

### *Staphylococcus aureus*

#### What is Staphylococcus aureus?

*Staphylococcus aureus* is a bacterium that is commonly found on human skin and mucosa (lining of the mouth, nose etc). The bacterium lives completely harmlessly on the skin and in the nose of about one third of normal healthy people. This is called colonisation, or carriage.

Your pre-operative nasal swabs you had taken returned **positive** for the presence of this bacteria.

If left untreated there is an increased risk of infection following skin surgery, and therefore would like to prescribe you the following treatment regime:

#### Prevention of Staph Aureus Infections

To reduce the risk of infection following your Mohs Surgery, you need to complete the following regime for the **5 days prior to your admission date**:

#### Chlorhexadine Gluconate 4% Solution:

This is an anti- bacterial wash. Use **20mls once daily** as below ( a medicine cup to measure may be useful):

- After wetting your skin, wash your face with **undiluted** Chlorhexidine body wash, especially around the nose  
**Avoid contact with your eyes, ears and mouth**
- Squeeze some Chlorhexidine body wash onto a clean cloth or sponge and wash over your whole body
- Leave the solution on the skin for about three minutes
- Rinse off the skin thoroughly.

#### Bactroban Nasal Ointment 2%:

This is an anti- bacterial nasal ointment to be applied into each nostril **twice daily**:

- Squeeze a small amount of ointment onto a cotton tip
- Insert cotton tip into each nostril and gently apply ointment to the inside of the nose.

**If you have any questions please contact the  
Mount Hawthorn nurses on (08) 6140 1000 or Bunbury on 08 6140 1080**

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