

# Impact of SCCmec type on Mortality Attributed to Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia

Chang Kyung Kang<sup>1,2</sup>, Jeong Eun Cho<sup>2</sup>, Yoon Jeong Choi<sup>2</sup>, Nak-Hyun Kim<sup>1</sup>, Chung-Jong Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Taek Soo Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Kyoung-Ho Song<sup>1,2</sup>, Pyoeng Gyun Choe<sup>1</sup>,

Wan Beom Park<sup>1</sup>, Ji-Hwan Bang<sup>1</sup>, Eu Suk Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Kyoung Un Park<sup>1,2</sup>, Sang Won Park<sup>1</sup>, Nam-Joong Kim<sup>1</sup>, Myoung-don Oh<sup>1</sup>, and Hong Bin Kim<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul; <sup>2</sup>Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seongnam, Republic of Korea

## Abstract

**Background:** This study was designed to explore the impact of staphylococcal cassette chromosome *mec* (SCC*mec*) type on mortality attributed to methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteremia.

**Summary:** Among enrolled 198 cases, 47 (23.7%) were MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality, and the numbers of SCC*mec* types II/III and IV were 140 (70.7%) and 58 (29.3%), respectively. MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality was higher in SCC*mec* types II/III (29.3%, 41/140) than in type IV (10.3%, 6/58) ( $P = 0.003$ ). In multivariable analysis, SCC*mec* types II/III rather than type IV, higher Charlson's comorbidity score, higher Pitt bacteremia score, and central line associated infection were independently associated with MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality.

**Conclusions:** MRSA with SCC*mec* types II/III compared with type IV is independent risk factor for MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality in this study.

## Objectives

Understanding the clinical outcome of MRSA bacteremia according to SCC*mec* type is important when considering the recent epidemiological changes and its gaining importance of community associated-MRSA (CA-MRSA). Although many studies have been conducted to clarify the difference of the clinical outcome between CA-MRSA and healthcare associated-MRSA (HA-MRSA) bacteremia, the results are not always in agreement. The objective of this study was to compare mortality attributed to MRSA bacteremia between SCC*mec* types II/III and type IV.

## Methods

Data on all the episodes of MRSA bacteremia between January 2009 and May 2013 were collected from the electronic medical record system at Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (a 1300-bed tertiary-care hospital, Seongnam, Korea). All adult patients ( $\geq 15$  years) who suffered their first MRSA bacteremia episodes were enrolled. Cases were excluded for polymicrobial infection, suspected contamination, the unavailable bloodstream isolates, and the non-evaluable outcome due to early discharge or transfer without a further follow-up. MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality was pre-defined as the presence of at least one of the followings: (1) positive blood culture for MRSA at the time of death; (2) a persistent focus of MRSA infection associated with clinical signs of sepsis; and (3) the death within 14 days of the documentation of bloodstream infection with no other reasonable explanations.

## Results

### 1. Univariable analyses for MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality.

	Survivor (n=151)	Non-survivor (n=47)	OR (95% CI)	P
Female sex	57 (37.7)	12 (25.5)	0.57 (0.27-1.18)	0.128
Age	66.5 ( $\pm 14.7$ )	68.4 ( $\pm 12.0$ )	1.01 (0.99-1.04)	0.424
<b>Charlson's comorbidity index score</b>	<b>4.7 (<math>\pm 2.8</math>)</b>	<b>6.2 (<math>\pm 2.7</math>)</b>	<b>1.20 (1.07-1.35)</b>	<b>0.002</b>
<b>ICU location on culture date</b>	<b>20 (13.2)</b>	<b>14 (29.8)</b>	<b>2.78 (1.27-6.08)</b>	<b>0.010</b>
Nosocomial onset	89 (58.9)	31 (66.0)	1.35 (0.68-2.68)	0.391
<b>Pitt bacteremia score</b>	<b>1.5 (<math>\pm 1.9</math>)</b>	<b>4.5 (<math>\pm 4.0</math>)</b>	<b>1.45 (1.26-1.66)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>SOFA score</b>	<b>4.4 (<math>\pm 3.9</math>)</b>	<b>9.3 (<math>\pm 5.8</math>)</b>	<b>1.22 (1.14-1.31)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Presentation with septic shock</b>	<b>22 (14.6)</b>	<b>20 (42.6)</b>	<b>4.34 (2.09-9.05)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Steroid use ( $\geq$ Pd 20mg/day $\geq 1$ week)	18 (11.9)	9 (19.1)	1.75 (0.73-4.21)	0.211
<b>Primary bacteremia</b>	<b>17 (11.3)</b>	<b>12 (25.5)</b>	<b>2.70 (1.18-6.18)</b>	<b>0.019</b>
Central line associated infection	52 (34.4)	9 (19.1)	0.45 (0.20-1.00)	0.051
<b>Bone &amp; joint infection</b>	<b>14 (9.3)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0.019</b>
Surgical wound infection	19 (12.6)	6 (12.8)	1.02 (0.38-2.72)	0.974
Skin & soft tissue infection	20 (13.2)	5 (10.6)	0.78 (0.28-2.21)	0.639
<b>Pneumonia</b>	<b>12 (7.9)</b>	<b>10 (21.3)</b>	<b>3.13 (1.26-7.81)</b>	<b>0.014</b>
Intra-abdominal infection	6 (4.0)	5 (10.6)	2.88 (0.84-9.90)	0.094
Inappropriate empirical antibiotics	90 (59.6)	24 (51.1)	0.71 (0.37-1.37)	0.302
Persistent MRSA bacteremia	26 (17.2)	11 (23.4)	1.47 (0.66-3.26)	0.344
<b>SCC<i>mec</i> types II/III (vs. type IV)</b>	<b>99 (65.6)</b>	<b>41 (87.2)</b>	<b>3.59 (1.43-9.01)</b>	<b>0.006</b>
genes for PVL	1 (0.7)	1 (2.1)	3.26 (0.20-53.17)	0.407
Vancomycin MIC $\geq 1.5$ $\mu$ g/mL (E-test)	73 (48.3)	19 (40.4)	0.73 (0.37-1.41)	0.343

Contact information: Hong Bin Kim, MD,  
Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital,  
166 Gumi-ro, Bundang-gu, Seongnam, Republic of Korea  
Phone 82-31-787-7021, E-mail hbkimmd@snu.ac.kr

### 2. Independent factors for MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality.

	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	P
<b>Charlson's comorbidity index score</b>	<b>1.26 (1.09-1.46)</b>	<b>0.001</b>
<b>Pitt bacteremia score</b>	<b>1.50 (1.28-1.76)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Central line associated infection</b>	<b>0.33 (0.23-0.85)</b>	<b>0.021</b>
<b>SCC<i>mec</i> types II/III (vs. type IV)</b>	<b>4.50 (1.49-13.59)</b>	<b>0.008</b>

### 3. Microbiological characteristics of bloodstream isolates in this study.

	SCC <i>mec</i> II/III (n=140)	SCC <i>mec</i> IV (n=58)
major <i>spa</i> types	t2460 (42.1)	t324 (60.3)
	t002 (11.4)	t664 (13.8)
	t9353 (9.3)	t148 (6.9)
	t037 (5.0)	t008 (3.4)
	t264 (3.6)	
	t12701 (3.6)	
genes for PVL	0 (0.0)	2 (3.4)
Vancomycin MIC $\geq 1.5$ $\mu$ g/mL (E-test)	61 (43.6)	31 (53.4)

## Conclusions

MRSA with SCC*mec* types II/III, compared with type IV, is independently correlated with higher MRSA bacteremia-attributed mortality in this study. Geographic and accompanying genetic differences should be considered in understanding of MRSA virulence.