLIC** has been a tried and trusted natural remedy for thousands of years. Now researchers have found another use for the pungent bulbs – they kill MRSA. Patients who have suffered for years with weeping, infected wounds have been cleared after a course of garlic pills and creams, recent trials at the University of East London have shown. So far, more than 250 people have been successfully treated. Later this year a study detailing the results of the first 52 patients will be published in the journal *Advances In Therapy*. Many of the volunteers had wounds, which had refused to heal for several years – despite prolonged treatment with antibiotics. Swabs confirmed they all carried the drug-resistant hospital superbug MRSA – but most were cured within eight to 12 weeks of treatment. Larger wounds took 18 weeks to heal. Microbiologist Dr Ron Cutler, who headed the study, says It does take a little longer, but it's an effective treatment, especially for those people with chronic MRSA lesions. He adds. We have had patients on the trial who were due to have surgery to remove infected tissue, but after using the garlic preparation their wounds healed. *The healing powers of garlic have been well documented over the centuries.* The ancient Egyptians believed it gave them strength, and in 1858 French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur demonstrated its ability to kill germs. The bulb was widely used by medics in the First World War. And in the Second World War it was known as Russian penicillin? In addition, used when antibiotics were not available. But it is only recently that scientists have begun to unravel how it works. Garlic's healing properties are down to a compound called allicin, which is created only when the clove is damaged and two compounds within the plant come together. But allicin has a very short working life and until recently this made it difficult to use in medicines. Dr Cutler's work has focused on a form of stabilized allicin which has been? Frozen in time?. It is sold on the High Street as Allicin MAX Scoliosis sufferer Deborah Brown was the first patient to enroll on the University of East London trial. Deborah, 38, a probation officer from Rainham, Kent, contracted MRSA after having surgery to place rods in her back to straighten it. She says I was meant to be in hospital for three weeks but I ended up there for 17 weeks. ?The wounds in my back were gross. Pus would ooze through the dressings and soak the sheets. It was horrible.? Doctors tried everything but eventually sent Deborah home saying there was nothing they could do except removes the rods – but they could not do that for at least 18 months to give her damaged vertebrae time to fuse. She says I spent two years having stuff coming out of my back. I seriously considered taking my life at one point.?

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