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THE KENYA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

TITLE: PREVALENCE OF *STAPHYLOCOCCUS*
AUREUS INFECTIONS AMONG PATIENTS
ATTENDING AVENUE HOSPITAL, NAIROBI
FORM FEBRUARY 2007 TO JULY 2007

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ABSTRACT

Staphylococcus aureus belongs to the family *micrococcaceae* and they are universally distributed gram positive *cocci*. In humans they present themselves in boils and abscesses forming pus, and in skin, throat, nasopharynx, oral mucosa and saliva from which they are expelled into air in form of droplets. They are also present in foods especially milk, soil and in sewage.

The main aim of this project was to check the prevalence of *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in patients who attended Avenue Health Care Hospital, Nairobi. Specimens were collected and examined in the Laboratory, department of medical microbiology.

For diagnostic purposes, specimens were prepared on glass -slides, stained with gram staining technique and examined to identify gram positive *cocci*. The following biochemical tests were done to identify the bacteria;

- (a) Catalase test
- (b) Coagulase test
- (c) Carbohydrate fermentation test
- (d) Gelatin liquefaction test

All the above tests were positive if *Staphylococcus aureus* were present.

The number of patients tested was 768 and there were 124 positive cases reported and 644 cases were negative. This gave an incidence of 16.1%. The predisposing factors that have increased the incidence of *Staphylococcus aureus* infections are congestion, poor living conditions, low rainfall and where flies and dust are abound