The aim of this study was to characterize methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) isolates recovered from different infectious sites of hospitalized patients at two university hospitals. Fourteen isolates were analyzed by repetitive sequence based PCR (Rep-PCR), randomly amplified polymorphic DNA assay (RAPD-PCR), and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). We found that a prevalent clone of MRSA, susceptible to rifampin, minocycline, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (RIF S, MIN S, TMS S) was present in both hospitals in replacement of the multiresistant MRSA South American clone, previously described in these hospitals. The staphylococcal chromosomal cassette (SCCmec) type I element was detected in this new clone.

**Keywords**
MRSA, mecA, SCCmec, epidemiology, molecular typing, PFGE.