

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is a feared pathogen, that causes many therapeutic problems in the hospitals worldwide. The danger of this bacteria lies especially in its resistance to antibiotics. The loss of sensitivity to antibiotics is determined by the insertion of a special gene into a chromosome of the initially sensitive strain. Sensitivity or resistance of the strain does not affect the invasivity of the strain. The spectrum of diseases caused by this agent is broad and includes infections of the skin and subcutis, bones, mammary glands, middle ear, paranasal sinuses, meningitis or sepsis. Especially the last two mentioned, are particularly serious and cause many therapeutic problems and that is why the most efficient and appropriate solution is the prevention of MRSA infections. The most important principles of prevention include correct hand washing of the patients and the medical staff, strict hygiene measures in hospital departments and the isolation of MRSA positive patients.

This work mainly discusses the epidemiological aspects of MRSA infections in the Czech and Slovak Republics and compares the distribution of this dangerous pathogen in these Central European countries with the distribution in whole Europe and in the world. The highest-risk factors of acquiring and disseminating MRSA infections in hospital departments include long-term hospitalization, particularly at the risk departments, higher age of patients, heavily immunocompromising disease, unreasonable antibiotic therapy and the lack of respect for basic hygiene standards.