**Staphylococcus epidermidis**, Strain VCU014

**Catalog No. NR-46377**

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**Contributor:**
Network on Antimicrobial Resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* (NARSA), NIAID, NIH

**Manufacturer:**
BEI Resources

**Product Description:**
Bacteria Classification: *Staphylococcaceae, Staphylococcus*
Species: *Staphylococcus epidermidis*
Strain: VCU014
NARSA Catalog Number: NRS849
Original Source: *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (S. epidermidis), strain VCU014 is of unknown origin.1
Comments: The complete genome sequence of *S. epidermidis*, strain VCU014 is available (GenBank: JHQB00000000).

*S. epidermidis* is a Gram-positive, cluster-forming, coagulase-negative coccus which is part of the normal flora of the skin and nostrils. Recently, it has become a common cause of hospital-acquired infections, particularly infections on implanted medical devices.2 A number of factors, such as biofilm formation, small colony variants and a reduced susceptibility to a number of antibiotics, contribute to its success as a cause of nosocomial infections.3,7 Approximately 75% to 90% of hospital isolates are methicillin-resistant *S. epidermidis* (MRSE) and an increasing number of isolates have reduced susceptibility to vancomycin.2 Similar to *S. aureus*, methicillin resistance is conferred by the mecA gene, whereas the reduced susceptibility to vancomycin is due to cell wall alterations including altered cross-linking and thickening of the wall.2,8-10 It is believed that *S. epidermidis* can serve as a reservoir for antibiotic resistant genes and other genomic islands for *S. aureus* which can acquire the genes through unidirectional horizontal gene transfer.2

**Growth Conditions:**
**Media:**
Brain Heart Infusion broth or Tryptic Soy broth or equivalent
Brain Heart Infusion agar or Tryptic Soy agar or Tryptic Soy agar with 5% defibrinated sheep blood or equivalent

**Incubation:**
Temperature: 37°C
Atmosphere: Aerobic

**Propagation:**
1. Keep vial frozen until ready for use, then thaw.
2. Transfer the entire thawed aliquot into a single tube of broth.
3. Use several drops of the suspension to inoculate an agar slant and/or plate.
4. Incubate the tube, slant and/or plate at 37°C for 1 day.

**Citation:**
Acknowledgment for publications should read “The following reagent was provided by the Network on Antimicrobial Resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* (NARSA) for distribution by BEI Resources, NIAID, NIH: *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, Strain VCU014, NR-46377.”

**Biosafety Level: 2**

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References:
1. NARSA, NRS849

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