Striking Gold

A new discovery may finally skin staph

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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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