

Additional file 1. The provisional ABC score.

	Points	
	Yes	No
1. MRSA isolated from blood or other aseptic samples*	3	0
2. MRSA $\geq 2+$ by Gram-staining or $\geq 10^5$ cfu/mL in culture	2	0
3. Neutrophil aggregation or phagocytosis shown by Gram-staining	2	0
4. Local inflammation	1	0
5. Systemic inflammatory response**	1	0
6. Elevated inflammatory markers***	1	0
Diagnostic criteria (total points possible: 10)		
≤ 3 points: Colonization		
≥ 4 points: Active infection		

*Ascites, pleural fluid, pancreatic fluid, spinal fluid, abscess, or wound.

**Fever, chills, rigors, hypotension or decreased urine output.

***White blood cells or C-reactive protein.