

**Deficiency of MecA in *Streptococcus mutans* Causes Major Defects in Cell Envelope
Biogenesis, Cell Division, and Biofilm Formation**

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Effects of *mecA* deficiency on autolysis

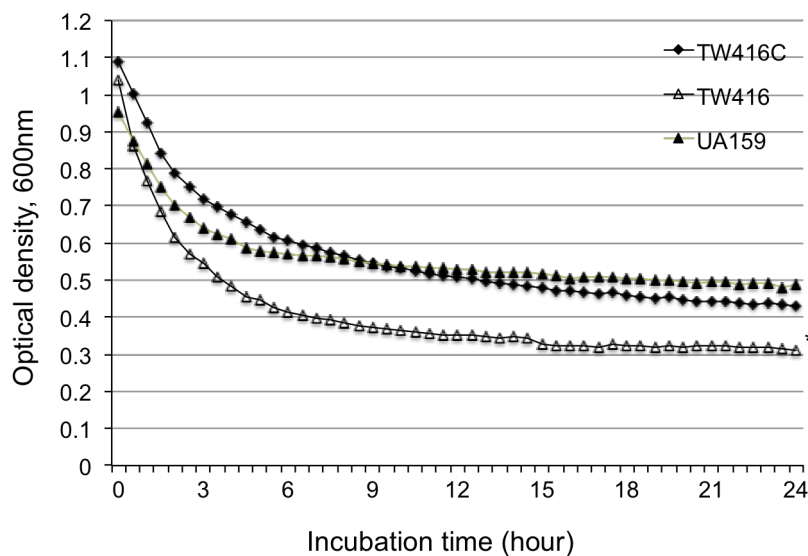


Figure S1. Autolysis assay. Overnight cultures of *S. mutans* wild-type (UA159, solid triangles), the *mecA* mutant (TW416, open triangles), and its complement strain (TW416C, diamonds) were washed and resuspended in phosphate buffered saline, pH 7.2, and the optical density of these cells was then monitored using Bioscreen C. Relative to wild-type UA159, *mecA* mutant TW416 displayed a significantly quicker and more reduction of the optical density over the time of incubation (indicated by an asterisk, $P < 0.01$).