

MRSA/SA test, 7/13:104

Cepheid has received FDA clearance to market its Xpert MRSA/SA blood culture test, which runs on its GeneXpert system, for the detection of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and

S. aureus in blood culture bottles showing gram-positive cocci in clusters in about one hour.

Cepheid's updated Xpert MRSA/SA BC test processes positive blood culture specimens to determine whether a patient's blood is infected with MRSA or SA, which are frequent causes of sepsis in hospitalized patients.

"Having the capability to differentiate MRSA, *S. aureus*, and CoNS [coagulase-negative staphylococci] rapidly in blood culture specimens is a major responsibility of the clinical laboratory," Fred C. Tenover, PhD, Cepheid VP of scientific affairs, said in a statement. "The clear advantage of the three-target detection algorithm in the Xpert MRSA/SA BC test is the direct identification of both MRSA and *S. aureus* in approximately one hour."

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