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## Patent from South Africa and New Zealand for Venus' Vancoplus

Venus Remedies Ltd (VRL), a research-based pharmaceutical company, has got a patent for its product Vancoplus from the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office of the Republic of South Africa and the Commissioner of Patents, Trademarks & Design, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand. Vancoplus is one of the key research products of Venus used to combat methicillin

resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), a notorious and troublesome pathogen. VRL Joint Managing Director Manu Chaudhary said, "Vancoplus therapy reduces treatment time and cost and is a boon for the medical field". The MRSA infection has become increasingly difficult to treat mostly causing death. Most MRSA infections occur in wounds like those caused by surgery, on the skin, on intravenous access sites in the

bloodstream or in the brain. Vancoplus is the only remedy after vaccination (used for prevention and not for cure) to treat MRSA and multi-drug resistant microbes causing meningitis, pneumonia, typhoid, septicemia, urinary tract infection, skin and skin structure infections and staphylococcal endocarditis. Baseline data from the pan-European Antimicrobial Resistance Using Local Surveillance (PEARLS) study

of 2001-2002 showed that South Africa had a MRSA prevalence of 33.3 per cent. The African "meningitis belt" — which includes all or part of the 21 countries, has reported more than 700,000 cases over the past decade. Roughly 10-20 per cent of the infected persons die, and one out of five survivors is likely to suffer from a permanent disability such as hearing loss, mental retardation, or paralysis. **BS REPORTER**