

SUMMARY

Coagulase - positive staphylococci were isolated from 53% of cases from pyogenic infections in hospitals and from 36% of the nasal carriers.

Tube coagulase test is a most convenient and reliable test for determining the pathogenicity of staphylococcus aureus.

Rifampicin was found to be the most effective drug against all strains isolated from infected cases and carriers followed by gentamycin and cefalotine which were found to be effective against the majority of strains.

Most strains of staphylococcus aureus isolated are resistant to **penicillin, tetracycline** and **chloramphenicol**.

All the penicillin resistant strains owe their resistance to the production of penicillinase enzyme, while all the sensitive strains are non penicillinase producers.

The method used for detection of **penicillinase** production, was the filter paper **bromocresol purple** acidometric method which is a cheap, simple and rapid. And this method can be used as screening test for penicillin resistant strains causing an out break of staphylococcus aureus in hospital wards.