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Staph Infection

I. Introduction

A. Staph infection

B. Staph (short for staphylococcus) infections are bacteria and germs found on the skin. Staph infections are usually quite common, and normally do not cause any serious or damaging problems to the skin. Although staph infections usually don't cause any serious health related issues, it can become deadly if it gets deep into the skin, or if the infection is not treated properly, because it could eventually end up in the bloodstream, joints or bones. There are several ways to treat staph infections, including antibiotics or drainage of the infected area. It's important to know whenever a person is infected with a staph infection so they will be able to get the proper treatment and care that they need.

II. Symptoms

A. Pimples or Boils

i. If a pimple or boil appears on the skin, you may be at risk for having a staph infection.

ii. MedlinePlus states, "skin infections can look like pimples or boils. They may be red, swollen or painful. Sometimes there is pus or other drainage."

B. Bone infections

i. Bone infections can be another sign of staph infections.

ii. "Bone infections can cause pain, swelling, warmth and redness in the infected area" states MedlinePlus.

C. Impetigo

i. According to MedlinePlus, "Impetigo is a crust on the skin, or cellulitis, a swollen, red area of skin that feels hot."

III. Documented human origin and history

A. Staphylococcus originated around 1881.

i. According to Orent, "Staphylococcus is identified as a cause of wound infection by the Scottish surgeon Sir Alexander Ogston, who named it after grape-like clusters he observed under the microscope."

IV. Natural causes and mechanisms

A. How a boil occurs

i. A boil is the most common type of symptom that occurs whenever someone has a staph infection. Boils tend to form whenever a cut or scrape on the skin is infected with bacteria or germs.

ii. According to Mayo Clinic, "The most common type of staph infection is the boil, a pocket of pus that develops in a hair follicle or oil gland."

B. How Impetigo on the skin forms

i. Impetigo is a highly contagious skin infection, that is usually seen on the face. Impetigo forms whenever bacteria infects the skin from a cut, an insect bite or a rash.

ii. Mayo Clinic states, “impetigo usually features large blisters that may ooze fluid and develop a honey-colored crust.”

V. Ecology and adaptation

A. Staph infections within animals

i. Animals can be seen within other living organisms, not just within humans. Animals such as cats, dogs, pigs, and horses can be infected with a staphylococcus.

ii. According to Dall, “finding a staph strain belonging to a pig farmer was not a surprise, as the ability of the pathogen to spread from pigs and other livestock to humans has been well established.”

B. How staphylococcus is transmitted

i. Staph infections can be transmitted from human to human contact, or from human to animal contact.

ii. According to Davis, “most staph bacteria are transmitted by person-to-person contact, but viable staph on surfaces of clothing, sinks, and other objects can contact skin and cause infections. As long as a person has an active infection, the organisms are contagious.”

VI. Alternative perspectives and positions

A. Controversy on staph infections

i. I do not believe that there are any vaccines that could “cure” a staph infection or decrease the possibility of getting a staph infection. Staph infections are caused by getting a cut or scrape on the skin, and not properly taking care of that cut or scrape.

VII. Conclusion

A. Final thoughts

i. Overall, even healthy humans are susceptible to get staph infections because they are quite common. Although staph infections are regularly seen among infants and children when they start attending daycare and preschool, anyone is able to get this infection. As long as we know how to properly take care of ourselves once we get a cut or scrape on our skins, the chances of getting a staph infection decreases.

B. Proper treatment and care

i. If you feel that you are getting a staph infection, it’s important to keep that specific area clean and covered until seen by a doctor.

ii. Mayo Clinic states, “your doctor may perform tests to identify the staph bacteria behind your infection, and to help choose which antibiotic will work best.”

## References

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