

Clostridioides difficile infection

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Clostridium difficile and *Clostridioides difficile*: Two validly published and correct names (Oren and Rupnik , 2018)

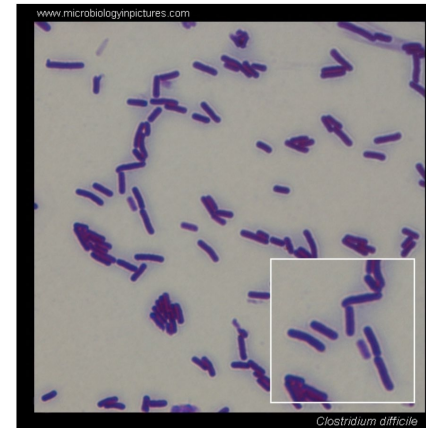
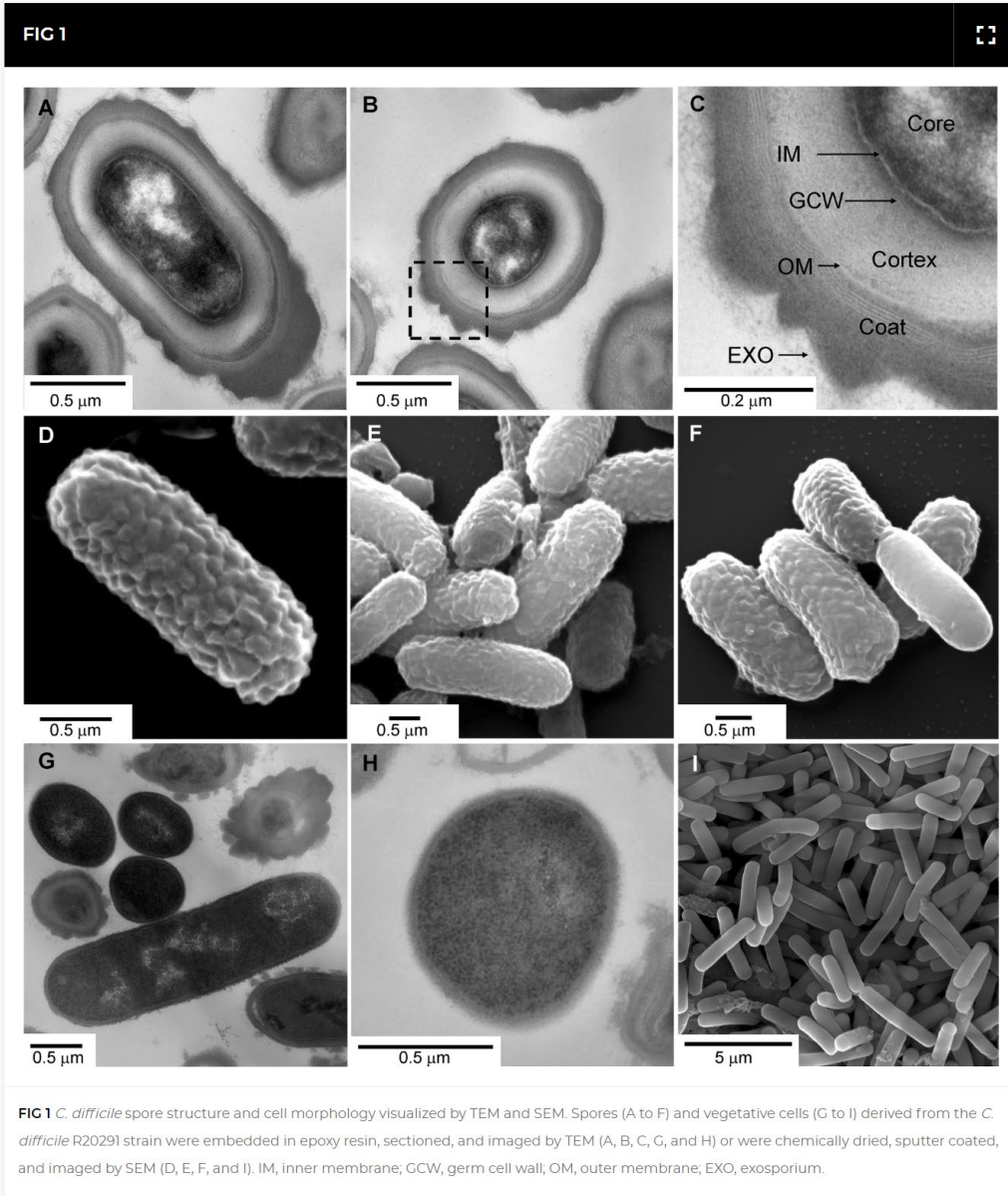
Why is *C. difficile* called that?

The species name *difficile* is a form of the Latin adjective *difficilis* because when first identified (by Hall and O'Toole in 1935), the organism was difficult to isolate and grew slowly in pure culture.

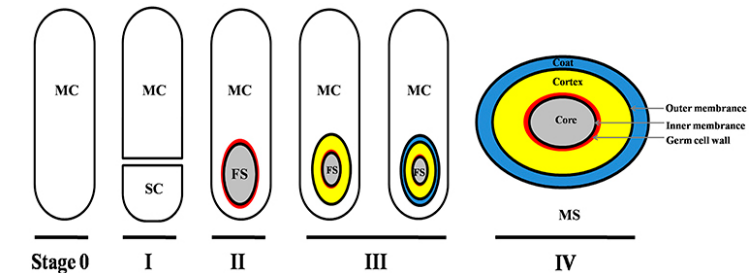
Based on 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis, the closest relative of *Clostridium difficile* is *Clostridium mangenotii* with a 94.7% similarity value and both are located within the family *Peptostreptococcaceae* that is phylogenetically far removed from *C. butyricum* and other members of *Clostridium sensu stricto*.

Based on phenotypic, chemotaxonomic and phylogenetic analyses, novel genus *Clostridioides* gen. nov. is proposed for *Clostridium difficile*.
Lawson et al., 2016.

Dormant spore vs metabolically active cell



Gram-positive
Obligate anaerobe
Can produce toxins (A, B some strains Binary)
Spore-forming

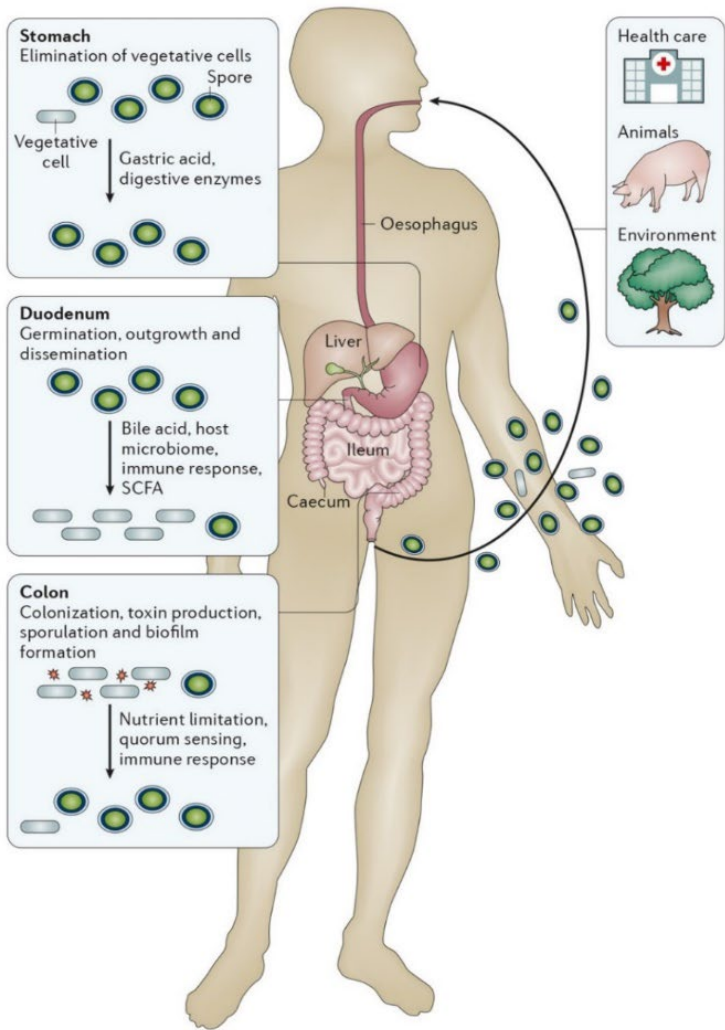


Spore formation by *C. difficile* is crucial for the survival and dissemination of the bacterium in the environment.

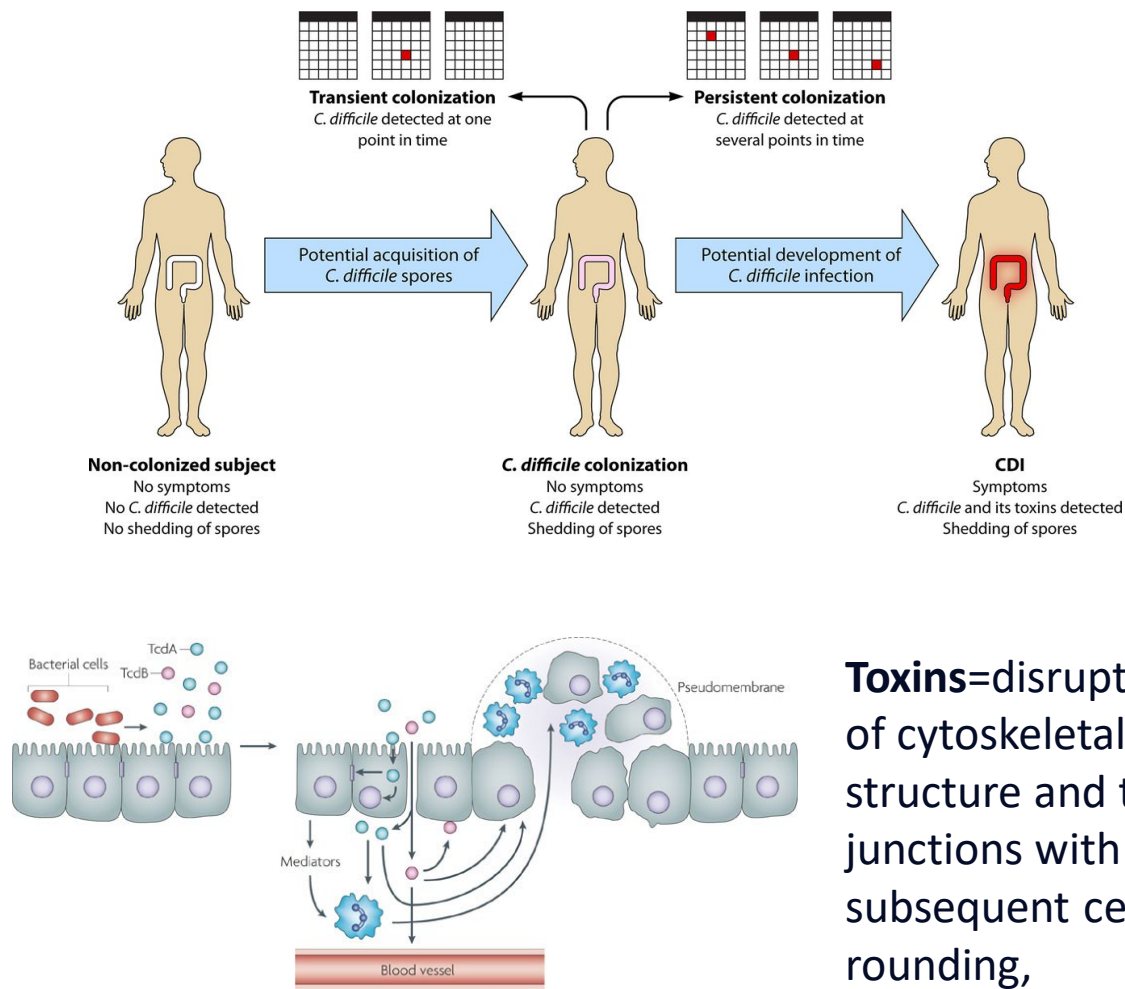
The dormant aerotolerant and highly resistant spore facilitates efficient transmission and persistence in the host.

Spores are resistant to different environmental conditions, antibiotics, and some disinfectants (usage of sporicidal ones).

Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI)



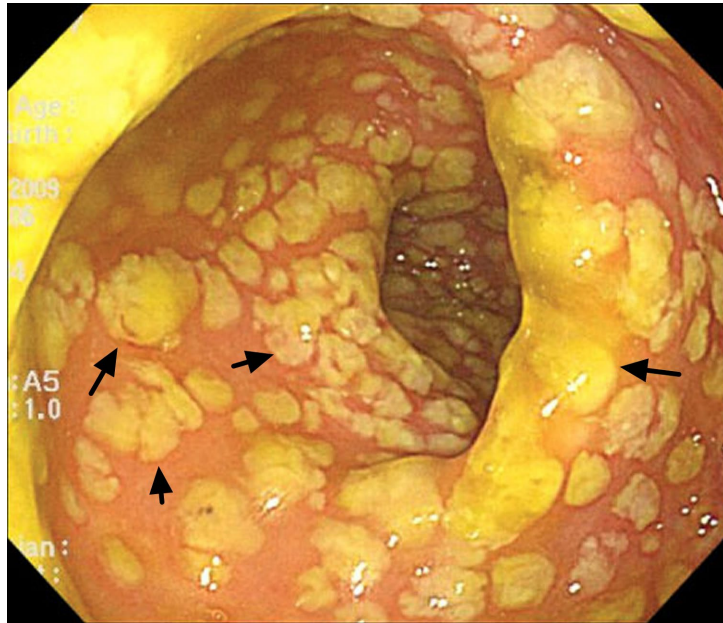
Fecal-oral route of transmission
Asymptomatic colonization or infection
Recurrence of CDI (25%, 50%)
Symptoms: watery diarrhea, fever, loss of appetite, nausea, and abdominal pain/tenderness, **pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon.**



Nature Reviews | Microbiology

Toxins=disruption of cytoskeletal structure and tight junctions with subsequent cell rounding, detachment and cell death.

Severe forms of CDI



Pseudomembranous colitis



Paralytic ileus = toxic megacolon, surgical intervention, high mortality

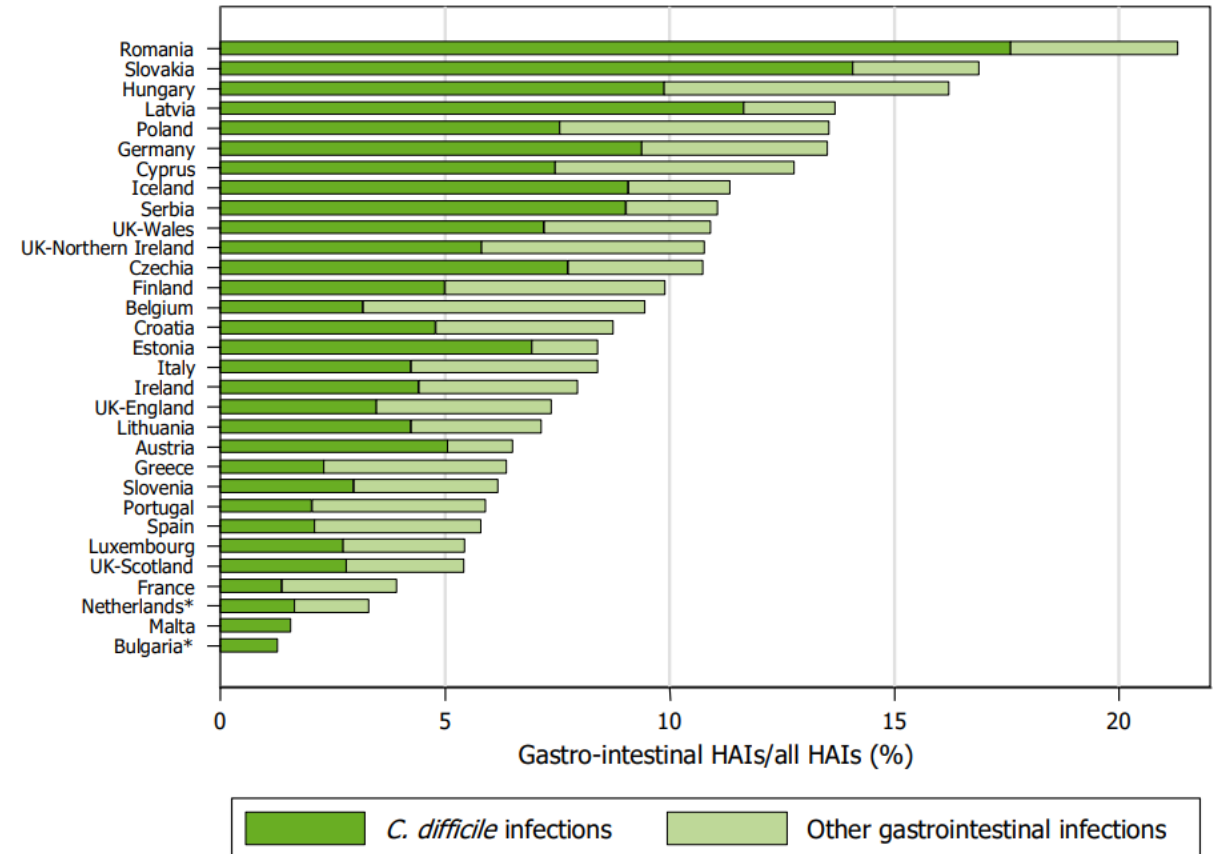
How common is CDI?

The CDC lists 4 antibiotic-resistant bacteria as **URGENT THREATS** in the U.S.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Carbapenem-resistant <i>Acinetobacter</i> | 8,500 EST. CASES | 700 EST. DEATHS |
| Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) | 13,100 EST. CASES | 1,100 EST. DEATHS |
| Drug-resistant <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (<i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>) | 550,000 EST. CASES | -- EST. DEATHS |
| <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> (<i>C. difficile</i>) | 223,900 EST. CASES | 12,800 EST. DEATHS |

C. diff is currently the *only threat* that is **NOT** nationally notifiable, even though it has the **2ND HIGHEST** number of cases and the **HIGHEST** number of deaths.

Figure 22. *Clostridioides difficile* infections and other gastro-intestinal infections (excluding hepatitis) as a percentage of all HAIs, by country



124 000 CDI cases a year

Approx. 17% die. 4% in relation to CDI

European mean: 5 cases per 10,000 bed-days

What does a patient at risk of CDI look like?



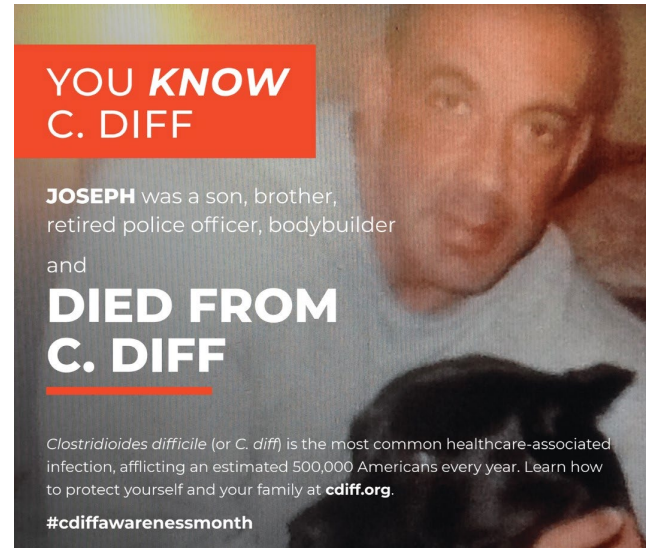
**YOU KNOW
C. DIFF**

PEGGY was a mother, sister, kindergarten teacher, union member and

**DIED FROM
C. DIFF**

Clostridioides difficile (or *C. diff*) is the most common healthcare-associated infection, afflicting an estimated 500,000 Americans every year. Learn how to protect yourself and your family at cdiff.org.

#cdiffawarenessmonth



**YOU KNOW
C. DIFF**

JOSEPH was a son, brother, retired police officer, bodybuilder and

**DIED FROM
C. DIFF**

Clostridioides difficile (or *C. diff*) is the most common healthcare-associated infection, afflicting an estimated 500,000 Americans every year. Learn how to protect yourself and your family at cdiff.org.

#cdiffawarenessmonth



**YOU KNOW
C. DIFF**

MARYANN is a wife, mother, regulatory professional, breast cancer survivor, and a

**C. DIFF
SURVIVOR**

Clostridioides difficile (or *C. diff*) is the most common healthcare-associated infection, afflicting an estimated 500,000 Americans every year. Learn how to protect yourself and your family at cdiff.org.

#cdiffawarenessmonth



**YOU KNOW
C. DIFF**

MAHLINA is a daughter, sister, second grader, beat Acute Myeloid Leukemia and is also a

**C. DIFF
SURVIVOR**

Clostridioides difficile (or *C. diff*) is the most common healthcare-associated infection, afflicting an estimated 500,000 Americans every year. Learn how to protect yourself and your family at cdiff.org.

#cdiffawarenessmonth

RISK factors for CDI

Advanced age ≥ 65 years

Comorbidity conditions

Exposure to acid-suppressing agents (PPIs)

Exposure to antibiotics

Exposure to the healthcare system

Immunosuppressive conditions and agents (cancer, chemotherapy, organ transplant, HIV)

Manipulation of GI system (feeding tubes, surgery)

EVERYTHING WHICH AFFECTS MICROBIOTA

Laboratory diagnostics—odor?

[Clin Infect Dis.](#) 2013 Feb 15; 56(4): 615–616.

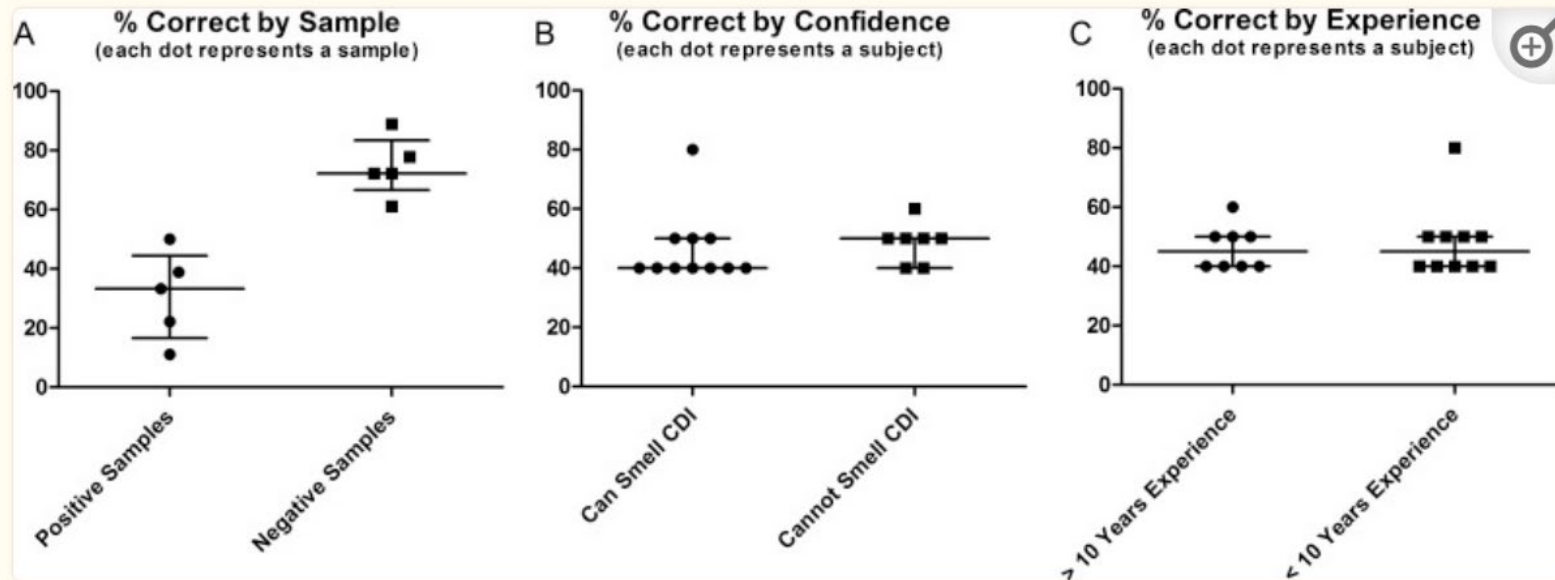
doi: [10.1093/cid/cis974](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/cis974)

PMCID: PMC3571629

PMID: [23166192](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23166192/)

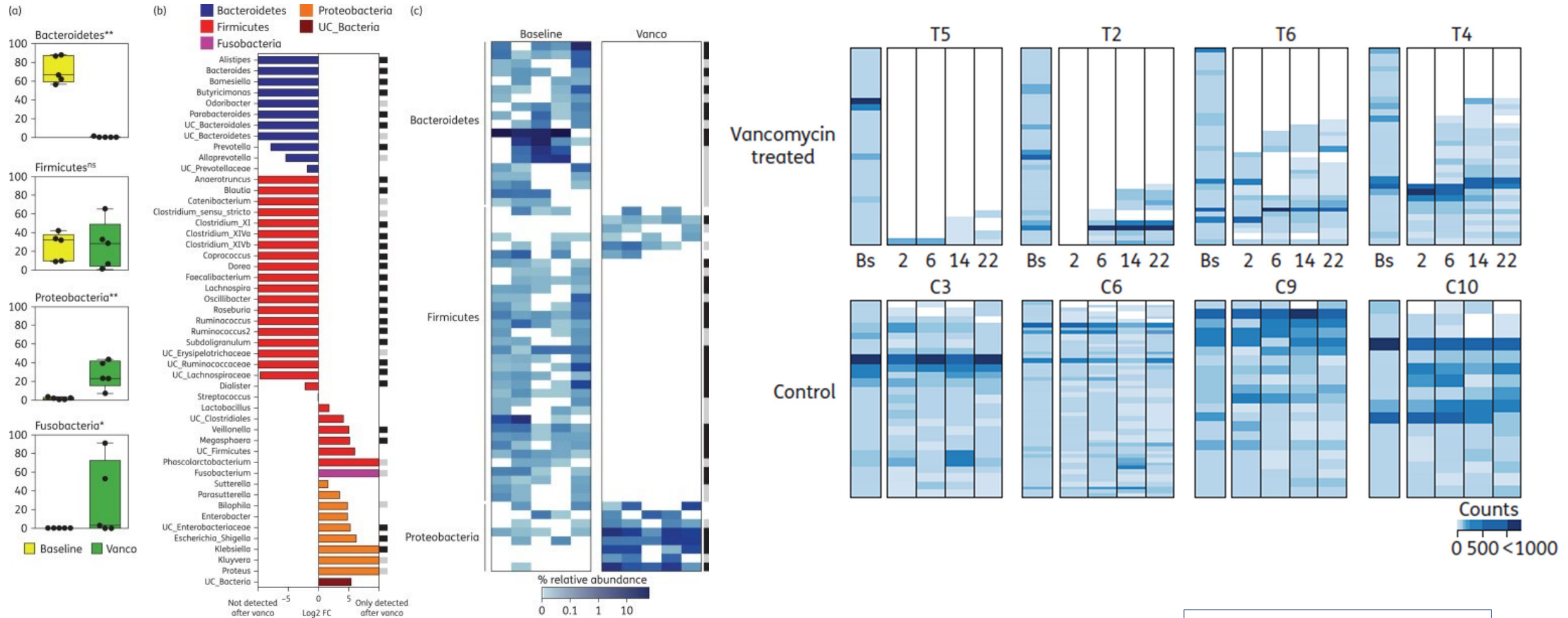
The Nose Knows Not: Poor Predictive Value of Stool Sample Odor for Detection of *Clostridium difficile*

[Krishna Rao](#),^{1,2} [Daniel Berland](#),^{1,3} [Carol Young](#),^{4,5} [Seth T. Walk](#),^{1,2,6} and [Duane W. Newton](#)^{4,5}



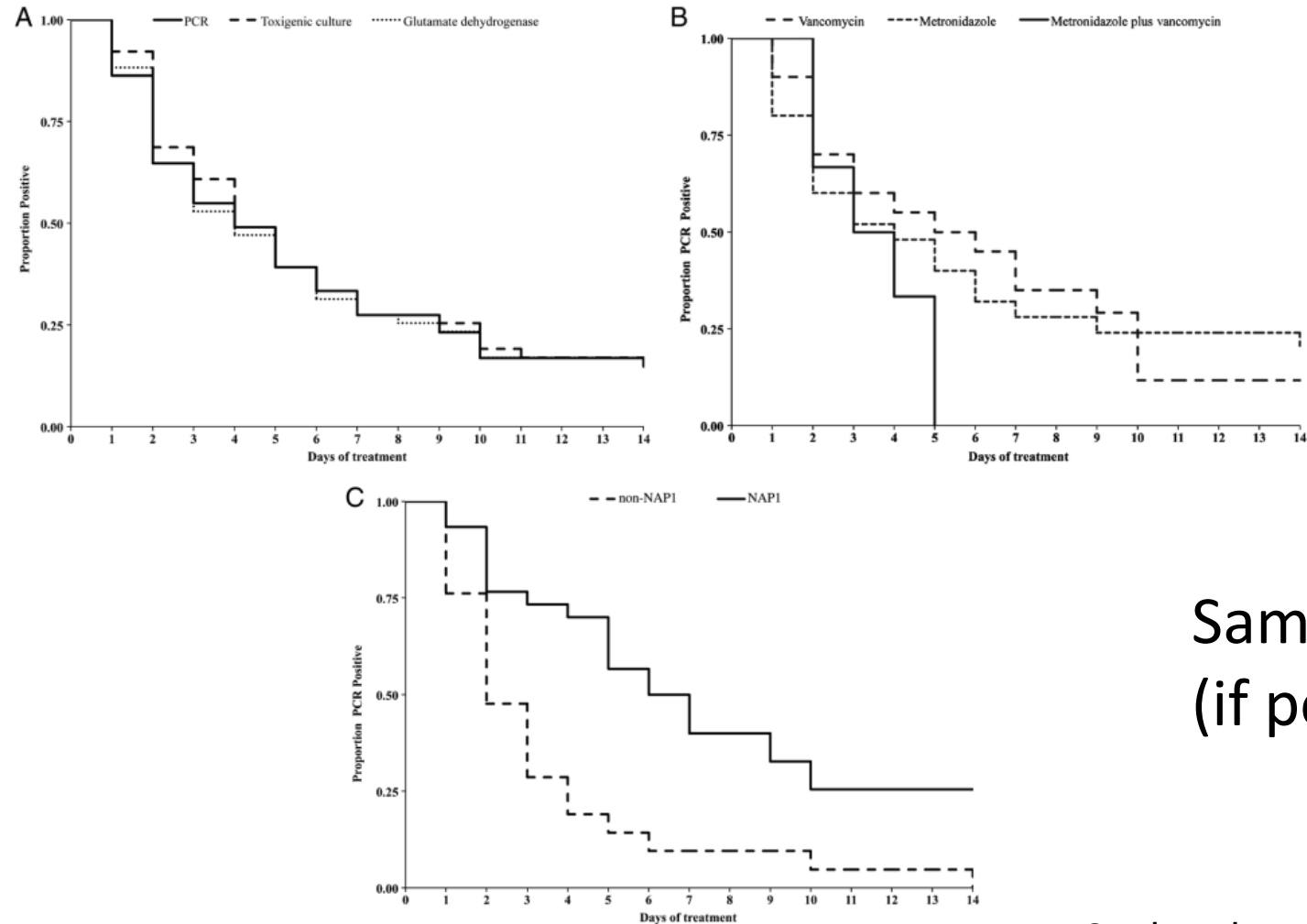
The dog correctly identified 25 of the 30 cases (sensitivity 83%, 65% to 94%) and 265 of the 270 controls (specificity 98%, 95% to 99%).

Vancomycin and its effect on the gut microbiota



Isaac, JAC, 2017

Empirical *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Therapy Result in False-Negative CDI Diagnostic Test Results



Sampling before treatment
(if possible)!

Who should be tested?

In inpatient care, all hospitalised patients aged ≥ 2 years who have had three or more unformed stools within 24 hours

*40 000 inpatients are undiagnosed a year because lack of clinical suspicion
(Davies et al., 2014)




Children under 2 years should be tested on a **case-by-case basis** after consultation with a paediatrician and clinical microbiologist.

(NO age restriction in Motol hospital)

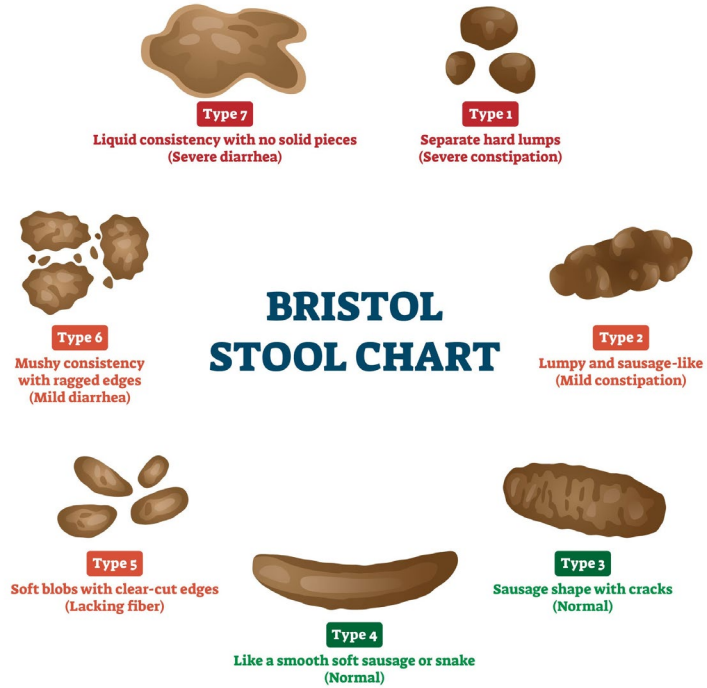
In children, if CDI laboratory testing is indicated, the likelihood of *C. difficile* colonisation and coinfection with other intestinal pathogens should be considered.

Who should be tested?

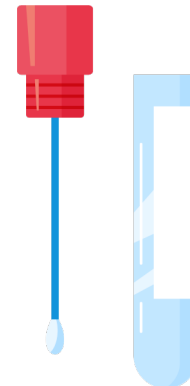
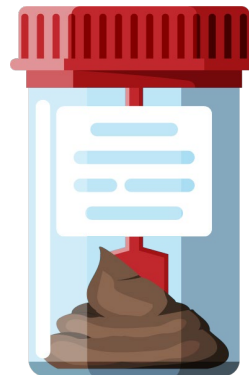
In the community, people who are unresponsive to the oral rehydration and specific treatment is considered  (hospitalisation)

In children, if **CDI** laboratory testing is indicated, the likelihood of *C. difficile* colonisation and coinfection with other intestinal pathogens should be considered.

Sampling for stool testing: gastrointestinal infection



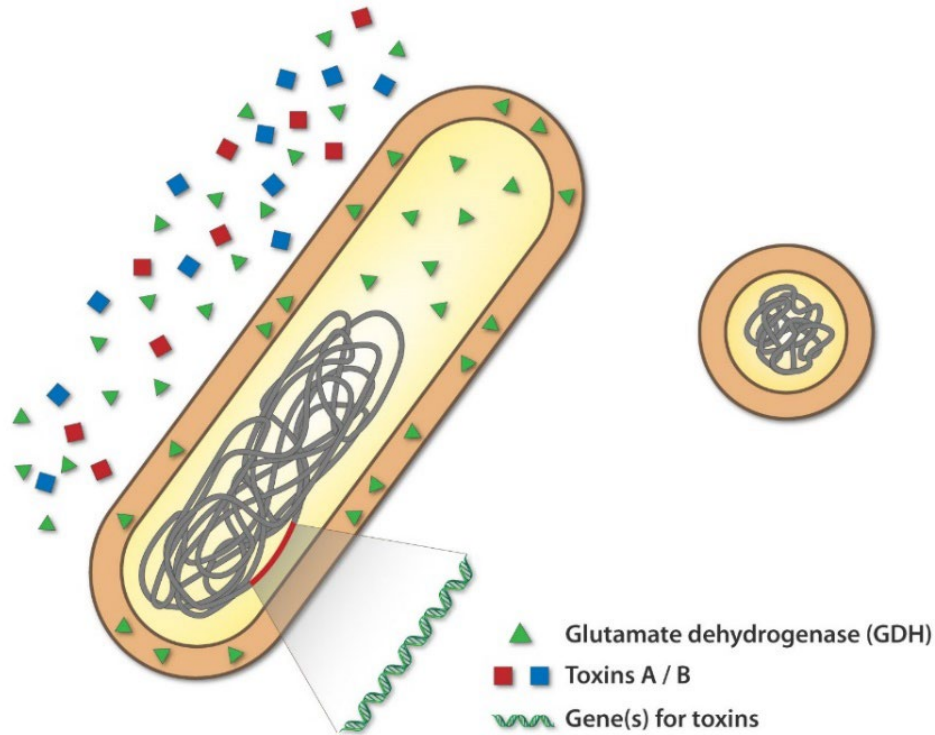
**Unformed stool sample
(taking the shape of a container)**



**Rectal swab:
Paralytic ileus only**

Bacterial culture: stool is not available

What can we test?



Glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH)
(enzyme produced by all *C. difficile*), **EIA**

Toxins A/B
(virulence factor(s)), **EIA**

Gene (s) fragment(s) for toxins, **PCR**
(do not report toxins!)

C. difficile culture
(spores)

What test(s) should be used?

PPV and NPV for different categories of index tests at hypothetical CDI prevalences of 5, 10, 20 and 50%

| Test type | CDI prevalence 5% | | CDI prevalence 10% | | CDI prevalence 20% | | CDI prevalence 50% | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| | PPV | NPV | PPV | NPV | PPV | NPV | PPV | NPV |
| Well-type EIA GDH | 38 | 100 | 54 | 99 | 72 | 98 | 91 | 94 |
| Membrane-type EIA GDH | 34 | 100 | 52 | 100 | 71 | 99 | 91 | 98 |
| Well-type EIA toxins A/B | 69 | 99 | 83 | 98 | 91 | 96 | 98 | 87 |
| Membrane-type EIA toxins A/B | 81 | 99 | 90 | 98 | 95 | 95 | 99 | 83 |
| NAAT | 46 | 100 | 64 | 100 | 80 | 99 | 94 | 96 |

Pooled estimates of sensitivity and specificity compared to cell cytotoxicity neutralization assay were used to calculate the predictive values.

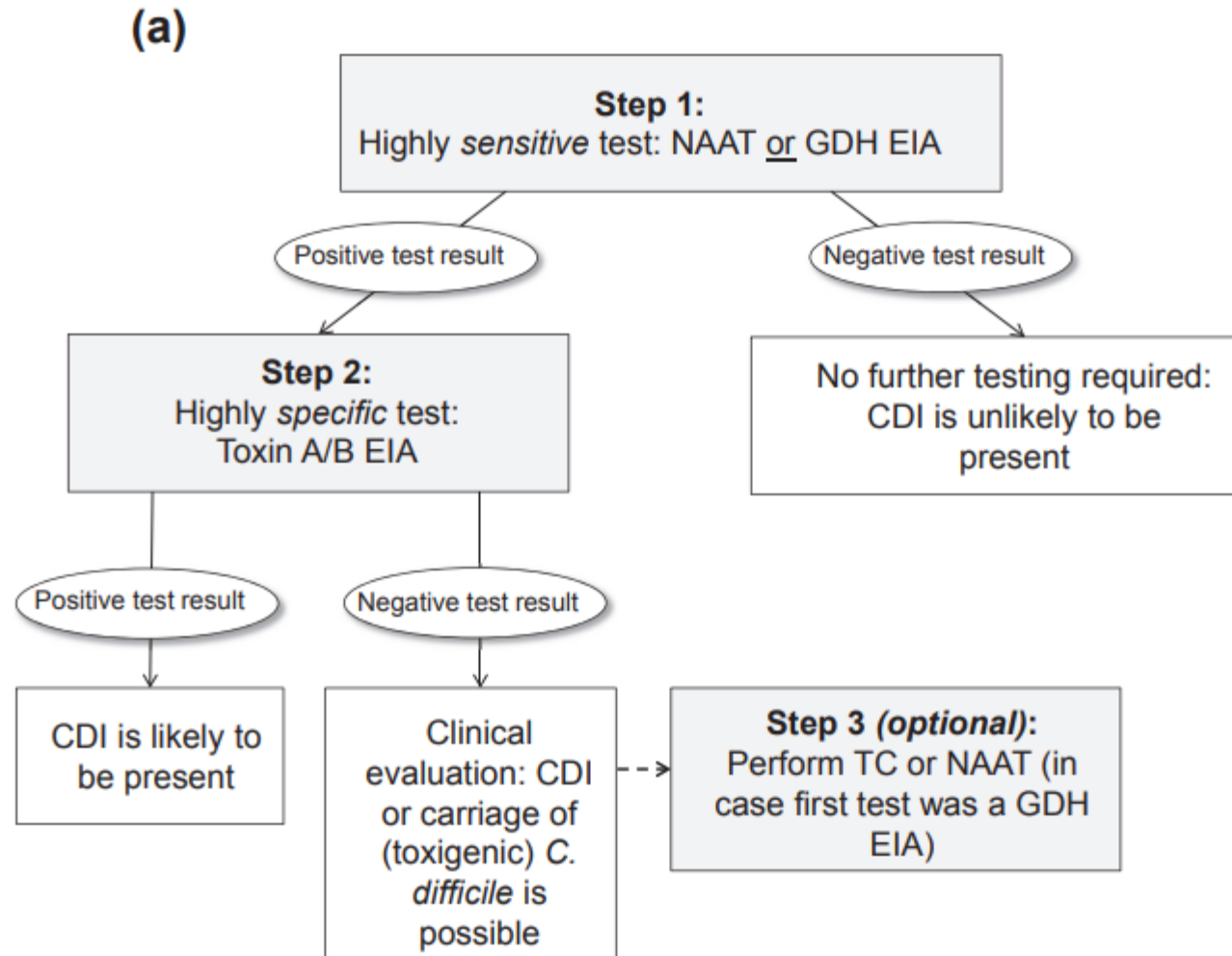
CDI, *Clostridium difficile* infection; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; GDH, glutamate dehydrogenase; NAAT, nucleic acid amplification test; NPV, negative predictive value; PPV, positive predictive value.

No single commercial test can be used as a stand-alone test for diagnosing CDI as a result of inadequate positive predictive values at low CDI prevalence.

✓ **Therefore, the use of a two-step algorithm is recommended**

Laboratory diagnostics of CDI

M.J.T. Crobach et al. / *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* 22 (2016) S63–S81



Children – co-infections

In children, the CDI test should not be the only test in case of diarrhoea!

de Graaf et al., 2015

Table 2 Number of reported gastrointestinal co-infections in *C. difficile*-positive patients by pathogen

| Pathogen | Number of co-infection reports (%) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Viruses | 164 (73.9) |
| Rotavirus | 97 (43.7) |
| Adenovirus | 32 (14.4) |
| Norovirus | 17 (7.7) |
| Astrovirus | 9 (4.1) |
| Sapovirus | 5 (2.3) |
| Others ^a | 4 (1.8) |
| Bacteria | 53 (23.9) |
| <i>E. coli</i> | 17 (7.7) |
| Enteropathogenic | 8 (47.1) |
| Enterotoxigenic | 3 (17.6) |
| Verocytotoxin-producing | 4 (23.5) |
| O18 | 1 (5.9) |
| Not specified | 1 (5.9) |
| <i>Salmonella</i> spp. | 11 (5.0) |
| <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. | 11 (5.0) |
| <i>Yersinia</i> spp. | 6 (2.7) |
| Others ^b | 8 (3.6) |
| Parasites | 5 (2.3) |
| <i>Blastocystis hominis</i> | 1 (0.45) |
| <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> | 2 (0.9) |
| <i>Giardia</i> spp. | 2 (0.9) |

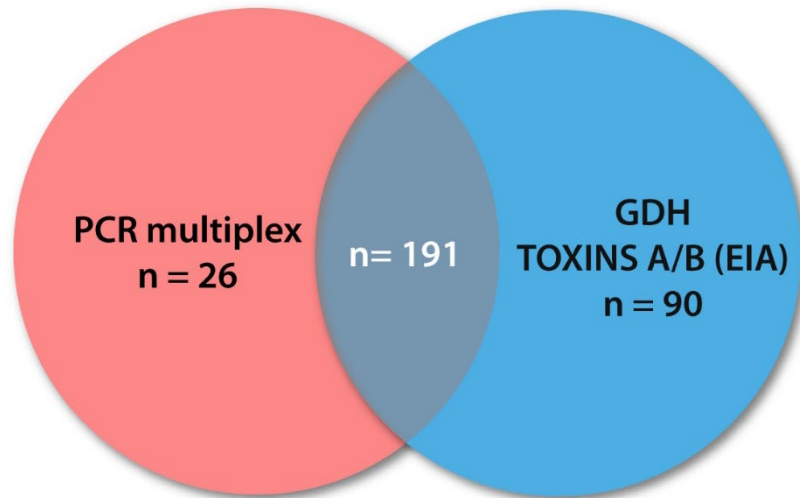
^a Calicivirus (*n*=2), coxsackievirus (*n*=1), enterovirus (*n*=1)

^b *Bacillus cereus* (*n*=3), *Aeromonas* spp. (*n*=2), *Shigella* spp. (*n*=2), *Vibrio cholerae* (*n*=1)

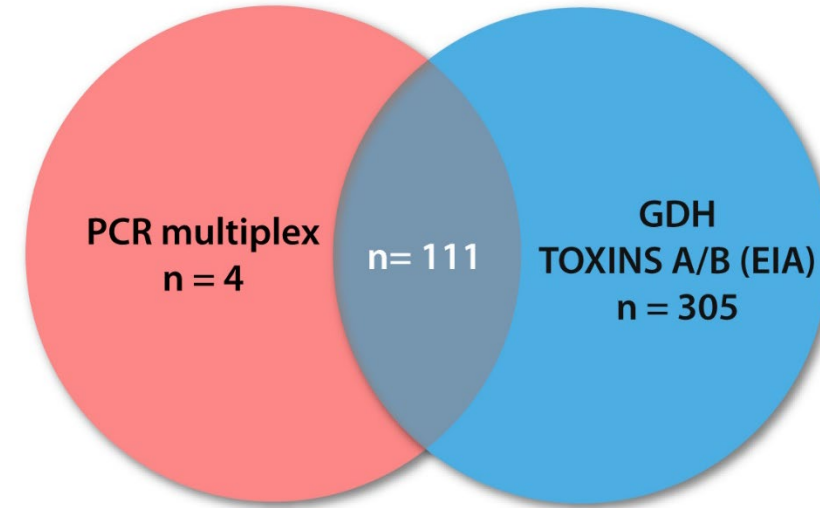
Stool testing: ÚLM FNM



Children



Adults



May-August 2022



- **Multiplex PCR** (daily)
- bacteria, viruses, parasites
- AusDiagnostics (panel M)
- 20 targets (AusDiagnostics (panel M))



CDI (2 hod) - EIA

ArcDia - mariPOC CDI

- Glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH)
- *C. difficile* toxin A/B

Internal evaluation: Krutova et al., JCM, 2019

***C. difficile* (PCR positive)**

n=21/115 (18.3%)



**GDH negative
toxin A/B negative**

n=2/21 (9.5 %)



**Shigella (n=1)
Adenovirus (n=1)**

n=2/2 (100%)



No patient was treated



***C. difficile* (PCR positive)**

n=65/191 (34.0%)



**GDH negative
toxin A/B negative**

n=6/65 (9.2 %)



mNAAT negative

n=6/6 (100%)



No patient was treated

C. difficile (PCR positive)
n=21/115 (18.3%)



**GDH positive
toxin A/B positive**
n=14/21 (66.7%)



**Aeromonas (n=2)
Rotavirus + Adenovirus (n=1)**
n=3/14 (21.4%)



All patients were treated for CDI
Rotavirus a Norovirus co-infection – 96 years old patient



C. difficile (PCR positive)
n=65/191 (34.0%)



**GDH positive
toxin A/B positive**
n=29/65 (44.6%)



**Aeromonas (n=2)
Rotavirus (n=4)
Adenovirus (n=3)
Norovirus + Adenovirus (n=1)**
n=10/29 (34.5%)



Four patients (40%) were treated from co-infection group.
Nine patients (47.4%) were treated from C. difficile „only“ group.
Frequent diarrhea significant dehydration, weight loss

C. difficile (PCR positive)

n=21/115 (18.3%)

GDH positive
toxin A/B negative

n=5/21 (23.8%)

Campylobacter (n=1)
Rotavirus (n=1)
Norovirus GII (n=1)

n=3/5 (60.0%)

One adult patient– abdomen
pain, diarrhoea, palliative care,
treated by vancomycin, RT012



C. difficile (PCR positive)

n=65/191 (34.0%)

GDH positive
toxin A/B negative

n=30/65 (46.2%)

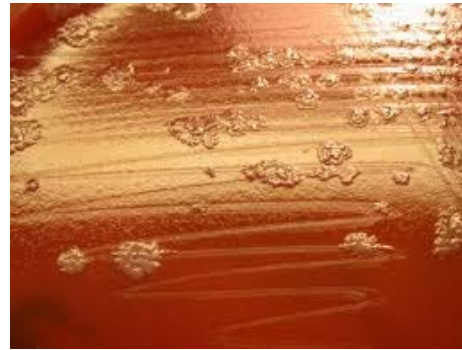
Sapovirus (n=1)
Rotavirus (n=3)
Norovirus GII (n=3)
Adenovirus (n=2)
Astrovirus (n=2)
Rotavirus a Norovirus (n=1)
Norovirus a Adenovirus (n=1)

n=6/6 (100%)

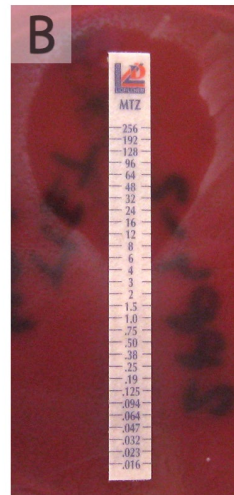
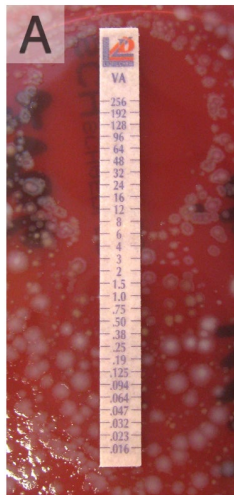
One patient treated (after 2nd
cycle of chemotherapy,
diarrhoea, increasing CRP, 9
month)

RT033 (del *tcdA* gene, *tcdB* gene
– not present, binary toxin
genes)

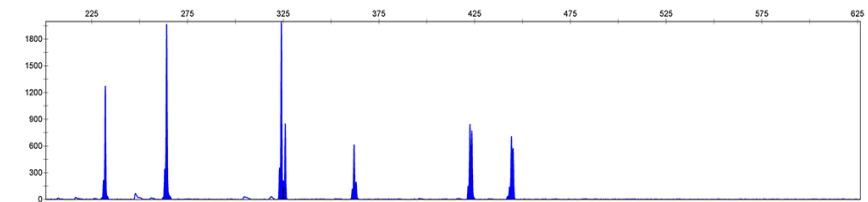
Culture of *C. difficile*-why?



Stool sample and alcohol 1:1, 30 minutes. Suppressing of other bacteria in sample, germination of spores.
Culture on selective media, anaerobic atmosphere 24-48 hrs.



Antimicrobial
susceptibility testing
and characterisation of
strain for epidemiologic
purposes



Guidance documents USA/Europe

> [Clin Infect Dis](#). 2018 Mar 19;66(7):987-994. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciy149.

Clinical Practice Guidelines for Clostridium difficile Infection in Adults and Children: 2017 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

L Clifford McDonald¹, Dale N Gerding², Stuart Johnson^{2,3}, Johan S Bakken⁴, Karen C Carroll⁵, Susan E Coffin⁶, Erik R Dubberke⁷, Kevin W Garey⁸, Carolyn V Gould¹, Ciaran Kelly⁹, Vivian Loo¹⁰, Julia Shaklee Sammons⁶, Thomas J Sandora¹¹, Mark H Wilcox¹²

> [Clin Microbiol Infect](#). 2021 Dec;27 Suppl 2:S1-S21. doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2021.09.038.
Epub 2021 Oct 20.

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases: 2021 update on the treatment guidance document for Clostridioides difficile infection in adults

Joffrey van Prehn¹, Elena Reigadas², Erik H Vogelzang³, Emilio Bouza², Adriana Hristea⁴, Benoit Guery⁵, Marcela Krutova⁶, Torbjorn Norén⁷, Franz Allerberger⁸, John E Coia⁹, Abraham Goorhuis¹⁰, Tessel M van Rossen³, Rogier E Ooijevaar¹¹, Karen Burns¹², Bente R Scharvik Olesen¹³, Sarah Tschudin-Sutter¹⁴, Mark H Wilcox¹⁵, Maria J G T Vehreschild¹⁶, Fidelma Fitzpatrick¹⁷, Ed J Kuijper¹⁸;
Guideline Committee of the European Study Group on Clostridioides difficile

Practice Guideline > [Clin Infect Dis](#). 2021 Sep 7;73(5):755-757. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciab718.

Clinical Practice Guideline by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA): 2021 Focused Update Guidelines on Management of Clostridioides difficile Infection in Adults

Stuart Johnson^{1,2}, Valéry Lavergne^{3,4}, Andrew M Skinner^{1,2}, Anne J Gonzales-Luna⁵, Kevin W Garey⁵, Ciaran P Kelly⁶, Mark H Wilcox⁷

Clinical Microbiology and Infection 28 (2022) 1085–1090

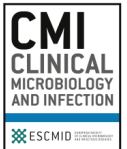


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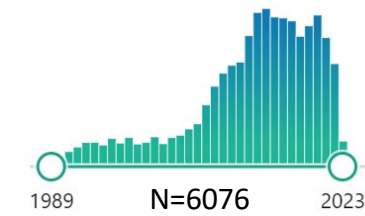
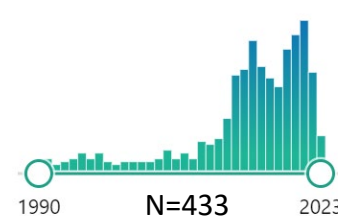
journal homepage: www.clinicalmicrobiologyandinfection.com



Narrative review

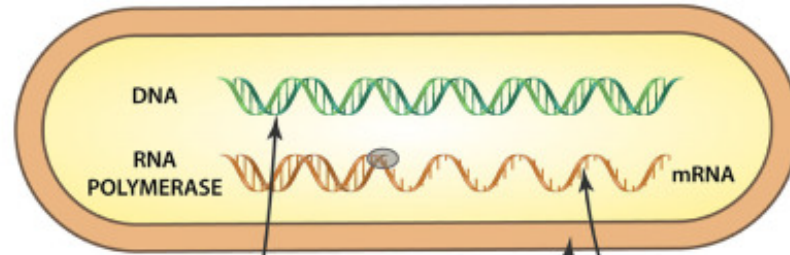
How to: *Clostridioides difficile* infection in children

Marcela Krutova^{1,7,8,*}, Tim G.J. de Meij², Fidelma Fitzpatrick^{3,7,8}, Richard J. Drew^{4,7}, Mark H. Wilcox^{5,7}, Ed J. Kuijper^{6,7,8}



European guidance documents do not include children, a separate document (expert opinion).

CLOSTRIDIODES DIFFICILE



Antimicrobials approved for CDI treatment

| | | METRONIDAZOLE | VANCOMYCIN | FIDAXOMICIN |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | SYSTEMIC ABSORPTION | ● HIGH | ● LOW | ● LOW |
| | STOOL CONCENTRATION | ● LOW | ● HIGH | ● HIGH |
| | REDUCTION OF BIOACTIVITY BY FAECES | ● HIGHEST | ● LOWER | ● LOWER |
| | EFFECT ON DIVERSITY OF MICROBIOTA | ● REDUCTION | ● REDUCTION | ● PRESERVATION |
| | STOOL SHEDDING DECLINE | ● SLOW | ● RAPID | ● RAPID |
| | ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION | ● HIGHEST | ● LOWER | ● LOWER (STEEPER) |
| | SPOROCIDAL EFFECT | — | ● NO | ● YES |
| | INHIBITION OF SPORULATION | ● NO | ● NO | ● YES |

● SUPPORTIVE ● LESS-SUPPORTIVE ● NON-SUPPORTIVE — NO DATA

Pharmacokinetic differences of metronidazole, vancomycin and fidaxomicin.

Krůtová et al., 2022

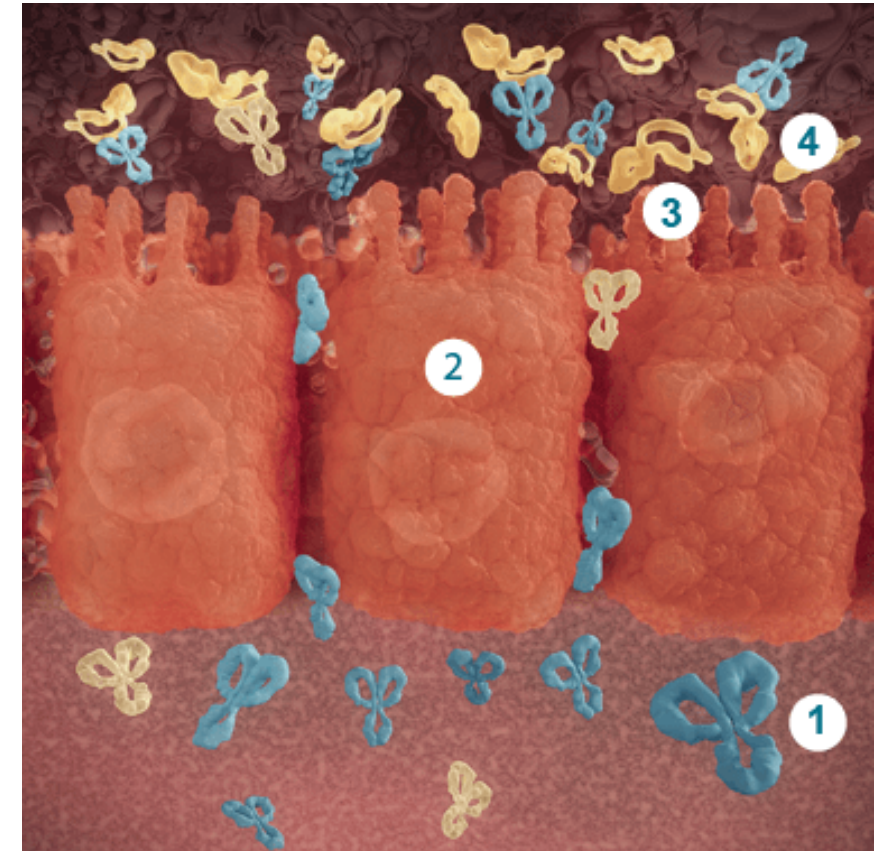
Passive immunisation

Bezlotoxumab (ZINPLAVA™) is a human monoclonal antibody that binds to *Clostridioides difficile* toxin B indicated to reduce the recurrence of CDI.

Should only be used in conjunction with antibacterial drug treatment of CDI!

Clinical Trial > [N Engl J Med. 2017 Jan 26;376\(4\):305-317. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1602615.](#)

The rate of recurrent *C. difficile* infection was significantly lower with bezlotoxumab alone than with placebo (MODIFY I: 17% [67 of 386] vs. 28% [109 of 395]; adjusted difference, **-10.1** percentage points; 95% confidence interval [CI], -15.9 to -4.3; $P < 0.001$; MODIFY II: 16% [62 of 395] vs. 26% [97 of 378]; adjusted difference, **-9.9** percentage points; 95% CI, -15.5 to -4.3; $P < 0.001$)



1. ZINPLAVA
2. Damaged gut epithelial cells
3. Toxin B
4. ZINPLAVA binding to toxin B

FMT: Faecal microbiota transplant

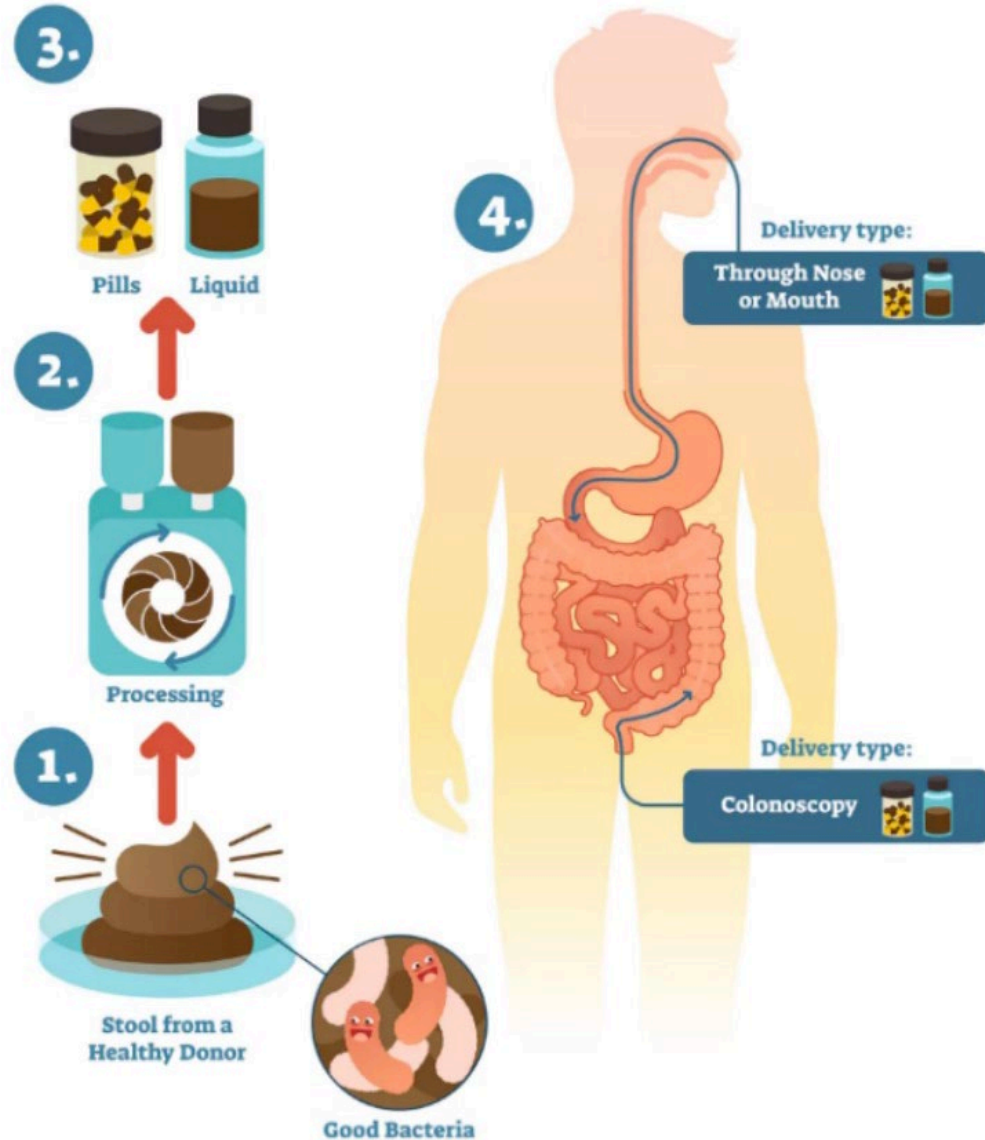


Table 2

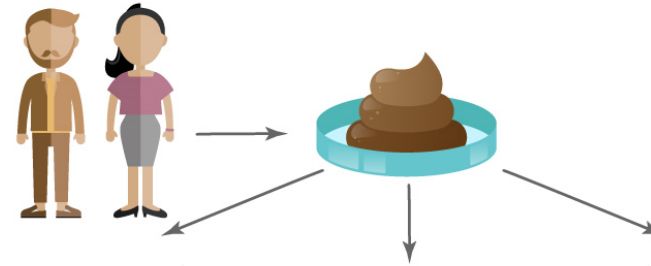
Donor screening by laboratory screening of faeces and serum





| Laboratory screening serum | Laboratory screening faeces |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis A (IgM + IgG) • Hepatitis B (HBsAg + anti-Hbcore) • Hepatitis C (anti-HCV) • Hepatitis E (IgM + IgG) • HIV (anti-HIV, type 1 and 2) • Lues; <i>Treponema pallidum</i> (Ig) • Cytomegalovirus (IgM + IgG) • Epstein Barr Virus (IgM + IgG) • <i>Strongyloides</i> (IgG1/IgG4)^a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clostridium difficile</i> (PCR) • <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> (antigen test) • Bacterial gastroenteritis: (PCR, followed by culture) <i>Salmonella</i> spp., <i>Campylobacter</i> spp., <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>, <i>C. coli</i>, <i>Shigella</i> spp., <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> and <i>Y. pseudotuberculosis</i>, <i>Aeromonas</i> spp., <i>Plesiomonas shigelloides</i>, and Shiga Toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> • Antibiotic-resistant bacteria (culture); ESBL and/or carbapenemase-producing bacteria, vancomycin-resistant enterococci, and methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> • Viral pathogens (PCR): Norovirus serotype I+II, Astrovirus, Sapovirus, Rotavirus, Adenovirus 40/41, Adenovirus non-40/41, Enterovirus, Parechovirus, Hepatitis E • Parasites (PCR): <i>Giardia lamblia</i>, <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>, <i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i> and <i>C. hominis</i>, <i>Microsporidium</i> spp, <i>Strongyloides</i>^a • Microscopy for ova, cysts, and larvae [69]: e.g. <i>Blastocystis hominis</i> |

Questionnaire: 1 day before donation of faeces

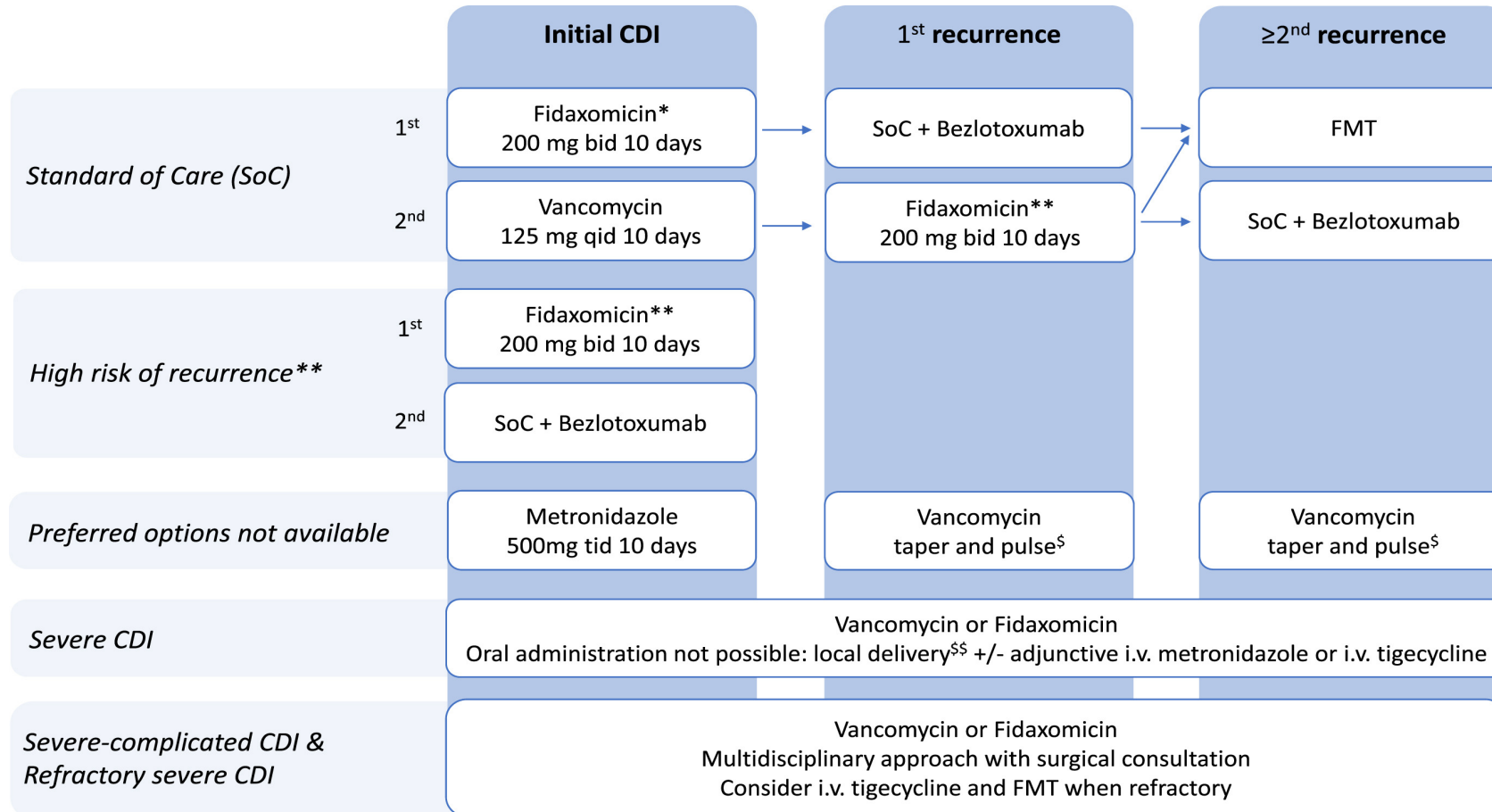
Stool frequency/pattern, general health, use of antibiotics, travel history, sexual behaviour

Future FMT? Live biotherapeutics



| PRODUCT NAME | RBX2660 | SER-109 | VE303 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRODUCT TYPE | FMT-DERIVED | | BACTERIAL CONSORTIA |
| STOOL PROCESSING | Dilution (0.9% saline/polyethylene glycol) | Spore enrichment (50 – 70% v/v EtOH 2-hrs treatment) | Bacterial culture (8 strains of Clostridiales) |
| FORM OF DELIVERY |  Liquid enema |  4x Oral capsules |  2x / 10x Oral capsules Low dose / High dose  |
| REDUCTION OF rCDI | 13.1% | 28.0% | 8.5% / 31.7% |
| BATCH-TO-BATCH VARIATION | ● YES | ● YES | ● NO |
| CHARACTERIZATION OF COMPOSITION | ● NO | ● NO | ● YES |
| RISK OF PATHOGEN (AMR) TRANSMISSION | ● POSSIBLE | ● POSSIBLE | ● LIMITED |

Currently valid guidance document for CDI treatment



* Risk stratification for risk of recurrence may be applied for selective use of fidaxomicin in case of limited access or resources.

** Consider extended fidaxomicin: 200 mg bid on day 1-5, 200 mg q48h on day 7-25. Most important risk factor for recurrence is age >65-70 years. Additional risk factor(s) to consider are healthcare-associated CDI, prior hospitalization ≤ 3 months, prior CDI episode, continued non-CDI antibiotic use, and PPI therapy started during/after CDI diagnosis. The risk of recurrence is assumed higher with more risk factors present.

§ Vancomycin taper and pulse: 2 weeks 125 mg qid, followed by 1 week 125 mg bid, then 1 week 125 mg qd, then 1 week 125 mg q48h, and finally 125 mg q72h for 1 week.

§§ Rectal or nasoduodenal delivery

Prevention of CDI

Review > [Clin Microbiol Infect.](#) 2018 Oct;24(10):1051-1054. doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2018.02.020.

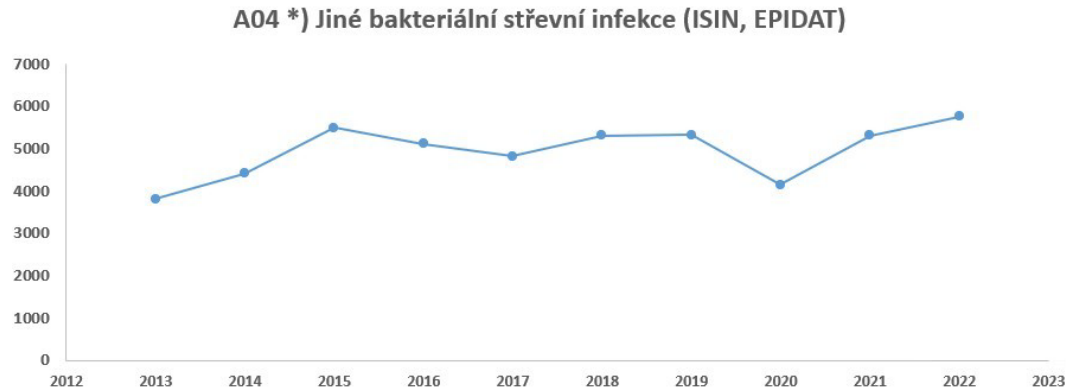
Epub 2018 Mar 2.

Guidance document for prevention of Clostridium difficile infection in acute healthcare settings

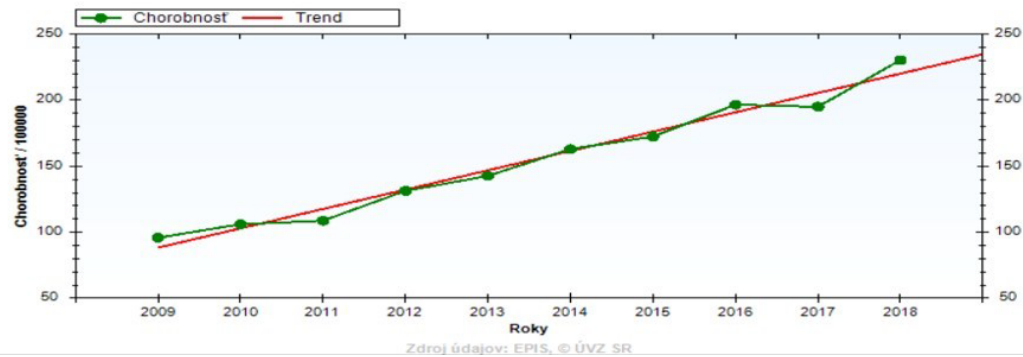
- ✓ Hand hygiene – water and soap (instead of alcohol-based hand rub), but combination?
- ✓ Use of personal protective equipment (PPE): gloves and gowns/disposable aprons
- ✓ Use contact precautions
- ✓ Introduce daily environmental sporicidal disinfection and terminal disinfection of rooms of patients with CDI
- ✓ Restriction of antibiotic agents/classes is effective
- ✓ Reducing the duration of antibiotic therapy
- ✓ Educate healthcare workers on prevention of CDI to enhance their knowledge and skills
- ✓ Educate CDI patients and visitors on prevention measures for CDI

Surveillance CDI!

National *C. difficile* surveillance



(A04) Výskyt ostatných hnačkových ochorení / Incidence of other diarrhoeal diseases.
Trend za 10 rokov.
Rok 2019. SR.



ISIN (Informační systém infekčních nemocí)
-dříve EPIDAT



Czech and Slovak system for
infectious diseases reporting.
Code A04: Other bacterial
Intestinal infections

EPIS (Epidemiologický informační systém)

C. difficile surveillance

Table 1. Information collected for different CDI surveillance options

| | Minimal surveillance | Light surveillance | Enhanced surveillance | Form |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Collected information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum CDI surveillance for each hospital (aggregated numerator data) • Hospital data for each hospital (aggregated denominator data) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum CDI surveillance for each hospital (aggregated numerator data) • Hospital data for each hospital (aggregated denominator data) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum CDI surveillance for each hospital (aggregated numerator data) • Hospital data for each hospital (aggregated denominator data) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form H (aggregated numerator and denominator data) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on each CDI case (case-based numerator data) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on each CDI case (case-based numerator data) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form C (case-based numerator data) |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbiological data (for the first 5 consecutively detected cases in each participating healthcare facility: characterisation, susceptibility testing and typing of each <i>C. difficile</i> isolate) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form M (one form for each <i>C. difficile</i> isolate) |
| Surveillance period | <p>Recommended: continuous surveillance for 12 months, starting on the first* day of the month. The recommended minimum surveillance period is three consecutive months, preferably from 1 October to 31 December, or from 1 January to 31 March. The absolute minimum surveillance period is one month, starting on the first day of the month. *The pilot study demonstrated that completion of Form H is made much easier by starting surveillance on the first day of a month.</p> | | | |

CDI CASE FORM

Hospital

Patient identification

Initials Gender Sample receipt

Year of birth Sample ID

Department of hospitalization

Date of hospitalization

Patient's underlying disease

Other information

GDH Toxin A/B PCR Test result release

1st episode / recurrence: 1st CDI episode
 Recurrence Number of recurrences
(recurrence - development of symptoms more than 2 weeks and less than 8 weeks from the first positive result)

ATB treatment in the last 4 week None

Previous hospitalization in the last four weeks:
 Same hospital Other hospital Longterm care facility Rehabilitation None

Previous hospitalization in the last three months:
 Same hospital Other hospital Longterm care facility Rehabilitation None

CDI symptoms on admission to hospital: Yes Date of symptom onset
 No Date of symptom onset

Complicated course of illness (CDI as reason: community hospitalization, ICU admission, toxic megacolon, colectomy, death) Yes No

Start date of CDI ATB treatment ATB

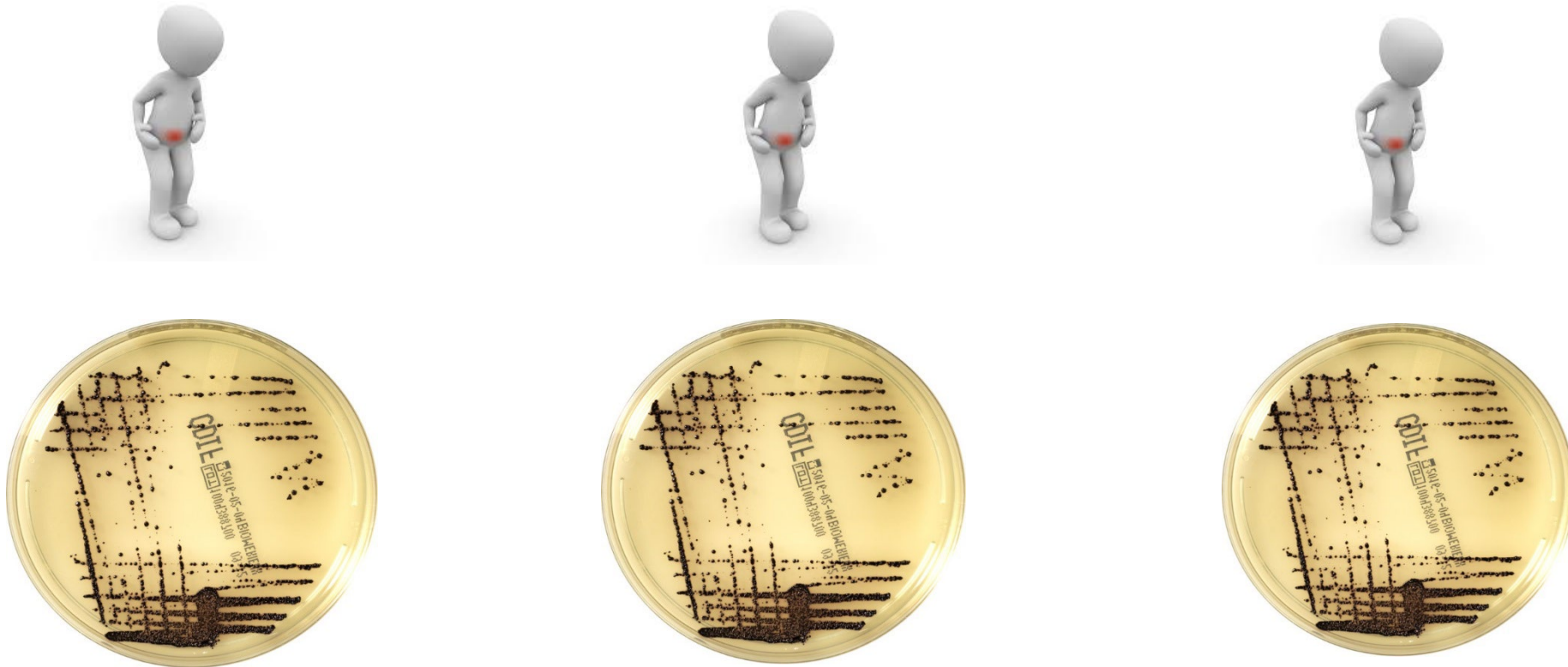
Patient isolation: Separate room Not isolated
 Cohorting Unknown

Patient discharged Patient died CDI contributed to death

Date of discharge or death of patient: CDI probably contributed to death
 CDI not contributed to death

Date Signature

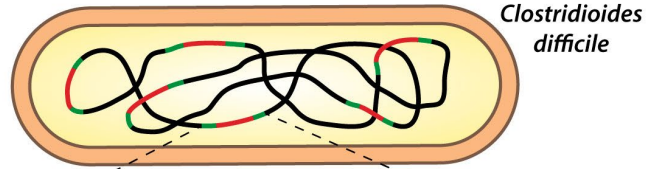
Why should we characterize *C. difficile* isolates (CDI cases)?
Name the CDI case!



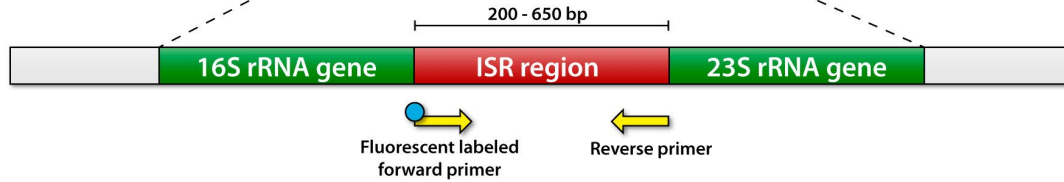
Monitoring of the occurrence and spread within healthcare facility

C. difficile PCR ribotyping

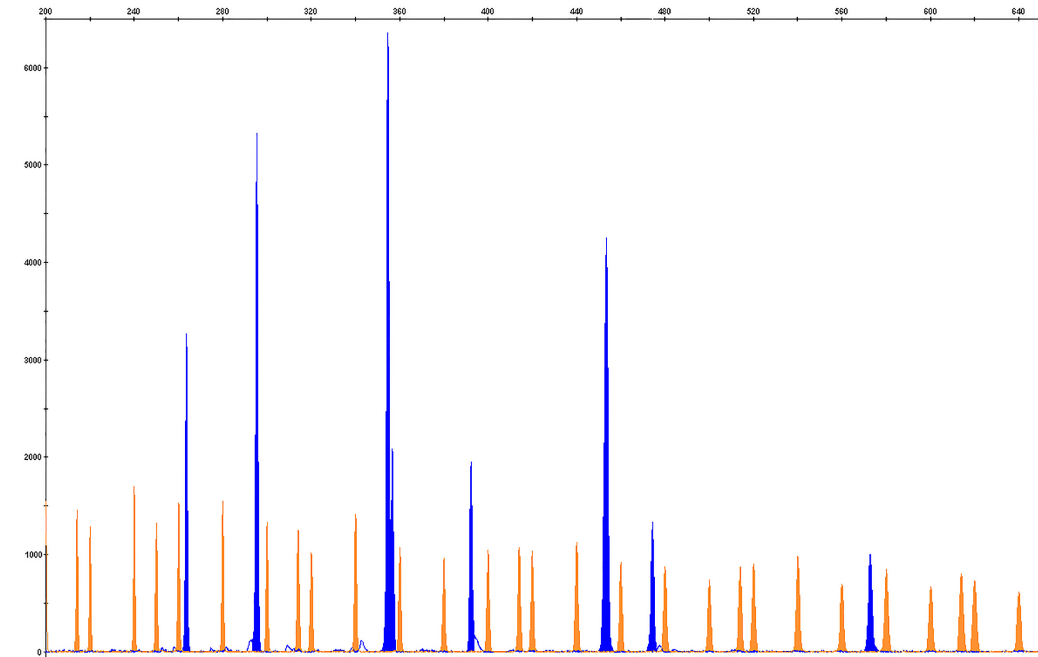
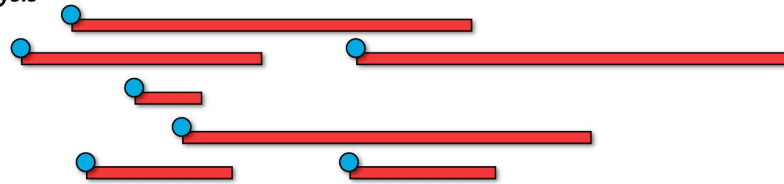
DNA Extraction



PCR Amplification



PCR Fragment Analysis



Implementation of ribotyping data into routine microbiology

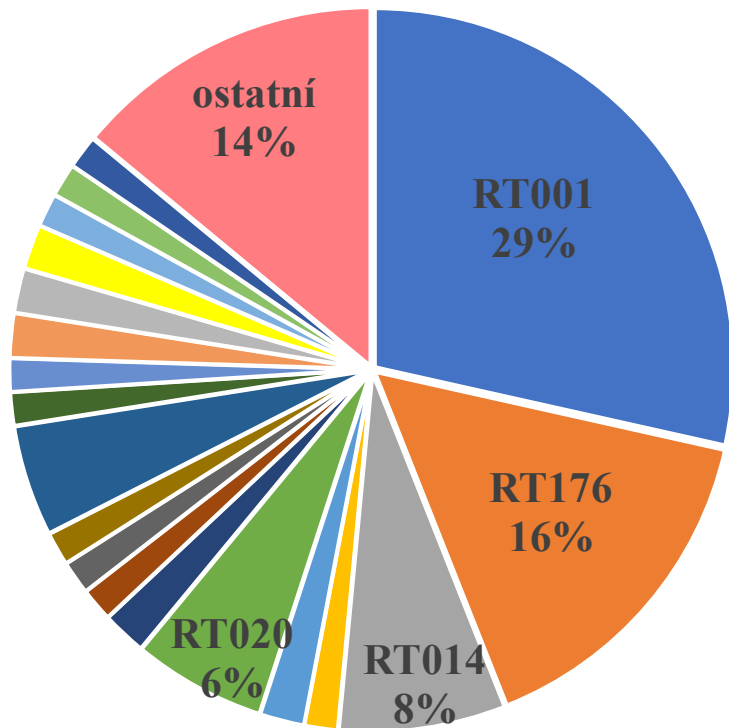
| | Kult | Dat | Operace | |
|--------------------------|------|-------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Makroskopický vzhled | |
| Macroscopy | | 11.03-10:57 | Makroskopický vzhled: | barva zelená; konzistence tekutá; hlen ne; krev ne; poznámka |
| | | | Kultivace cílená na Clostridium difficile | |
| Culture | 1 | 11.03-13:23 | půda pro Cl.difficile | Clostridium difficile |
| | | 14.03-07:35 | Identifikace Maldi - anaerobi | Clostridioides difficile |
| | | 14.03-07:35 | E-test Clostridium difficile | VAN+ MET+ |
| | | | PCR průkaz toxinu Cl.difficile | |
| Isolate characterisation | | 14.03-09:00 | Gen pro produkci toxinu A: | POZITIVNÍ |
| | | 14.03-09:00 | Gen pro produkci toxinu B: | POZITIVNÍ |
| | | 14.03-09:00 | Gen pro produkci binárního toxinu: | negativní |
| | | 14.03-09:00 | Ribotyp: | 001 |
| | | | Gastropanel (FIA) | |
| Stool testing | | 11.03-10:57 | C. difficile - GDH: | 32,2 - POZITIVNÍ |
| | | 11.03-10:57 | C. difficile - toxiny A/B: | 246,1 - POZITIVNÍ |
| | | 11.03-10:57 | Norovirus GII.4: | negativní |
| | | 11.03-10:57 | Norovirus GI: | negativní |
| | | 11.03-10:57 | Rotavirus: | negativní |
| | | 11.03-10:57 | Adenovirus: | negativní |
| | | 11.03-10:57 | Campylobacter spp.: | negativní |

| ATB | Mez | Výsl | Hodn | T | * |
|-------|-----|------|------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| vanko | 2-2 | 0.38 | C | C | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| metro | 2-2 | 0.75 | C | C | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

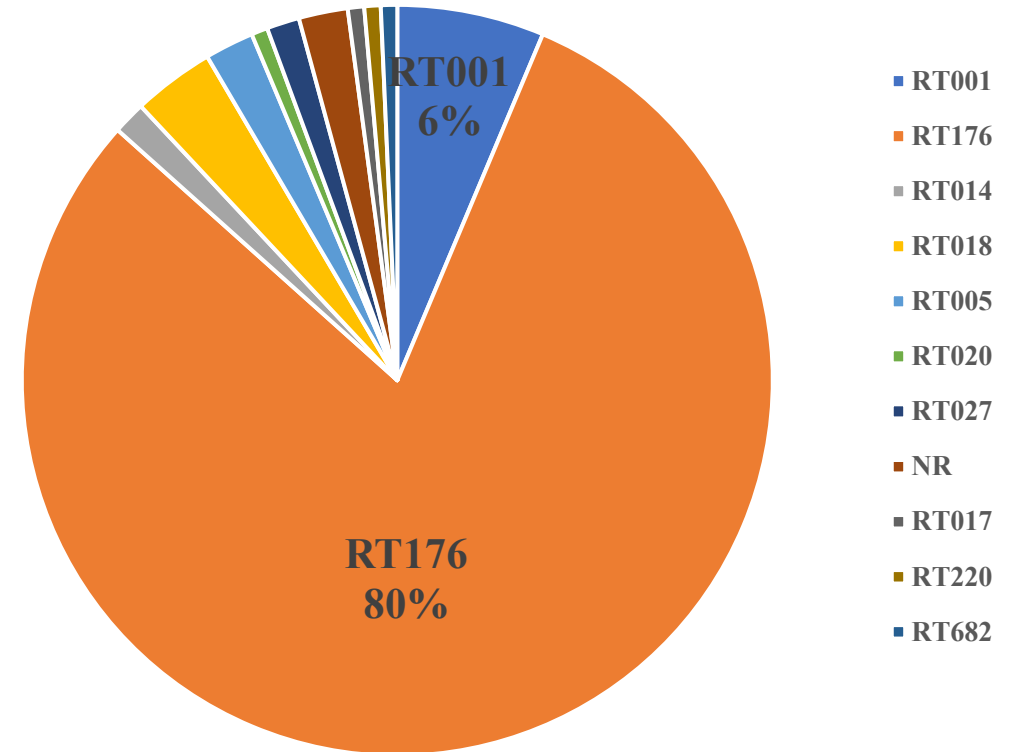


PCR ribotyping national data

CZ



SR

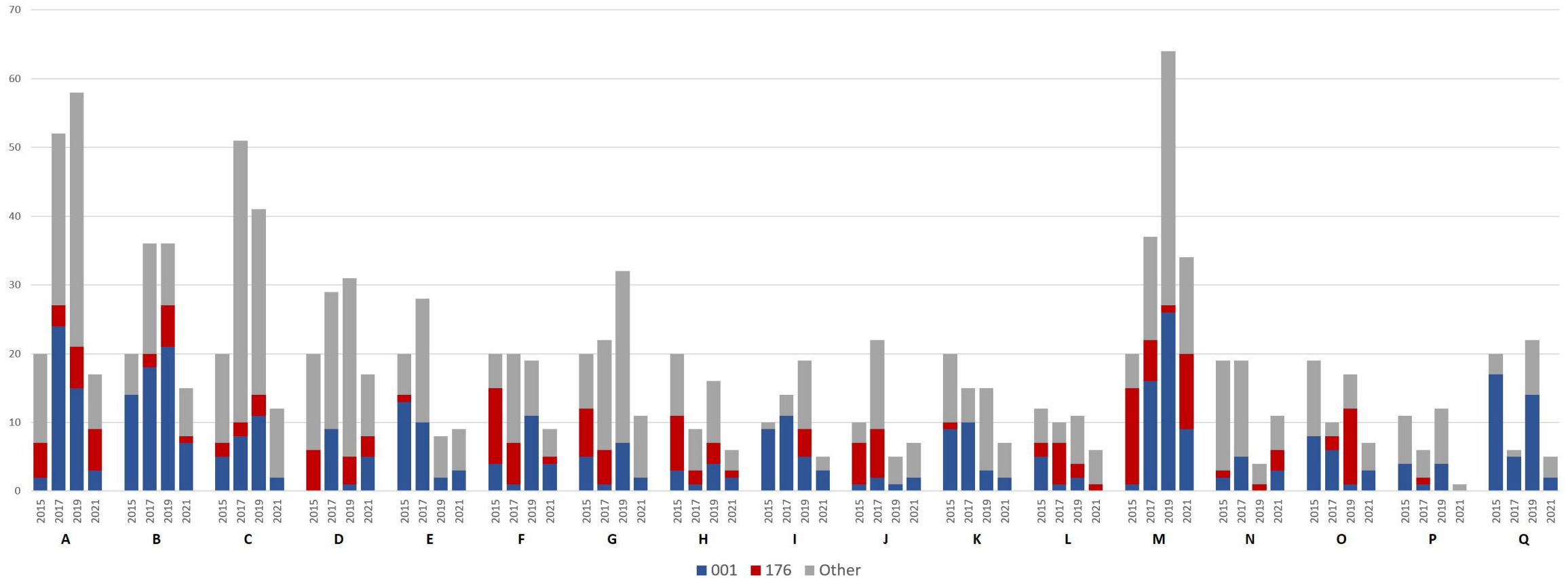


52 ribotyping profiles

Geographical distribution of participating hospitals



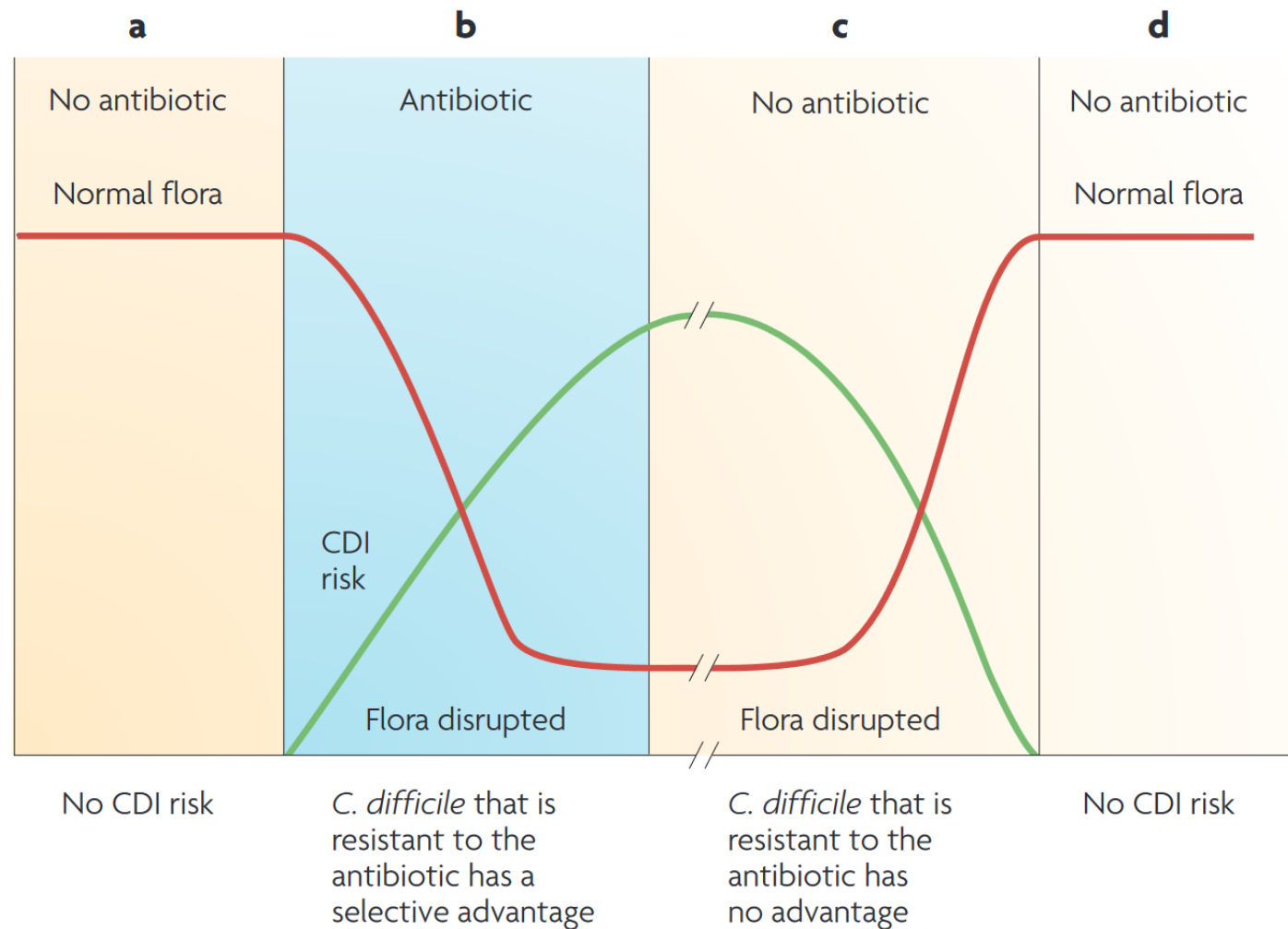
Czech Republic 2015-2021



2015 - RT001 33% RT176 25%
2017 - RT001 33% RT176 11%

2019 - RT001 33% RT176 10%
2021 - RT001 29% RT176 16%

Safe Antibiotics for Patients at Risk of CDI – *C. difficile* Colonization



Safe antibiotics for patients at risk of CDI?

The effect of antibiotics on the composition of the gut microbiota

Table 1a
Changes in the abundance of aerobic bacteria in the intestinal microbiota associated with administration of antibiotics (reported on genus level).

| Antibiotic | AEROBIC BACTERIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Other bacteria | Non-aerobic (after antibiotic treatment) |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| | Total number | ACINETOBACTER | BACILLUS | CITROBACTER | CORYNEBACTERIUM | ENTEROBACTERIACEAE* | ENTEROBACTER | ENTEROCOCCUS | ESCHERICHIA | KLEBSIELLA | MORGANELLA | MICROCOCCUS | PROTEUS | PSEUDOMONAS | SALMONELLA | STAPHYLOCOCCUS | STREPTOCOCCUS | | |
| PENICILLINS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penicillin ^{22,25} | na ^{27,28} | na ²⁴ | | | na ²⁴ | | | | | | | | | | | | na ^{22,24} | d14 ^{22,25} | |
| Amoxicillin ^{25-31,149} | TGN ⁶¹ | na ²⁴ | ↓ ²⁶ | ↓ ²⁶ | ↓ ^{26,31,32} | ↓ ^{26,31,32} | ↓ ^{26,31,32} | ↓ ^{26,31,32} | ↓ ^{26,31,149} | ↓ ²⁶ | | | | ↓ ³¹ | na ^{32,33} | ↓ ³² | ↑ ^{Shigella} ²⁷ | d7-d21 ^{31,32,149} not d28-55 ^{27-29,33} not 12m ³⁰ | |
| Ampicillin ⁴¹ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | | | | na ²⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁷ | |
| Bacampicillin ^{22,14} | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | | | | na ²⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁷ | |
| Pivmecillinam ⁴¹ | na ²⁵ | na ⁴¹ | | | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Mezlocillin ²⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Azlocillin ²⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Flucloxacillin ⁴⁷ | | | ↓ ³⁷ | | ↓ ³⁷ | ↓ ³⁷ | ↓ ³⁷ | ↓ ³⁷ | ↓ ³⁷ | | | | ↓ ³⁷ | | | | na ⁴⁷ | d14-228 ^{36,50,147} not d14-650 ^{39,45} | |
| Amoxicillin/clavulanate ^{27-40,147} | | | ↓ ³⁷ | | ↓ ^{37,38,40} | ↓ ³⁸ | ↓ ³⁸ | ↓ ³⁸ | ↓ ^{37,38,147} | ↓ ³⁷ | | | | | | | na ⁴⁷ | d14-228 ^{36,50,147} not d14-650 ^{39,45} | |
| Piperacillin ⁴⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Ticarcillin ⁴⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ³¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Ticarcillin/clavulanate ⁴¹ | na ²⁵ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | ↓ ⁴¹ | ↓ ⁴¹ | ↓ ⁴¹ | ↓ ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ⁴¹ | |
| CEPHALOSPORINS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefadroxil ²² | na ²² | na ²² | | | na ²² | na ²² | na ²² | na ²² | na ²² | | | | | | | na ²² | ↓ ²² | d14 ²² | |
| Cephaloridine ⁴¹ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²² | |
| Cephazolin ²⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | na ⁴¹ | | | | | | | | na ⁴¹ | d14 ²² | |
| Cefaclor ^{23,42,43} | | | ↓ ⁴³ | | ↓ ⁴³ | ↓ ⁴³ | ↓ ⁴³ | ↓ ⁴³ | ↓ ⁴³ | | | | | | | | na ⁴³ | not d14-42 ^{42,43} | |
| Cefprozil ⁴⁴ | | | ↓ ⁴⁴ | | ↓ ⁴⁴ | ↓ ⁴⁴ | ↓ ⁴⁴ | ↓ ⁴⁴ | ↓ ⁴⁴ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁴ | d4 ⁴⁴ | |
| Cefuroxime axetil ^{45,46,50,149} | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | | | | | ↓ ⁵⁰ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁶ | d14 ⁴⁵ not d14 ⁴⁵ | |
| Cefuroxime ²⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁵ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Cefoxitin ^{10,15,47} | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁵ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Cefotetan ²⁵ | ↓ ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁵ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Latamoxet ²⁵ | ↓ ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁵ | d14 ²⁵ | |
| Loracarbef ^{25,48} | na ^{25,48} | na ⁴⁸ | | | na ⁴⁸ | ↓ ⁴⁸ | ↓ ⁴⁸ | ↓ ⁴⁸ | na ⁴⁸ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁸ | not d21 ³⁰ | |
| Ceftime ^{43,45,50} | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | | | | | ↓ ⁵⁰ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | d14 ⁴⁵ not d14 ⁴⁵ | |
| Cefoperazone ^{51,52} | | | ↓ ⁵¹ | | ↓ ⁵¹ | ↓ ⁵¹ | ↓ ⁵¹ | ↓ ⁵¹ | na ⁵¹ | | | | | ↓ ⁵¹ | ↓ ⁵¹ | ↓ ⁵¹ | ↑ ^{Stenotrophomonas} ⁵¹ | not d14 ⁵⁰ | |
| Cefotaxime ²⁵ | na ²⁵ | | | | na ⁴⁵ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | ↓ ⁴⁶ | na ⁴⁵ | | | | | | | | na ⁴⁵ | d14 ²⁵ | |

(continued on next page)

P. Zimmermann and N. Curtis / Journal of Infection 79 (2019) 471–489

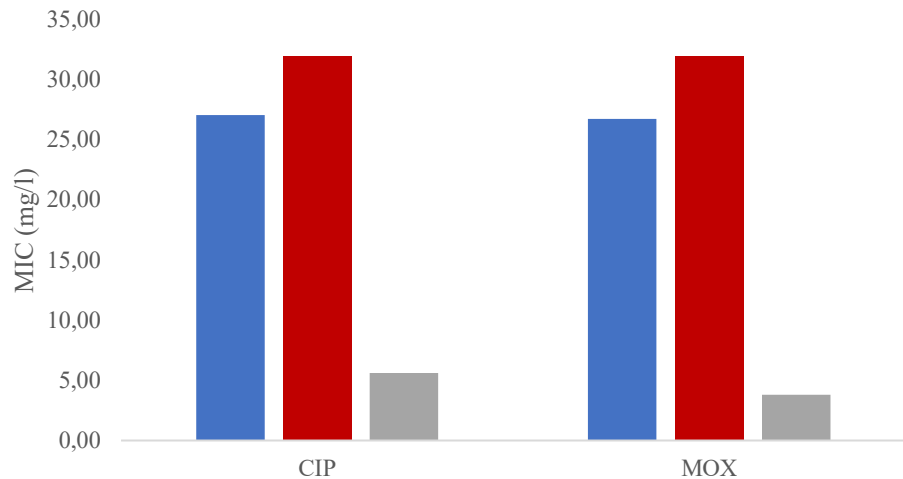
- ✓ Antibiotics cause significant changes in the intestinal microflora. These changes include a decrease in bacterial diversity,
 - ✓ changes in the abundance of certain bacteria and an increase in antibiotic resistance.
 - ✓ The longest duration of changes was observed after treatment with ciprofloxacin (one year), clindamycin (two years) and clarithromycin with metronidazole (four years). However, these findings are limited by the follow-up period.
- (Zimmermann and Curtis, JI, 2019)**

Risky ATB

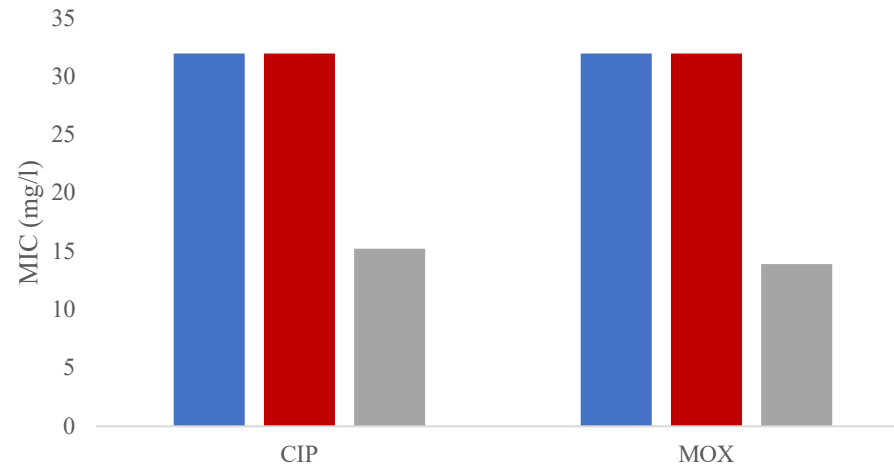
fluoroquinolones and clindamycin

• CZ

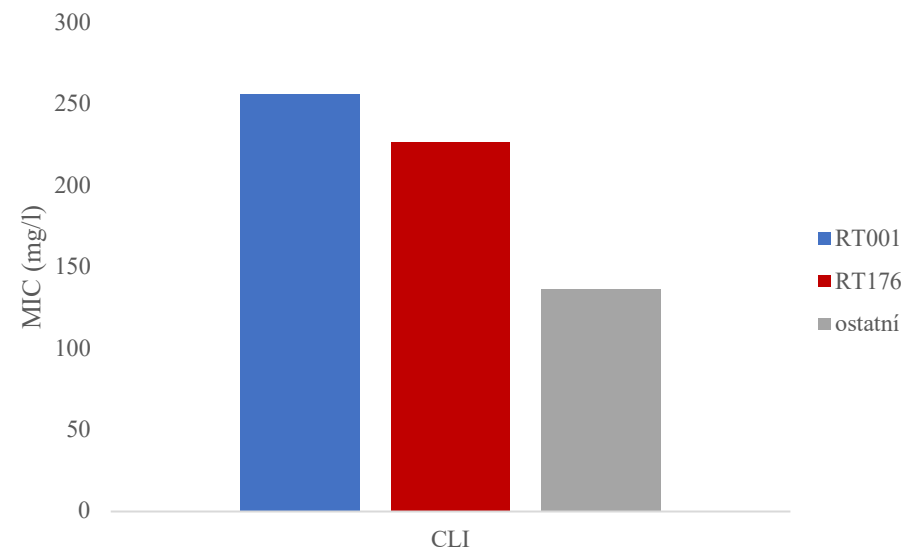
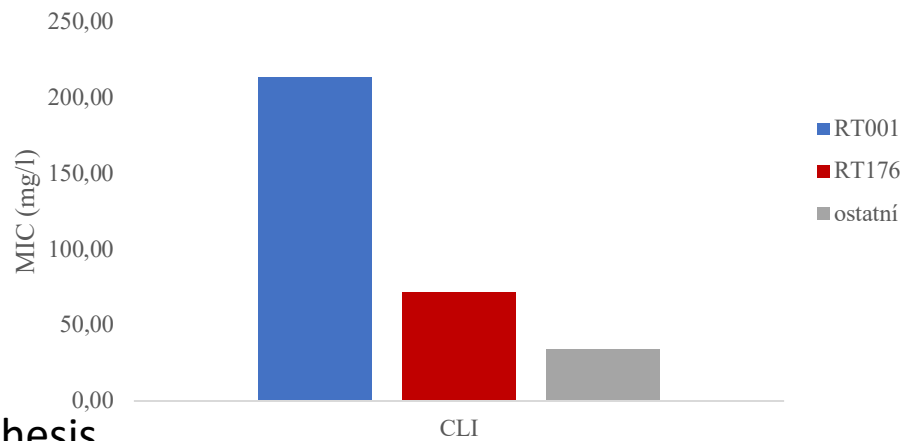
AK substitutions
T82I v GyrA



• SR



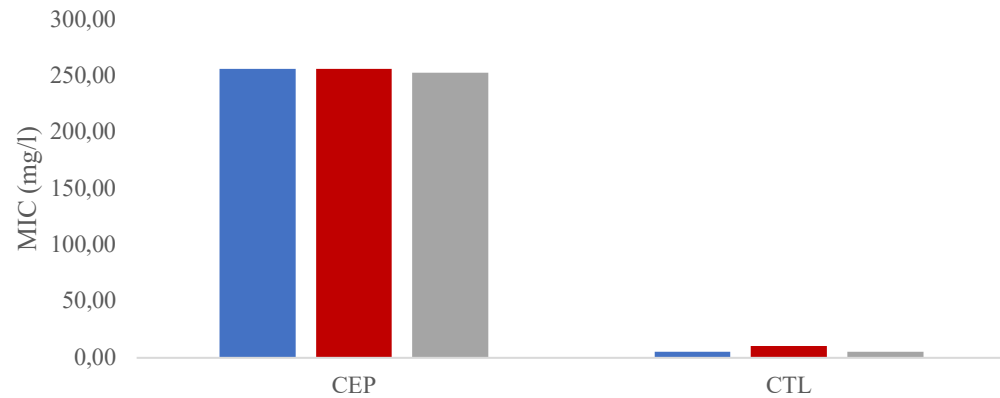
ermB, cfrB
Transmissibility!



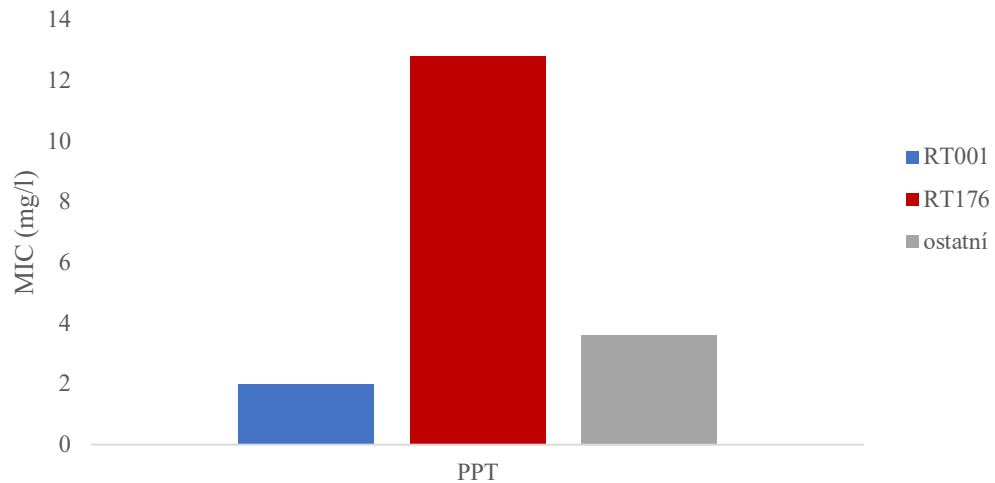
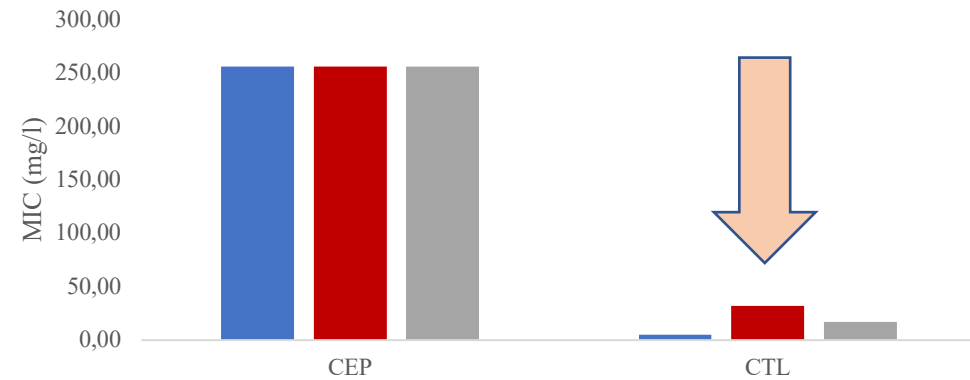
Frequently used ATB

Cephalosporins or piperacillin tazobactam?

• ČR



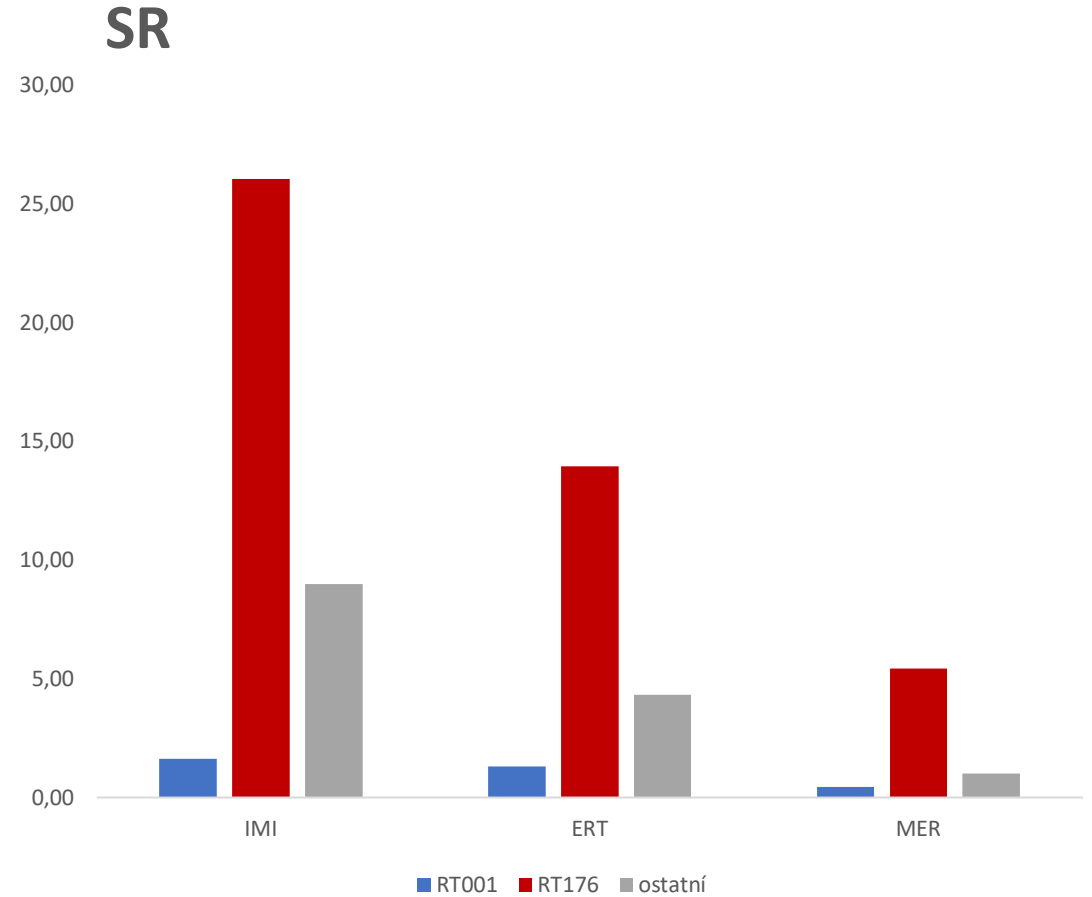
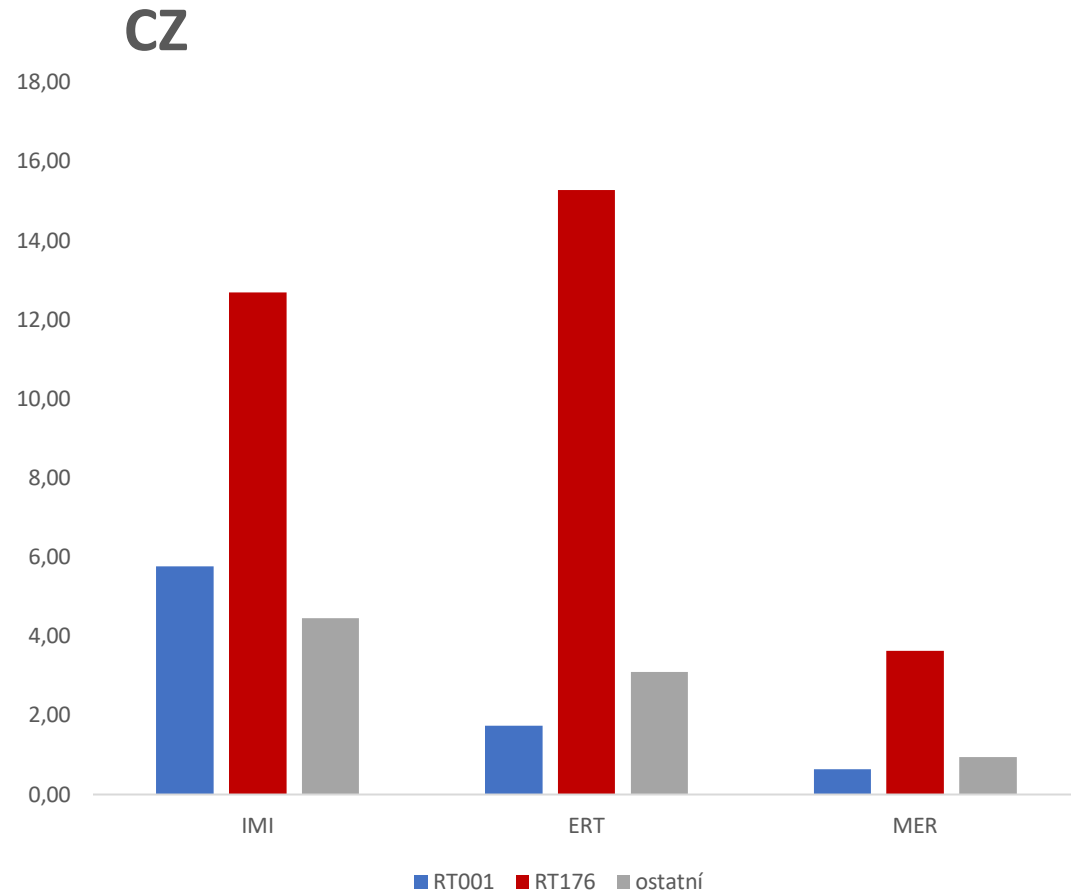
• SR



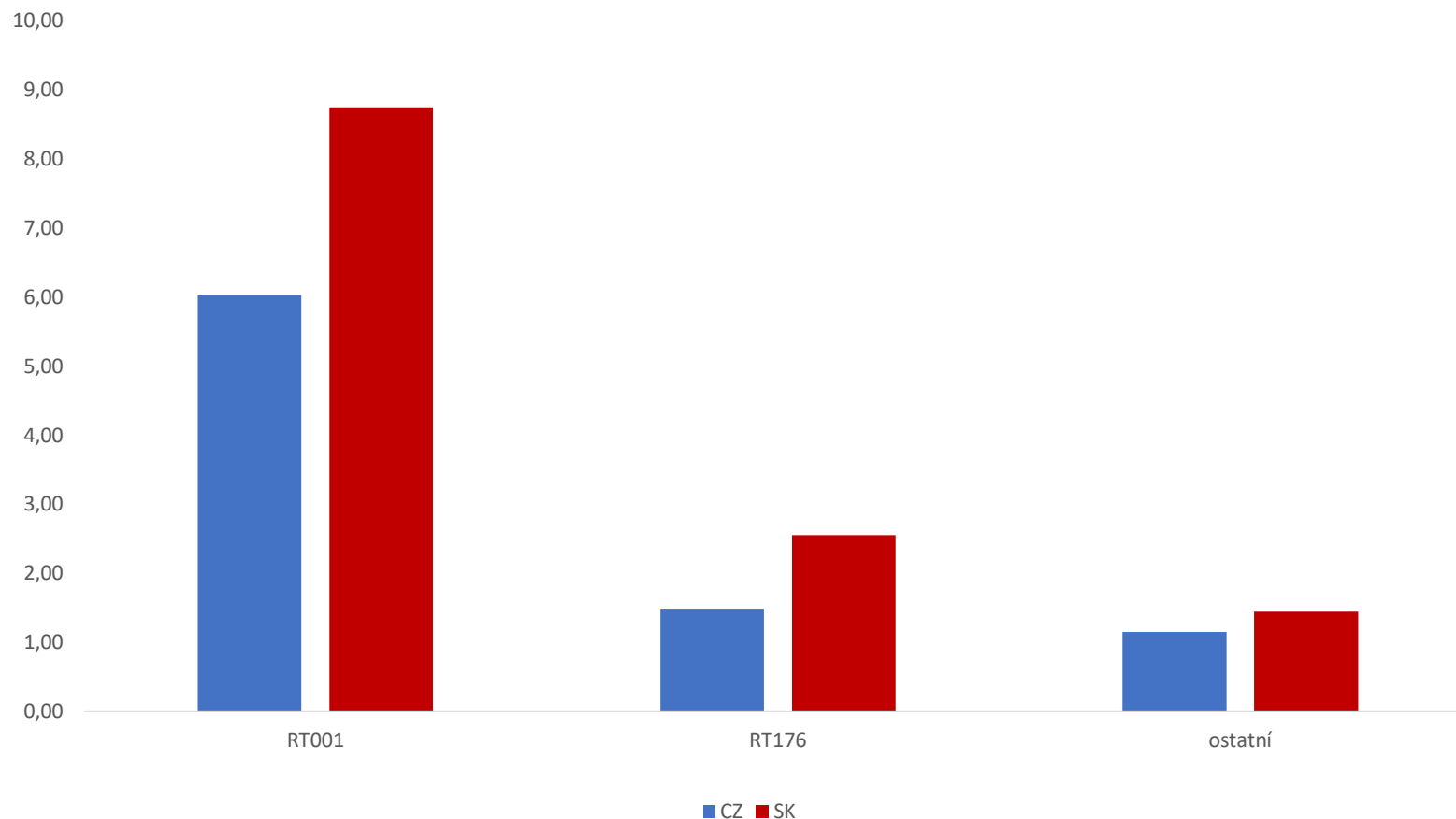
We don't know the mechanisms yet

Zíková J., diploma thesis

Carbapenems

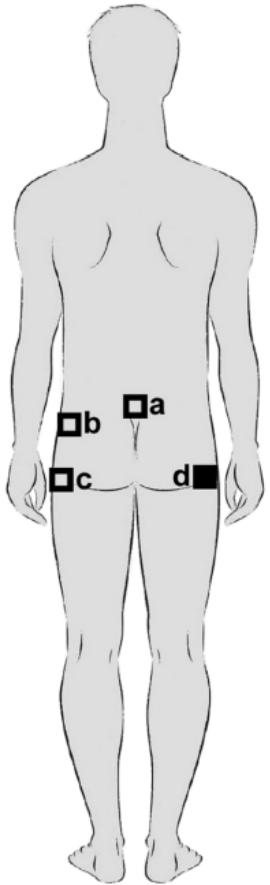


Linezolid at risk!!



Presence of *cfrB* gene, which also causes resistance to clindamycin and erythromycin!

Extraintestinal *C. difficile* infections



| MICROBIOLOGICAL FINDINGS AND TREATMENT | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 nd day | Decubitus <i>a-d</i> : polymicrobial findings: MRSA, <i>Proteus mirabilis</i> , <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> , and <i>Alcaligenes faecalis</i> . |
| 14 th day | Decubitus ulcers <i>a, b</i> – plastic surgery Antibiotic coverage: vancomycin and piperacillin/tazobactam |
| 26 th day | Change to cotrimoxazol |
| 37 th day | Decubitus <i>d</i> : <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , decubitus <i>a-c</i> : normal microflora Urine: <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (ESBL positive) Change to piperacillin/tazobactam |
| 41 st day | Drain decubitus <i>b</i> : ESBL-positive <i>E. coli</i> Change to imipenem/cilastatin |
| 43 th day | Decubitus ulcers <i>c, d</i> – surgical intervention Antibiotic coverage: imipenem/cilastatin was supplemented by vancomycin |
| 54 th day | Decubitus <i>d</i> : <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> resistant to imipenem/cilastatin Change to: cefoperazone/sulbactam and amikacin |
| 71 st day | Decubitus <i>d</i> : <i>Clostridium difficile</i> Change to: metronidazole (the first six days intravenously and then orally for the next eight days) |
| 81 st day | Decubitus <i>d</i> : surgical revision Antibiotic coverage: piperacillin/tazobactam (20 days) and vancomycin (16 days) |

Extraintestinal infections caused by *C. difficile* are rare.
Examples:

- Bacteraemia with or without plaque infection
- Intra-abdominal infections, extra-abdominal infections
- abscesses (spleen, brain)
- Reactive arthritis, osteomyelitis
- Infections of prosthetic shoulder and knee joint replacements

- Non-healing wounds
- In a spore-contaminated environment
- *C. difficile* is only pathogen

Think about ANAEROBES

Fig. 1 Localization of decubitus ulcers (a–d) and timeline of microbiological findings and antibiotic treatment

Thank you for your attention!

