

# FAQs

(frequently asked questions)

## about "MDRAB"

(Multi Drug Resistant Acinetobacter Baumannii)

### What is MDRAB?

Acinetobacter Baumannii is a group of bacteria that is commonly found in soil and water. It may also be found on the skin of healthy people. Antibiotics are medications used to treat infections caused by bacteria. The increased use of antibiotics has led to the creation of types of Acinetobacter Baumannii, which are hard to treat. They are called multi-Drug resistant because many antibiotics used to treat infections do not work.

Acinetobacter Baumannii can be found in many areas of the body without causing an infection. This is called the carrier state. It may cause a problem for patients in the hospital who have a low resistance to infection.

### What are the symptoms of Acinetobacter Baumannii?

Acinetobacter causes a variety of diseases, ranging from pneumonia to serious blood or wound infections and the symptoms vary depending on the disease. Typical symptoms of pneumonia could include fever, chills, or cough. Acinetobacter may also "colonize" or live in a patient without causing infection or symptoms, especially in tracheostomy sites or open wounds.

### Can Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter Baumannii be treated?

Yes. Laboratory testing of the Acinetobacter Baumannii can determine which antibiotics will work. People who are colonized (bacteria are present, but have no symptoms of an infection) with Acinetobacter Baumannii do not usually need treatment.

### How is it spread?

Acinetobacter Baumannii poses very little risk to healthy people. However, people who have weakened immune systems, chronic lung disease, or diabetes may be more susceptible to infections with Acinetobacter Baumannii. Hospitalized patients, especially very ill patients on a ventilator, those with a prolonged hospital stay, or those who have open wounds, are also at greater risk for Acinetobacter Baumannii infection. Acinetobacter Baumannii can be spread to susceptible persons by person-to-person contact, contact with contaminated surfaces, or exposure in the environment.

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### What happens if I have Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter Baumannii?

If you have Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter Baumannii, you will have a room of your own or share a room with someone who also has it. This helps to protect you and prevent the spread to others. While in the hospital you will be in Contact Precautions.

### What are Contact Precautions?

Contact Precautions help reduce the risk of spreading infections to patients, visitors and staff:

- A sign is placed on your door to let staff and visitors know that you are in Contact Precautions.
- People entering your room must wear a gown and gloves. Supplies are stored outside your room.
- Everyone helping you with personal care must wear a gown and gloves.
- Before leaving your room, everyone must take off their gown and gloves and wash their hands.
- You have to stay in your room unless you need to go for a test or x-ray. If you need to leave, a staff member will help you get ready. You will need to wear a clean patient gown or clean clothing.
- Do not go to common areas such as the hospital café, other patient rooms or the waiting room.
- Wash hands well and often. Use soap and water or the alcohol based hand rubs.

**IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR PROVIDERS CLEAN THEIR HANDS, PLEASE ASK THEM TO DO SO.**

### May I have visitors?

Yes. Healthy people are not at risk for developing infections with Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter Baumannii. Visitors must wear a gown and gloves while in the room. They must remove the gown and gloves and wash their hands when leaving the room. Visitors should not go to common areas such as the lounge without first washing their hands.

**If you have questions, please ask your doctor or nurse.**

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