

Patient and Family Education:

Resistance Genes

Your test result had the following resistance gene(s):

- Imipenemase metallo- β -lactamase (IMP)
- Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase (KPC)
- New Delhi metallo- β -lactamase (NDM)
- Oxacillinase-48-type carbapenemase (OXA)
- Verona integron-encoded metallo- β -lactamase (VIM)

What is a resistance gene?

A resistance gene is a tool that some germs use to stop a drug from killing it. This gene is made by the germ and can be passed to other germs. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage about resistance genes (www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cr6/index.html).

What is the difference between colonization and infection?

Colonization means that you have the germ in your gut, but the germ is not making you sick. You can still pass the germ to others even if you are not sick. Infection means that you have symptoms, such as fever (feel hot), diarrhea (watery stool), or fatigue (feel tired). If you are carrying the germ, you might get sick. You are more likely to become sick if you have long health care stays, medical tools under your skin (such as catheters or ventilators), a recent transplant, or had long courses of antibiotics, or were in an intensive care unit.

Do I need treatment?

Your health care provider will tell you if you need treatment. If the germ is not making you sick (colonization), you do not need treatment. Taking drugs could make the problem worse and increase the time you carry these germs in your gut.

How long will I have this germ?

We do not know how long you will carry this germ. Many people carry these germs and often these germs go away. Your health care provider might ask for another test later to see if the germ is gone.

Can I pass this germ to my family or visitors?

No. Healthy people are not likely to get this germ. You may pass this germ to others that have long health care stays, medical tools under their skin, a recent transplant, or had long courses of antibiotics, or were in an intensive care unit.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Florida Department of Health
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