



# Striking Gold

A new discovery may finally skin staph

October 1, 2005 By Laura Whitehorn

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Scientists are cracking the code of staph (*Staphylococcus aureus*), a bacterial skin infection harder on HIVers than on neggies. They've found that the stuff that gives the bug its distinctive gold surface (*aureus* means golden) also shields it from the immune system. Pinpointing this defense mechanism could spur better meds—for the drug-resistant kind, too. Until then, here are some steps for stopping staph:

- Get clean: Wash with soap and water, especially after skin-to-skin contact.
  - Get covered: Wrap cuts or abrasions with clean bandages.
  - Get your own: Don't share razors or towels.
  - Get culture: Testing suspected staph tells your Doc which anti-biotics to prescribe.
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