



Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana Health Alert Network Advisory — March 13, 2019

VERONA INTEGRON-MEDIATED METALLO- β -LACTAMASE (VIM)-PRODUCING CARBAPENEM-RESISTANT *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) AMONG ADULTS WHO UNDERWENT BARIATRIC SURGERY IN MEXICO

Several state health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are investigating 16 infections of Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- β -lactamase (VIM)-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) among adult patients who underwent bariatric surgery in Mexico between August 21, 2018 to January 15, 2019. Of those infected, eight surgical site infections and one bloodstream infection have been identified. Twelve of the 16 patients for whom additional information was available reported receiving gastric sleeve surgery at Grand View Hospital in Tijuana, Mexico.

As part of the investigation of these VIM-CRPA infections, Mexico health officials identified poor infection prevention practices at Grand View Hospital, including unsafe and insufficient cleaning of surgical equipment. Other patients who have undergone bariatric surgery in Tijuana, Mexico may be at risk for similar infections.

Carbapenem-resistant strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* or Enterobacteriaceae isolated from any patient with a history of an overnight hospital stay in Mexico in the last six months should undergo mechanism testing for VIM and other plasmid-mediated carbapenemases; this testing is available via the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Laboratories. Additionally, patients from whom VIM-CRPA is isolated (regardless of specimen source) should be asked about receipt of healthcare outside the U.S. (both elective [medical tourism] and unplanned care) in the six months prior to positive culture.

As a precaution, CDC and the ISDH recommend that anyone who underwent surgery at Grand View Hospital in Tijuana, Mexico during or after August 2018 be screened for hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), even though the risk for developing one of these infections is thought to be low.

Health care providers should report any cases of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections in patients who report a history of bariatric surgery in Tijuana, Mexico since August 1, 2018 to DJ Shannon, ISDH Antimicrobial Resistance Epidemiologist, at dshannon1@isdh.in.gov or 317-233-1306.

More information is also available from CDC at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/drug-resistant-infections-mexico>.