

# Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of the beta-lactam antibiotics: “It’s about time”

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No financial conflict of interest

Possible intellectual conflict of interest:

Working on beta-lactam TDM for a few years now...

# Outline: beta-lactam TDM

RATIONALE

- **Why** perform TDM of beta-lactam antibiotics

TARGET POPULATIONS

- **Who** should undergo beta-lactam TDM

PRACTICAL ASPECTS

- **How** should beta-lactam TDM be done

CURRENT SITUATION

- **Where** beta-lactam TDM is being done

CURRENT ISSUES

- **What** are the outstanding/understudied issues
- Not covered: continuous versus intermittent infusion

# Why perform beta-lactam TDM?

## A clinical case (I)

- 32 year-old man with no past medical history admitted to the intensive care unit with polytrauma from a motor vehicle accident
  - Multiple surgeries, long intubation
- Day 10: ventilator-associated pneumonia diagnosed
  - Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase+ *Klebsiella pneumoniae* grows from broncho-alveolar lavage cultures
  - Imipenem 500 mg qid begun



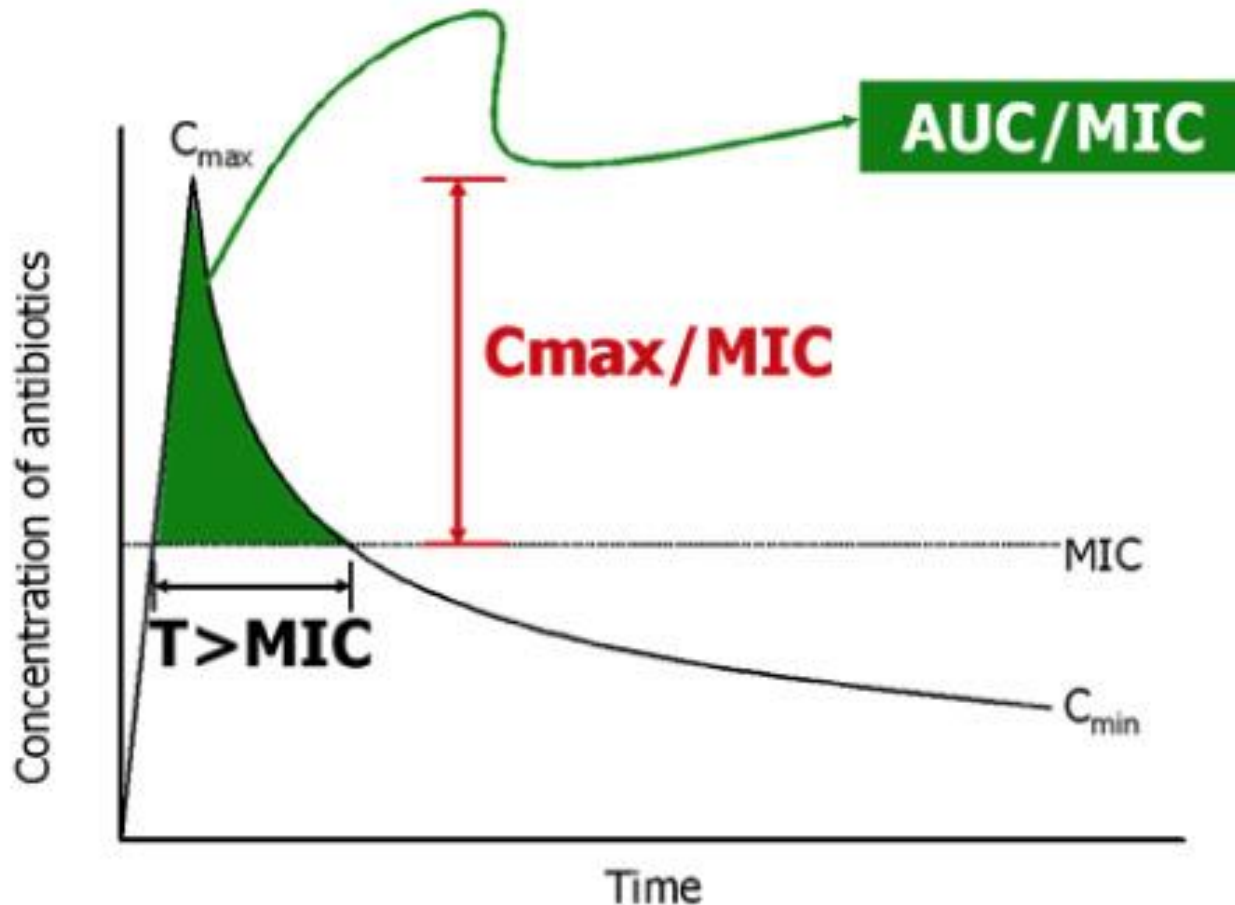
# Why perform beta-lactam TDM?

## A clinical case (II)

- Patient remains febrile, Klebsiella persists in tracheal aspirates
- On day 5 of imipenem therapy, creatinine clearance is calculated: **305 ml/min**
- The next morning, blood is drawn for a trough level of imipenem: the drug is undetectable (<0.5 mg/L)...

# The pharmacokinetic indices

Traditional categorization:



**T > MIC**

beta-lactams

vancomycin

(It's about time!)

**Cmax/MIC**

aminoglycosides

fluoroquinolones

daptomycin

metronidazole

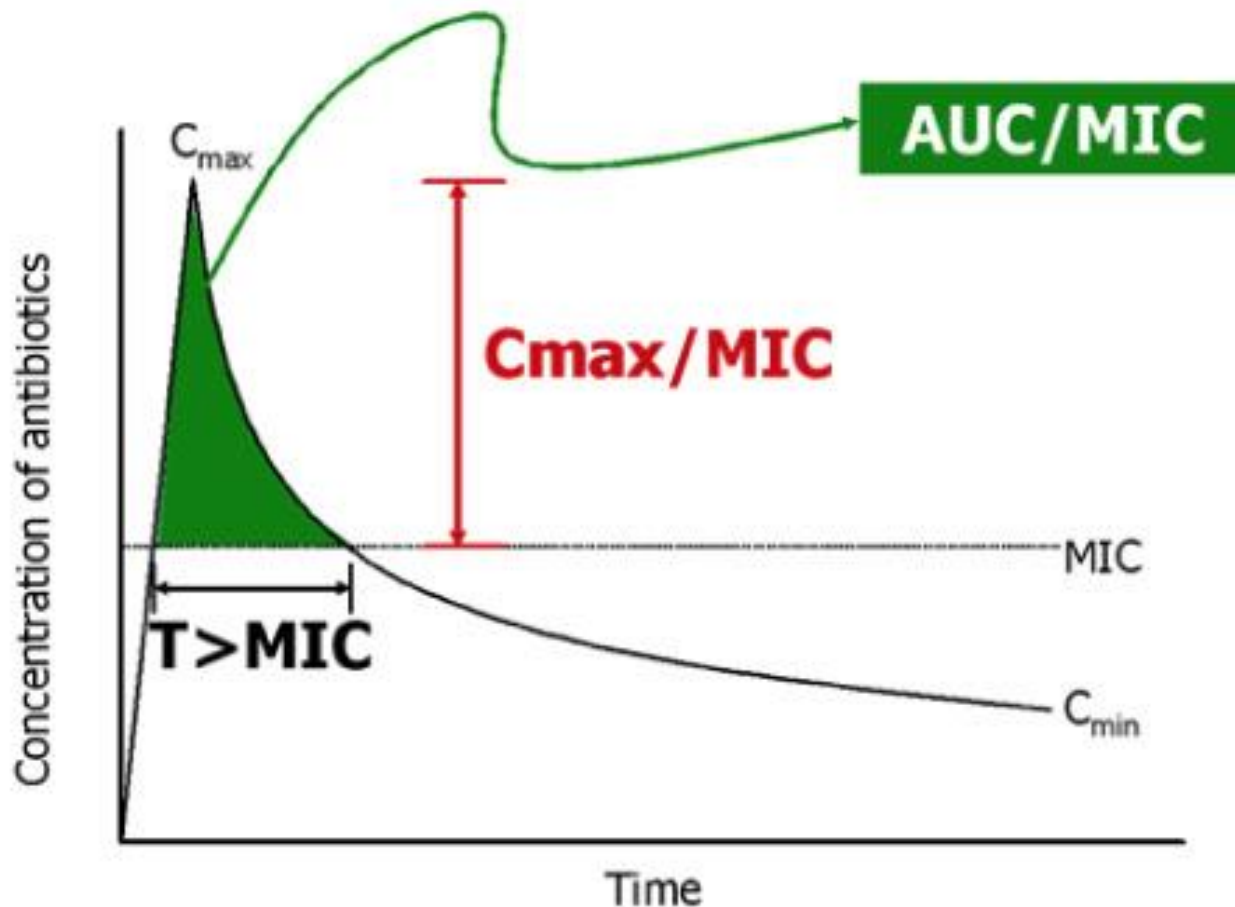
**AUC/MIC**

linezolid

tigecycline

# The pharmacokinetic indices

May be something more like this:



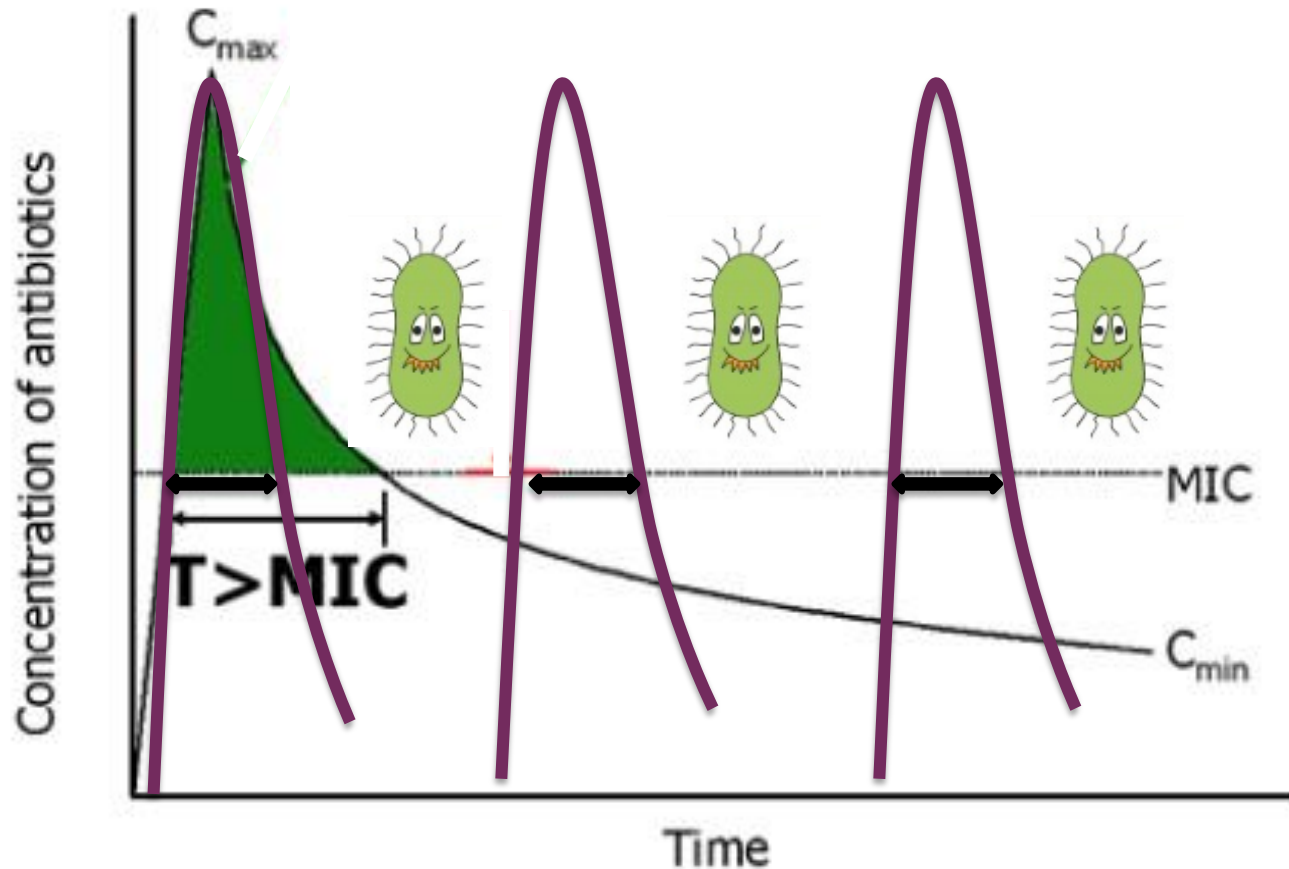
## T > MIC

beta-lactams  
vancomycin

## AUC/MIC

beta-lactams  
vancomycin  
linezolid  
tigecycline  
aminoglycosides  
fluoroquinolones  
daptomycin  
metronidazole

# Augmented renal clearance (or an increased volume of distribution)



Augmented renal clearance: glomerular hyperfiltration, by consensus  $>130$  ml/min



# Rationale for now measuring levels of antibiotics we'd used blindly for 20 years

- We need to do better for our individual patients
  - Mortality of sepsis still unacceptably high in 2018
  - Populations are changing (obesity, dialysis/CRRT, immunosuppression)
- Preserving what we still have: as a society we are in a fine mess



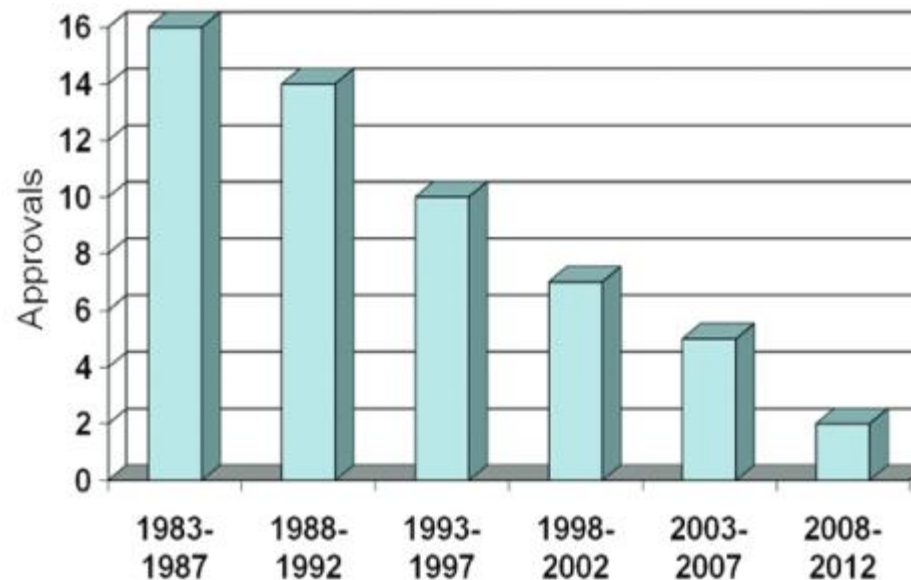
Antibacterial resistance

Us!

Antibiotic pipeline

# Rationale for measuring levels of antibiotics we'd used blindly for 20 years

- That dry antibiotic pipeline



New systemic antibacterial agents approved by the US FDA per 5-year period.


# Who needs beta-lactam TDM?

- The critically ill

- Post-trauma, post-operative, burn, ECMO patients

- Hyperdynamic pathophysiologic states:

- Augmented renal clearance → early elimination
- Capillary leak syndrome → increased & changing volumes of distribution ( $V_d$ )

 *These patients look nothing like the phase I, healthy volunteers whose beta-lactam concentrations inform approved dosing regimens*

# Who needs beta-lactam TDM?

## A clinical case (III)



- Patient remains febrile, Klebsiella persists in tracheal aspirates
- On day 5 of imipenem therapy, creatinine clearance is calculated: 305 ml/min
- The next morning, blood is drawn for a trough level of imipenem: the drug is undetectable (<0.5 mg/L)
- An intermediate level (t 3h) is 0.88 mg/L...



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijantimicag>

### Augmented renal clearance, low $\beta$ -lactam concentrations and clinical outcomes in the critically ill: An observational prospective cohort study



Angela Huttner<sup>a,\*</sup>, Elodie Von Dach<sup>a</sup>, Adriana Renzoni<sup>a</sup>, Benedikt D. Huttner<sup>a</sup>,  
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Abderrahim Karmime<sup>e</sup>, Marc Fathi<sup>e</sup>, Daniel Lew<sup>f</sup>, Stephan Harbarth<sup>a</sup>

- Prospective observational study of 100 ICU patients
  - aged 18-60 years, severe infection, creatinine clearance  $\geq 60$  ml/min
- Primary outcome: clinical response at day 30
  - (in relation to levels of one of 4 measurable beta-lactams)
- Secondary outcomes: incidence of ARC, incidence of “subthreshold” beta-lactam concentrations



## Augmented renal clearance, low $\beta$ -lactam concentrations and clinical outcomes in the critically ill: An observational prospective cohort study

- Mean age 45 years
- Median creatinine clearance 144 ml/min
  - 64% had ARC at inclusion
- Most had imipenem (> piperacillin/tazobactam > meropenem > cefepime)



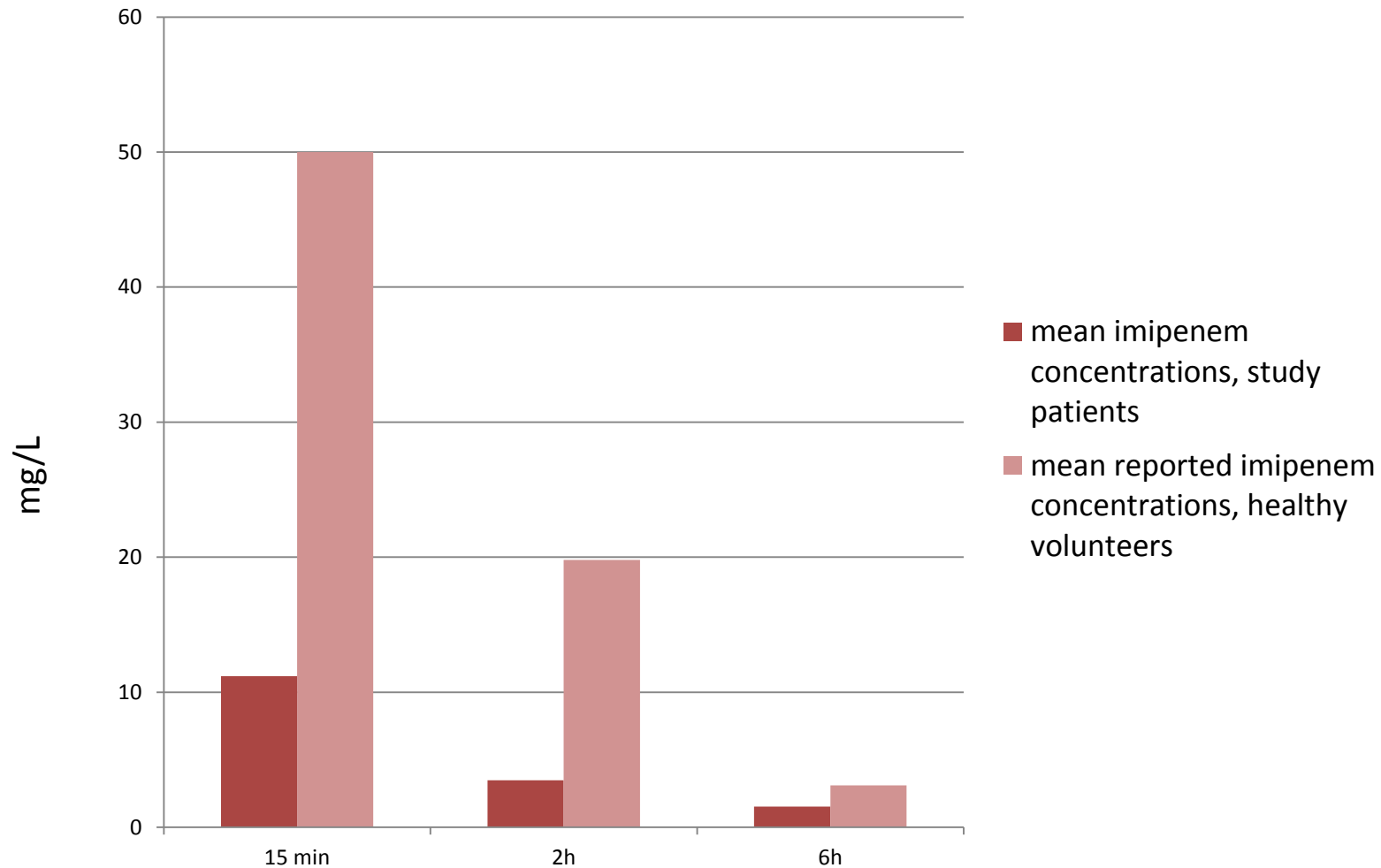
# Augmented renal clearance, low $\beta$ -lactam concentrations and clinical outcomes in the critically ill: An observational prospective cohort study

**Table 3**  
Characteristics of pooled antibiotic concentrations.

	Peak ( $C_{max}$ )	Intermediate ( $T_{40-60s}$ )	Trough ( $T_{100s}$ )
<b>All antibiotics</b>			
No. of samples	162	135	217
Undetectable concentrations (%)	0	4	20.0
Subthreshold concentrations (%)	2.6	16	71.4
<b>Imipenem/cilastatin<sup>a,b</sup></b>			
No. of samples	84	70	120
Mean concentration (mg/L)	11.2	3.5	1.52
Median concentration (mg/L)	9.6	2.8	0.93
IQR of concentrations (mg/L)	7.1–13.1	2.07–4.7	0.4–1.88
Concentration range (mg/L)	1.3–88.6	0.88–13.2	0–12.2
Undetectable concentrations (%)	0	0	24
Subthreshold concentrations (%)	1.2	22.9	77
<b>Piperacillin/tazobactam<sup>b,c</sup></b>			
No. of samples	61	49	74
Mean concentration (mg/L)	96.8	22.2	6.3
Median concentration (mg/L)	93	15.1	3.0
IQR of concentrations (mg/L)	58.8–120	7.5–26.3	1.4–6.87
Concentration range (mg/L)	1.5–241.2	1.8–166.1	0–84.3
Undetectable concentrations (%)	0	0	6.7
Subthreshold concentrations (%)	1.6	6.1	60.8
<b>Meropenem<sup>d</sup></b>			
No. of samples	14	11	18
Mean concentration (mg/L)	22.9	3.11	0.89
Median concentration (mg/L)	21.08	1.91	0.33
Concentration range (mg/L)	9.6–38.5	0–16.6	0–7.4
Undetectable concentrations (%)	0	27.2	50
Subthreshold concentrations (%)	0	54.6	88.9
<b>Cefepime<sup>e</sup></b>			
No. of samples	3	5	5
Mean concentration (mg/L)	63.86	14.0	9.2
Median concentration (mg/L)	67.4	9.5	8.1
Concentration range (mg/L)	55.4–67.8	1.8–26.0	2.46–16.0

Odds ratio for undetectable imipenem levels if augmented renal clearance present = 3.3 (95%CI 1.1-9.9)

# Our ICU patients vs. healthy volunteers





# Who else needs beta-lactam TDM?

- Patients on dialysis or continuous renal replacement therapy
  - TDM for both exposure & safety
- Obese patients
  - Wide inter-individual variability, increased Vd
- Elderly patients
  - Impaired absorption, reduced protein binding, wide inter-individual variability
- Patients with:
  - Remote infections (e.g., osteomyelitis) or difficult pathogens (e.g., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*)

# Beta-lactam TDM: more commonly to ensure exposure but also to protect against toxicity

- Beta-lactams known for their relatively low toxicity EXCEPT **cefepime**...

Clinical Microbiology and Infection 23 (2017) 454–459



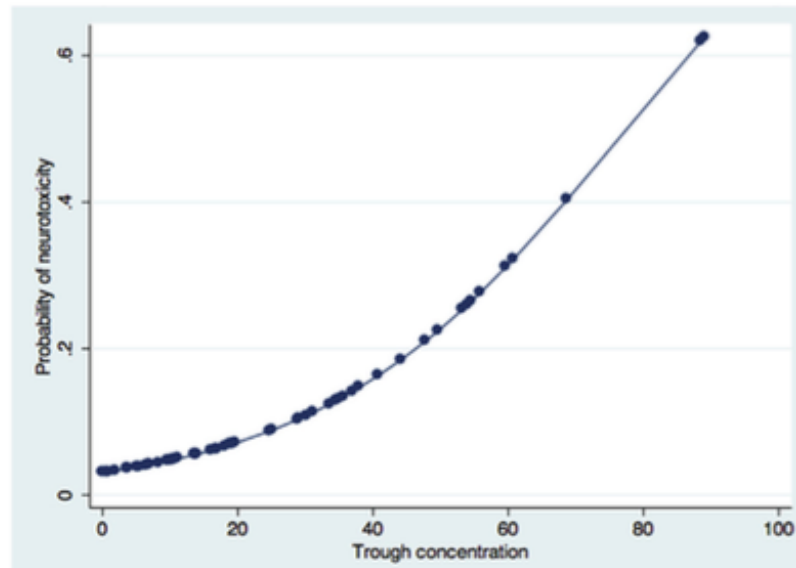
Original article

## Cefepime plasma concentrations and clinical toxicity: a retrospective cohort study

T. Huwyler<sup>1,6</sup>, L. Lenggenhager<sup>1,6</sup>, M. Abbas<sup>2</sup>, K. Ing Lorenzini<sup>3</sup>, S. Hughes<sup>5</sup>,  
B. Huttner<sup>2,4</sup>, A. Karmime<sup>5</sup>, I. Uçkay<sup>4</sup>, E. von Dach<sup>2</sup>, P. Lescuyer<sup>5</sup>, S. Harbarth<sup>2,4</sup>,  
A. Huttner<sup>2,4,\*</sup>

# Who else needs beta-lactam TDM?

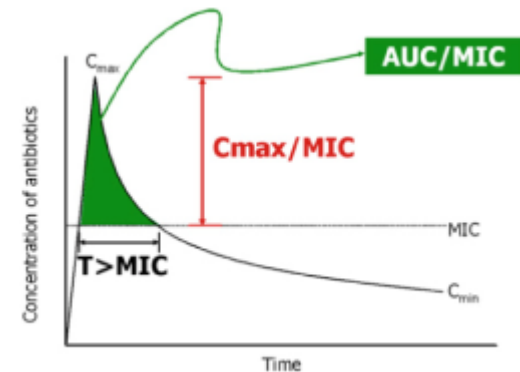
- Patients on cefepime for more than a few days
- Patients with renal insufficiency on cefepime for any period of time
- Trough levels should probably be  $\leq 20$  mg/L



# How should beta-lactam TDM be done?

## Logistics

- Quickly
  - (Almost never)
- In a standardized/validated fashion
  - (Currently almost all in-house)
- Cheaply
  - (Depends)
- Thoroughly → in tandem with target organism's MIC!
  - (Rarely)

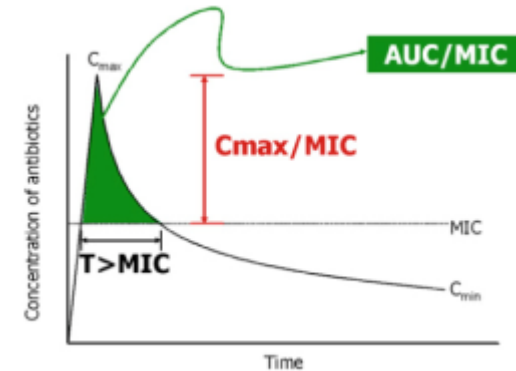


# How is beta-lactam TDM currently done?

## Assays

- Either high-performance liquid chromatography with ultraviolet detection (HPLC/UV) or
- Liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC–MS/MS)
- Rarely, microbiologic assay
- Most centers measure total (free + protein-bound) levels, though we should be going for free levels
  - Especially for highly protein-bound drugs like flucloxacillin (95%) and ceftriaxone (60%)!

# What should be the PK targets?



## Efficacy/exposure targets

- Most common target is 100%  $f_{T>MIC}$ 
  - Pragmatism/feasibility versus PK information gathering
- You may not have the MIC
  - Consider EUCAST breakpoints
- May need to adjust depending on site of infection, drug's properties

**Table 4.** List of PK/PD targets for dose adjustment adopted by selected ICUs

PK/PD targets	
For dose increase	100% $f_{T>MIC}$ (n=5) 100% $f_{T_{2-4 \times MIC}}$ (n=1) 50% $f_{T_{>4 \times MIC}}$ (n=1) 100% $f_{T_{>4 \times MIC}}$ (n=2) 40% $f_{T_{>4 \times MIC}}$ (n=1) 50% $f_{T_{>4 \times MIC}}$ (n=1) 70% $f_{T_{>4 \times MIC}}$ (n=1)
Threshold of potential toxicity for dose reduction	100% $f_{T_{10 \times MIC}}$ (n=4) 100% $f_{T_{8 \times MIC}}$ (n=1) 100% $f_{T_{6 \times MIC}}$ (n=1) 100% $f_{T_{4-5 \times MIC}}$ (n=1)
	steady-state concentration exceeding 2 × maximum exposure expected in general population; e.g. piperacillin >100 mg/L (>32 g/24 h in normal patients), meropenem >32 mg/L (>12 g/24 h in normal patients) (n=1)

%  $f_{T>x \times MIC}$ , percentage of the dosing period during which the free (unbound) concentration

# The minimum inhibitory concentration: be careful!

- Just one MIC is a very imperfect measure

*J Antimicrob Chemother* 2018; **73**: 564–568  
doi:10.1093/jac/dkx427 Advance Access publication 5 December 2017

Journal of  
Antimicrobial  
Chemotherapy

## MIC-based dose adjustment: facts and fables

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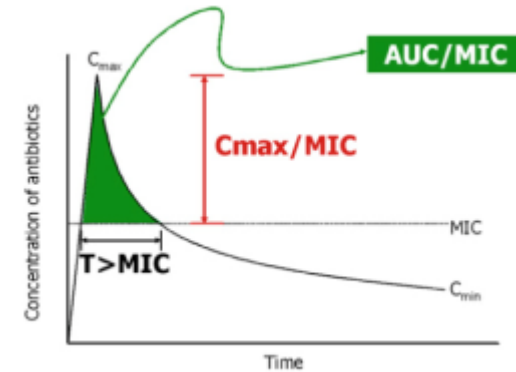
“We must free ourselves from the misconception that there is such a thing as a ‘true’ MIC for a strain. Instead, each measurement of an MIC generates a value that is a member of a probability distribution.”



# What should be the PK targets?

## Toxicity thresholds

- “Work is ongoing.” (=We don’t really know.)
  - Even for cefepime (that was just one small retrospective study!)
- We know there is a lot of variability for some antibiotics
  - piperacillin, amoxicillin, flucloxacillin
- Some antibiotics don’t seem to have (discernibly) concentration-dependent toxicity
  - The example of imipenem...

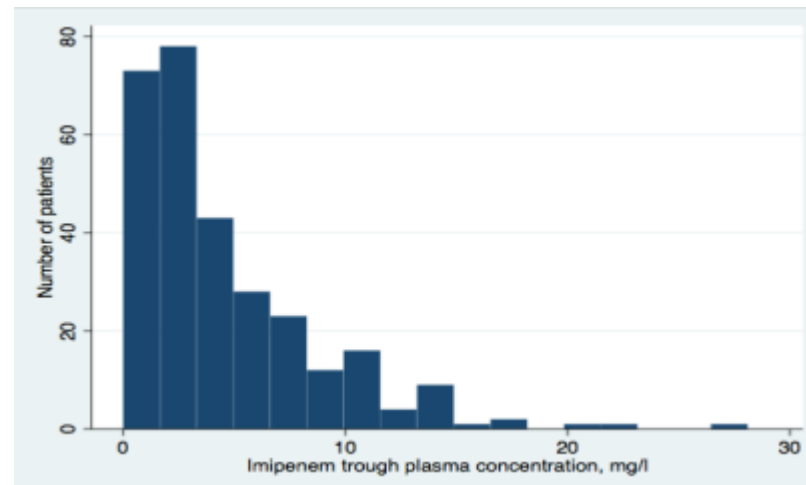
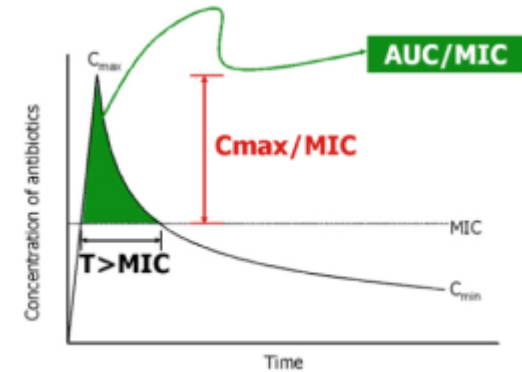




# What should be the PK targets?

## Toxicity thresholds

- Of 300 patients in Geneva undergoing imipenem TDM, 8 (3%) had toxicity considered likely related
  - No real differences in imipenem levels (median 5.2 mg/l versus 4.8 mg/l,  $p=0.78$ ) or duration of therapy (9 vs 10 days)
  - Everyone had low levels!



# Summary: targets for beta-lactam TDM

- We don't yet have exact therapeutic windows for all beta-lactams
- But beta-lactams are not highly toxic (with some exceptions) and toxicity is reversible
  - So high numbers should not scare you
  - Numbers can get very high if you are measuring total levels
- Efficacy (upper limit): current paradigm is to target 100%  $fT > MIC$  (but one MIC is not always reliable)
- Toxicity (lower limit): for cefepime, avoid trough levels  $>20$  mg/l, for other drugs the limit may be much higher

# Defining upper & lower TDM limits: we're working on it!



The **OPTIMAL TDM Study: Determining Optimal Beta-lactam Plasma Concentrations Through Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (OPTIMAL TDM)**



The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. [Know the risks and potential benefits](#) of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our [disclaimer](#) for details.

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03790631

Recruitment Status ⓘ : Recruiting

First Posted ⓘ : December 31, 2018

Last Update Posted ⓘ : February 22, 2019

See [Contacts and Locations](#)

Imipenem

Meropenem

Piperacillin

Flucloxacillin

Amoxicillin

Ceftazidime

Cefepime

#### Sponsor:

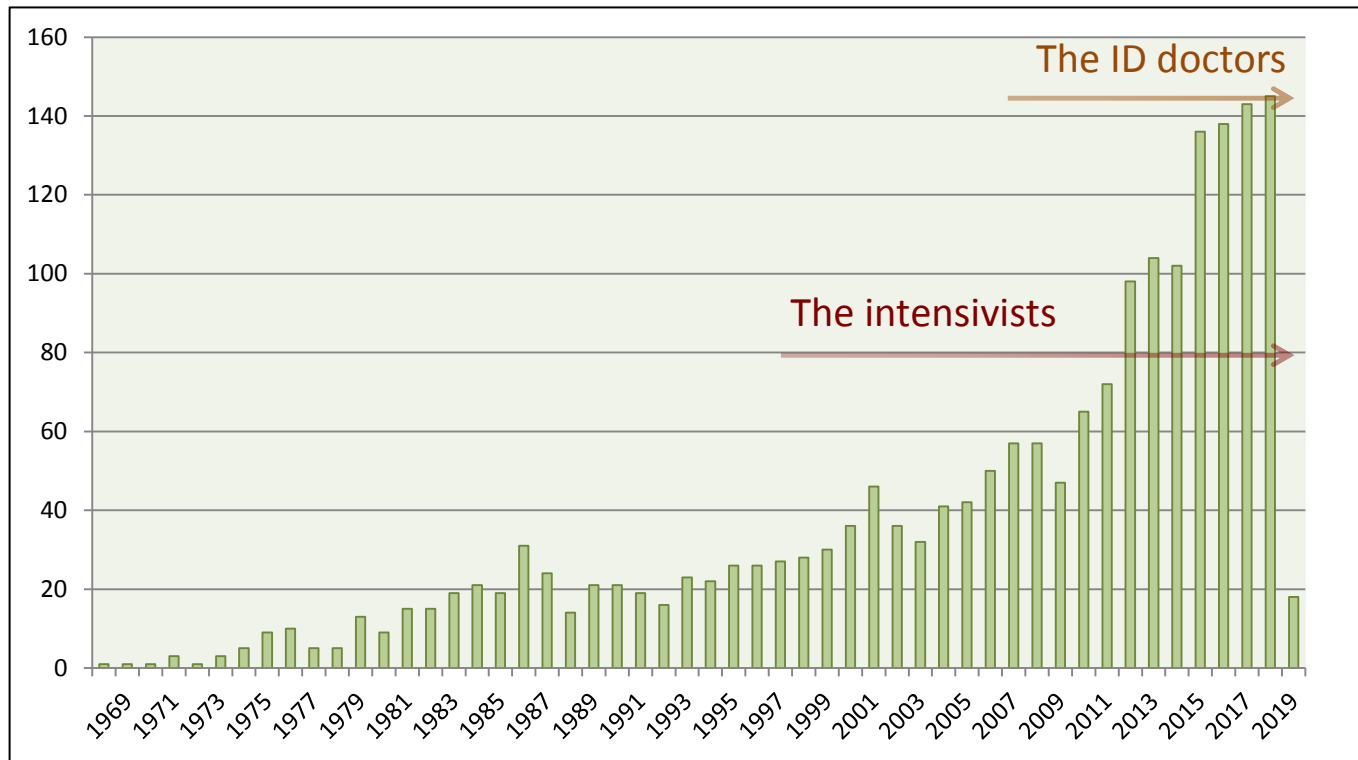
University of Geneva, Switzerland

- Single → multicenter (?) study following >700 patients clinically in the 30 days after  $\geq 2$  TDM levels for **clinical response & potential toxicity**

# Beta-lactam TDM: current status

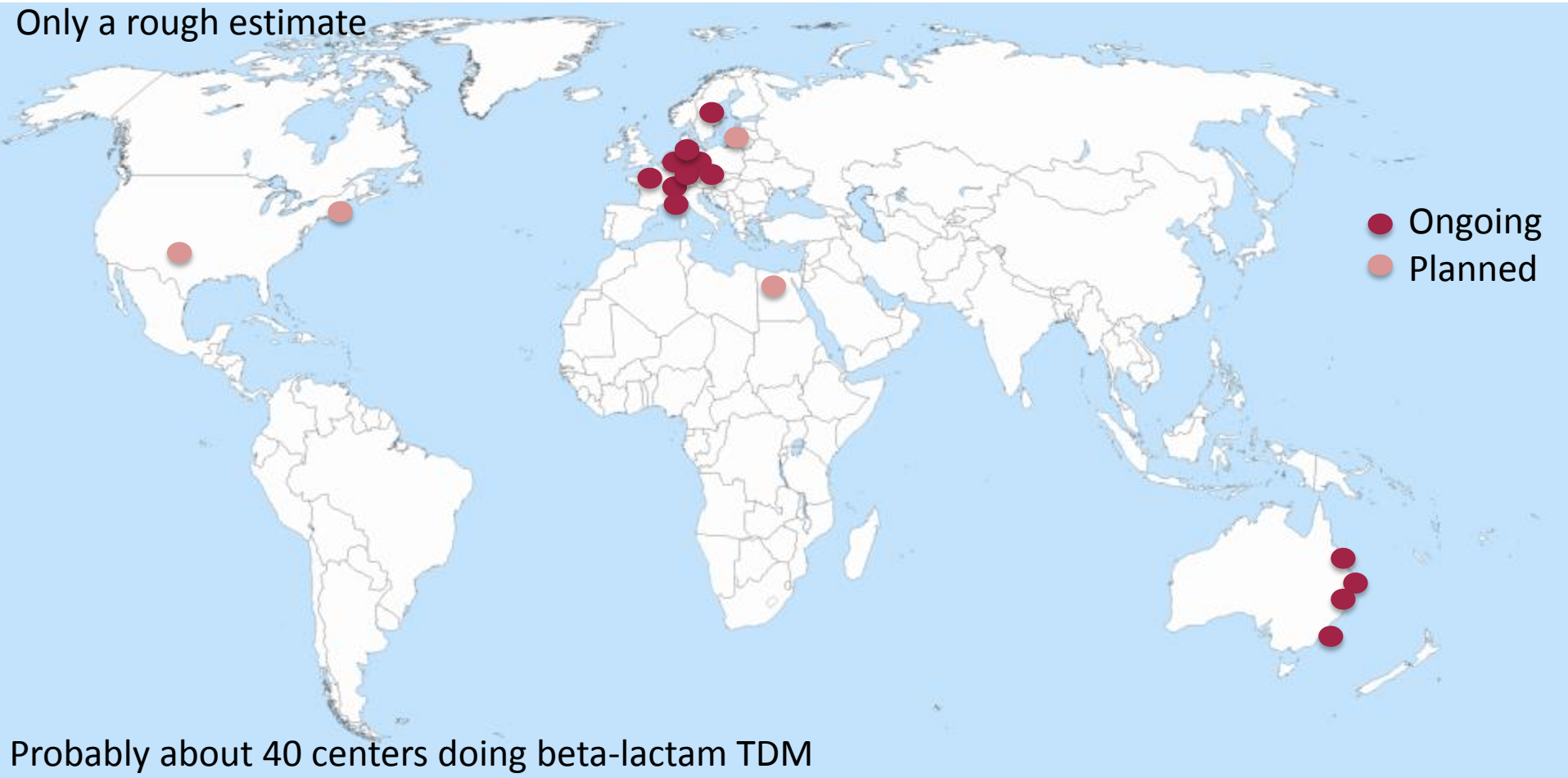
## Articles published on beta-lactam TDM

Search = "beta-lactam therapeutic drug monitoring"



# Beta-lactam TDM: current status

Only a rough estimate



# Outstanding issue #1:

## Does beta-lactam TDM improve clinical outcomes?

- We know it improves pharmacologic outcomes
  - Sime et al. Can therapeutic drug monitoring optimize exposure to piperacillin in febrile neutropenic patients with haematological malignancies? A randomized controlled trial. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2015; 70(8):2369-75
  - Patel et al. Therapeutic drug monitoring of beta-lactam antibiotics in burns patients--a one-year prospective study. *Ther Drug Monit* 2012; 34(2):160-4
- But we can't easily show differences in **clinical** outcomes
  - No randomized trial has yet shown superior outcomes
    - Getting harder to do (local culture changes, clinical equipoise lost)
  - That patient with *Klebsiella pneumoniae*...

## Clinical case: our young man (IV)



- Day 6 of imipenem therapy: **spontaneous improvement** before any dose change
  - Defervescence, weaning from ventilator
- Day 10: infection fully resolved, imipenem 500 mg qid discontinued
- Day 12: transferred to the floor

## Augmented renal clearance, low $\beta$ -lactam concentrations and clinical outcomes in the critically ill: An observational prospective cohort study

- Primary outcome: clinical response
  - Patients with low imipenem levels did not have more failure!
    - Failure in 18/98 (18%), no difference in imipenem levels
    - Augmented renal clearance was actually protective—or a marker of something protective
- There are other studies like this...
  - Difficult population to study (polypharmacy, differing comorbidities & severities, diagnoses unclear, etc.)



# DALI: Defining Antibiotic Levels in Intensive Care Unit Patients: Are Current $\beta$ -Lactam Antibiotic Doses Sufficient for Critically Ill Patients? (Best evidence – but still not enough)

Jason A. Roberts,<sup>1,2</sup> Sanjoy K. Paul,<sup>3,4</sup> Murat Akova,<sup>5</sup> Matteo Bassetti,<sup>6</sup> Jan J. De Waele,<sup>7</sup> George Dimopoulos,<sup>8</sup> Kirsi-Maija Kaukonen,<sup>9</sup> Despoina Koulenti,<sup>1,8</sup> Claude Martin,<sup>10,11</sup> Philippe Montravers,<sup>12</sup> Jordi Rello,<sup>13</sup> Andrew Rhodes,<sup>14</sup> Therese Starr,<sup>2</sup> Steven C. Wallis,<sup>1</sup> and Jeffrey Lipman<sup>1,2</sup>; for the DALI Study<sup>a</sup>

- Point-prevalence study of intermediate (50% fT>MIC) & trough (100% fT>MIC) beta-lactam serum concentrations
- 384 patients across 68 ICUs
  - Of 248 patients treated for infection, 16% did not achieve 50% fT>MIC & were 32% less likely to have positive clinical outcome (OR 0.68, 95%CI 0.52-0.91, P=.009)
- + Association between positive clinical outcome and an increasing 100% fT>MIC ratio (OR 1.56, 95%CI 1.15-2.13, P=0.03)

## Outstanding issues:

Does beta-lactam TDM improve **other** outcomes?

What about **ecologic** outcomes?



<b>Sensibilité (%) des isolats de <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Unité de soins intensifs Laboratoire de Bactériologie HUG (abch)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012*</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Sensibilité (%) des isolats de <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <u>Tous les services HUG en 2013</u></b>
<b>ATB / Σ patients</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1071</b>
Pipéracilline	84	89	83	75	86 <b>2016:</b>
Pipéracilline/Tazobactam	86	91	85	74	88 76
Céftazidime	83	91	88	76	91 81
Céfépime	92	94	98	82	92 90
Imipénème	72	79	85	70	82 76
Méropénème	72	85	84	66	84 76
Aztréonam	73	78	80	65	80
Amikacine	91	100	96	94	93
Gentamicine	91	97	85	87	88
Tobramycine	98	100	98	100	98
Ciprofloxacine	87	97	92	89	90



# Emergence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* resistance in patients with imipenem therapeutic drug monitoring

Lauriane Lenggenhager, Mohamed Abbas, Carolina Fankhauser, Benedikt Huttner, Stephan Harbarth, Angela Huttner

**Background:** Antibiotic overuse drives antibiotic resistance. Resistance to carbapenem antibiotics among *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains appears to be rising in step with their increased use. We examined the transition from imipenem susceptibility to resistance among *P. aeruginosa* strains detected in hospitalised patients, exploring imipenem duration and plasma concentrations determined by therapeutic drug

Patients in whom IRP emerged had significantly more days of imipenem therapy than those whose strains remained sensitive (median 11 days [IQR 5-10] vs. 5 [IQR 3-7],  $P=.044$ ). **They trended toward lower imipenem levels (mean minimum concentration 3.97 mg/l [SD  $\pm$ 3.85] vs. 5.31 mg/l [SD  $\pm$ 5.36])...**

**Results:** We identified 67 adult patients with imipenem TDM (median number of measurements 1, range 1-6) and at least one specimen yielding *P. aeruginosa* (median 2, IQR 1-4). Most (49/67, 73%) were male; mean age was 63 years (SD  $\pm$ 16). A slight majority (34/67, 51%) were surgical patients and nearly half (32/67, 48%) were hospitalized in the intensive care unit....

## Other outstanding issues

- No commercial beta-lactam assay
- MICs are difficult to perform—and one alone is not always reliable
- Therapeutic ranges have not been defined
- Technical issues
  - stability

# Where more work is needed

- TDM isn't the intervention; it's the guide
- More needs to be done for the group
  - Effects of optimized dosing ±shorter durations on resistance development
- More needs to be done for the individual
  - The approach of “Go hard and go home”/“Hit hard and hit fast” has not been studied in a randomized trial...

# Conclusions

- Pharmacokinetic data from healthy volunteers are not representative of critically ill & other populations
- Beta-lactam TDM is a tool that, in the individual patient, can help ensure adequate antibiotic exposure and protect against toxicity (e.g., cefepime)
  - But logistic & technical issues need addressing
- TDM is the guide and should be used to revisit our old assumptions about dosing and pharmacokinetics
- There may be a role for improving ecologic outcomes for the group
  - But more data are needed

# Thank you!



David Tonoli   Abderrahim Karmime   Pierre Lescuyer



Lauriane Lenggenhager



Alice Bricheux



Elodie von Dach