



Dr Wolfgang Muller (Consultant Paediatrician)

Parent Information Guide:

PVL-Producing *Staphylococcus aureus* (PVL-SA)

What is PVL-SA?

PVL-producing *Staphylococcus aureus* (PVL-SA) is a type of bacteria that can cause **recurrent skin infections**, such as:

- Boils or abscesses
- Red, swollen skin (cellulitis)
- In some cases, more serious infections

PVL is a toxin that destroys white blood cells and can make skin infections **more severe and easier to spread** between people living closely together.

How is PVL Spread?

- Through **skin-to-skin contact**
 - By **sharing towels, razors, or clothing**
 - Touching surfaces or bedding contaminated with the bacteria
 - From a person who carries the bacteria but has no symptoms
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Signs of PVL-SA Infection

- Painful red lumps or boils
- Pus-filled spots
- Recurrent abscesses
- In some cases: fever, feeling unwell

If you or your child has these symptoms, contact your GP.



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How Do We Get Rid of PVL-SA?

To stop it spreading and reduce the risk of more infections, your GP or specialist may recommend:

✓ 1. Treatment of Active Infection

- Antibiotics (based on test results)
- Draining of abscesses if needed

✓ 2. Decolonisation Treatment (Usually for 5 Days)

All household members may be asked to do this **at the same time**:

- **Nasal ointment (e.g. Bactroban®)** – apply inside each nostril 3 times a day
- **Antibacterial body wash (e.g. chlorhexidine or Octenisan®)** – use daily for washing skin and hair
- **Fresh towels and clothes** each day during the 5-day treatment

Important Hygiene Measures

- **Do not share** towels, razors, or personal items
- Wash clothes and bedding **at 60°C** if possible
- Keep cuts and wounds **covered** with clean dressings
- Clean hands regularly with soap and water
- Clean surfaces, door handles, taps, and shared items daily

When Can My Child Go to School or Nursery?

- Children with **healing or covered lesions** can usually attend
- If they feel unwell or have open draining sores, keep them at home



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What If It Comes Back?

Sometimes repeat decolonisation is needed. Speak to your GP if:

- Infections keep returning
- Not everyone in the home completed treatment
- Other people around you are also getting boils or infections

When to Seek Further Advice

- If infections are severe or keep coming back
- If anyone in the family is very young, elderly, or has a weakened immune system
- If multiple people in a school, nursery, or sports group are affected

PVL-SA can be managed and eliminated with the right treatment and good hygiene. If you have questions, contact your GP or community infection control team.

Enclosed is a link to further parent information:

Parent information on “My child is unwell – When should I see a doctor?”

<https://drwmuller.com/information-for-parents-carers/>

See: Emergencies: “When do I need to see a doctor urgently?”

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