

Study finds Superbug could strike 5 percent of hospital patients

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Wednesday, 04 July 2007 18:32

A report released earlier this week suggests as many as 5 percent of hospital and nursing home patients may become infected with a dangerous, drug-resistant staph germ.

The superbug may afflict 30,000 U.S. hospital patients at any given time, the survey, released by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, suggests. This estimate is approximately 10 times previous estimates by some health officials. The superbug at issue is called Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and it cannot be controlled by common antibiotics. It can cause skin infections, blood infections, pneumonia and other illnesses. The germ is spread by touch and thrives in healthcare settings where open wounds are prevalent.