# Contents

1. **General introduction and outline of the thesis**  
   
2. **Effectiveness, costs and benefits of the MRSA ‘Search and Destroy’ policy**  
   2.1 Meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* epidemiology and transmission in a Dutch hospital  
   2.2 Costs and benefits of the MRSA Search and Destroy policy in a Dutch hospital  

3. **Current problems and challenges in MRSA epidemiology and control**  
   3.1 Increase in a Dutch hospital of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* related to animal farming  
   3.2 Adjustment of the MRSA Search and Destroy policy for outpatients in the Netherlands  
   3.3 Cluster of MRSA in the community; detection and control  
   3.4 Lifestyle-associated risk factors for community-acquired meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* carriage in the Netherlands: an exploratory hospital-based case-control study  
   3.5 Livestock-Associated MRSA in patients without direct contact with livestock  
   3.6 Community-associated meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* transmission in households of infected cases: a pooled analysis of primary data from three studies across international settings  
   3.7 Self-sampling is appropriate for detection of *Staphylococcus aureus*  

4. **Current problems and challenges in Staphylococcus aureus (both MSSA and MRSA) epidemiology and control**  
   4.1 Mupirocin ointment for preventing *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in nasal carriers  
   4.2 Comparison of two PCR-based methods and conventional culture for the detection of nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* in pre-operative patients  
   4.3 New approaches to prevention of staphylococcal infection in surgery  
   4.4 Reduced costs for *Staphylococcus aureus* carriers treated prophylactically with mupirocin and chlorhexidine in cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgery
4.5 Decreased one-year mortality after rapid screening and decolonisation of *Staphylococcus aureus* carriers undergoing clean surgical procedures 193

5. General Discussion 205

Samenvatting en conclusies 217
Dankwoord 227
Curriculum Vitae 235
List of publications 239