**Supplementary Table 1: Molecular characterization of *Staphylococcus aureus* strains**

| Clonal complex | Strain assignment | SCC mec-complex-associated genes | Regulatory & capsule genes | Antibiotic resistance genes | Toxin associated virulence genes | Other virulence genes |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| CC1 (n=3)      | CC1-MRSA-[V+fusC+ccrAB1] (n=2) | ugpQ; mecA; ccrA-1; ccrB-1; Q6GD50 (fusC) | agrIII; cap8 | aacA-aphD | sea; seb; seh; sek; seq | hla; sak; scn; icaA/C/D; clfA/B; fnbA/B; cna; sasG |
|                |                   |                                 |                           |                             |                                 |                     |
| CC1 (n=3)      | CC1-MRSA-[V/VT+fus+ccrAB1] (n=1) | ugpQ; mecA; Q6GD50 (fusC); ccrA-1; ccrB-1; | agrIII; cap8 | aacA-aphD | sea; seb; seh; | hla; sak; scn; icaA/C/D; clfA/B; fnbA/B; cna; sasG |
| CC15 (n=1)     | CC-15 MSSA        | --                              | agrII; cap5 | blaZ; blal; blar; fosB | - | hla; chp; scn; etA; icaA/C/D; clfA/B; fnbA/B; sasG |
| CC361 (n=1)    | CC-361 MSSA       | --                              | agrI; cap8 | fosB | egc cluster | hla; sak; chp; sasG; icaA/C/D; clfA/B; fnbA/B; sasG |

*agr*, accessory gene regulator; *ccr*, cassette chromosome recombinase gene; *blaZ*, beta-lactamase; *blal*, beta lactamase repressor (inhibitor); *blaR*, beta-lactamase regulatory protein; *can*, collagen binding adhesin; *etA*, exfoliative toxin A; *sea*, enterotoxin A; *seb*, enterotoxin B; *sed*, enterotoxin H; *sek*, enterotoxin K; *seq*, enterotoxin Q; *egc cluster*: enterotoxins g,i,m,n,o,u; *sak*, staphylokinase; *scn*, staphylococcal complement inhibitor; *chp*, chemotaxis-inhibiting protein (CHIPS); *hla*, haemolysin alpha; *cna*, collagen-binding adhesin; *fnbA*, fibronectin-binding protein A; *fnbB*, fibronectin-binding protein B; *icaA/C/D*, intercellular adhesion protein; *sasG*, *Staphylococcus aureus* surface protein G; *mecA*, alternate penicillin binding protein 2, defining MRSA; *Q6GD50 (fusC)*, hypothetical protein associated with fusidic acid resistance *aacA-aphD*, bifunctional enzyme for gentamicin resistance; *fosB*, Metallothiol transferase