

## Minncare® and Actril® Cold Sterilants

### Research Report: Effectiveness Against MRSA & MSSA

#### Introduction

Actril and Minncare Cold Sterilants are EPA registered high level disinfectants that have demonstrated effectiveness against a broad range of organisms. These microbes include: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella thyphimurium*, Hepatitis B, HIV, *Mycobacterium bovis* (TB surrogate), and *Bacillus subtilis*.<sup>1,2</sup> This technical white paper examines the efficacy of Actril and Minncare against MSSA and MRSA for hard surface disinfection.

#### History of MRSA

As the latest data has shown, deaths due to Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are no longer a rare event, but has actually surpassed deaths due to HIV in the USA.<sup>3</sup> Since its discovery as a distinct, methicillin-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) in the early 1960's, MRSA has rapidly evolved to become pervasive in healthcare, long-term care and even community settings. Today, MRSA accounts for almost 50% of the *Staphylococcus aureus* in healthcare facilities.<sup>4</sup>

While a major issue in healthcare facilities, MRSA has made the "leap" into the community and in this setting is labeled Community Aquired-MRSA (CA-MRSA). Unlike in healthcare facilities where many of the infections attacked the immunocompromised, CA-MRSA has been hitting those who are healthy. High school, college, and professional athletes<sup>5</sup> have all been impacted by CA-MRSA, which in the worst case has even shutdown entire athletic programs.

Just this past year, multiple schools were shutdown for cleaning and disinfection because of the spread of MRSA within the student body.<sup>6</sup>

#### Disinfectants and MRSA

Although a variety of bacteria have developed antibiotic resistance, this does not imply they are resistant to disinfectants. Multiple studies have been conducted and there is no evidence

of MRSA showing resistance to disinfectants. In fact, the various strains have shown statistically no difference in terms of resistance when exposed to disinfectants.<sup>8</sup>

The reason behind this is that unlike antibiotics that disrupt singular processes within a cell, disinfectants, such as Actril or Minncare actually disrupt the entire cell membrane. In essence, they blow a hole in the cell membrane whether it is MRSA or MSSA.

#### Experiment

Test organisms used for this experiment are:

ATCC 6538 (*S. aureus*)      ATCC 33592 (CA-MRSA)

These organisms were tested using a modified AOAC UseDilution Method. (The modification was simply in the total number of carriers used from 60 to 15 and 20 for MSSA and MRSA, respectively.) Actril Cold Sterilant, a ready to use disinfectant, was tested at full strength, which consists of 850 ppm of Peracetic Acid (PAA). Minncare Cold Sterilant was diluted with DI water to a 1% solution, which consists of 500 ppm of PPA.

MSSA		
	Actril	1% Minncare
1 min	13/15	12/15
3 min	15/15	15/15
5 min	15/15	15/15
10 min	15/15	15/15
MRSA		
	Actril	1% Minncare
1 min	13/15	12/15

- Population for MSSA was 1.3x10<sup>6</sup> and MRSA was 1.03x10<sup>7</sup>
- Negative carriers/total carriers
- A 15/15 or 20/20 result is interpreted as complete kill

#### Discussion

The AOAC Use-Dilution Method is used in the submission for

EPA claims for effectiveness against MSSA and MRSA. Both Actril Cold Sterilant and 1% Minncare Solution passed the modified AOAC Use-Dilution Method for MSSA at 3 minutes, killing 10<sup>6</sup> organisms. For both disinfectants, total kill of MSSA were noted on 80% or better of the carriers at one minute.

For MRSA, both disinfectants passed the modified AOAC Use-Dilution Method at two minutes, killing 10<sup>7</sup> organisms on all the carriers.

## Conclusion

Actril Cold Sterilant and 1% Minncare Solution passed the modified AOAC Use-Dilution Method for both MSSA and MRSA at 3 and 2 minutes, respectively. Based on these extremely positive results, further investigation using Actril and Minncare Cold Sterilants as a disinfectant to overcome MSSA and MRSA is warranted.

## Terminology

**MSSA** --- Methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus*. This is the regular (non-resistant) strain of *S. aureus*.

**MRSA** – Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*, which today refers not only to just strains that are methicillin-resistant, but also any beta-lactam antibiotic, such as amoxicillin and penicillin.

**HA-MRSA** – a MRSA infection acquired during a stay in or immediately after discharge from a hospital or other health care setting.<sup>3</sup>

**CA-MRSA** – an infection with MRSA in a person who does not have any prior history of health care exposure such as hospitalization, surgery or a permanent intravenous lines or other indwelling devices or hemodialysis.

## References

1. Actril Cold Sterilant: Technical Notes and Research Data Report, MarCor Purification 2007
2. Minncare Cold Sterilant: Research Data, Minntech Corporation 2003
3. Klevens, et. al. Invasive Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in the United States. *JAMA* 298(15): 1763-1771
4. Fridkin, S.K., & Gaynes, R.P. (1999). Antimicrobial resistance in intensive care units. *Clinics of Chest Medicine*, 20(2), 303-316.
5. Kazakova, et. al. A Clone of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* among Professional Football Players. *NEJM* 342(5): 468-475
6. Kentucky School District to Close 23 Schools after MRSA Staph Infection Reported. From <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,305677,00.html>
7. Community Associated Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA MRSA), Guidelines for Clinical Management and Control of Transmission, PPH 42160, October 2005, Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Available at [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/resources/pdffiles/CAMRSAGuide\\_1105.pdf](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/resources/pdffiles/CAMRSAGuide_1105.pdf)
8. Weber DJ, Rutala RA, Use of Germicides in the Home and Healthcare Setting: Is There a Relationship Between Germicide Use and Antibiotic Resistance? *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*: 2006, 2710

Minncare® and Actril® are registered trademarks of Minntech Corporation, a Cantel Medical Company



Mar Cor Purification  
4450 Township Line Road  
Skipack, PA 19474-1429  
Tel: (484) 991-0220  
Toll Free: (800) 346-0365  
Fax: (484) 991-0230

Mar Cor Purification  
14550 28th Avenue North  
Plymouth, MN 55447  
Tel: (484) 991-0220  
Toll Free: (800) 633-3080  
Fax: (763) 210-3868

Mar Cor Purification  
3250 Harvester Road - Unit 6  
Burlington, ON L7N 3W9  
Tel: (905) 639-7025  
Toll Free: (800) 268-5035  
Fax: (905) 639-0425

Mar Cor Purification  
Sourethweg 11  
6422 PC Heerlen  
The Netherlands  
Tel: (+31) 45 5471 471  
Fax: (+31) 45 5429 695

Mar Cor Purification  
1A International  
Business Park, #05-01  
Singapore 609933  
Tel: (+65) 6227 9698  
Fax: (+65) 6225 6848