

Background

- Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* cause 10% of bacteremias in the UK, and comprise 15% of all significant in-patient isolates. Such prevalence, in the UK and elsewhere, underlines the need for new anti-Gram-positive agents.
- Linezolid was launched in the UK in 2001.
- Daptomycin received FDA approval in 2003 but awaits a European license.
- The anti-MRSA cephalosporin ceftobiprole (BAL9141) is now in Phase III development.

Methods

- The BSAC Bacteraemia Resistance Surveillance Programme (www.bsacsurv.org) collected 235 isolates of *S. aureus* from 25 laboratories in the UK and Ireland in 2003.
- MICs were measured centrally on Iso-Sensitest agar at 37°C for most agents, but on Columbia agar with 2%NaCl at 30°C for oxacillin.

MSSA n = 140	MIC summary measures (mg/L)				geometric mean
	minimum	MIC ₅₀	MIC ₉₀	maximum	
oxacillin	≤0.12	0.25	0.5	1	0.3
ciprofloxacin	0.5	1	2	128	1.1
erythromycin	0.25	1	8	≥256	1.4
vancomycin	1	1	2	2	1.1
ceftobiprole	0.25	0.5	0.5	1	0.4
daptomycin	0.25	0.5	1	1	0.5
linezolid	1	2	2	4	2

MRSA n = 95	MIC summary measures (mg/L)				geometric mean
	minimum	MIC ₅₀	MIC ₉₀	maximum	
ciprofloxacin	1	128	≥256	≥256	88.9
erythromycin	0.5	≥256	≥256	≥256	82.6
vancomycin	≤0.5	1	1	2	1
ceftobiprole	0.5	2	2	4	1.4
daptomycin	0.25	0.5	0.5	1	0.5
linezolid	2	2	2	4	2.1

Results

- MIC distributions for 140 MSSA and 95 MRSA isolates are shown in the figures.
- Among MRSA, resistance to ciprofloxacin at 1 mg/L (98%) and erythromycin at 0.5 mg/L (89%) was widespread and high level (most MICs ≥64 mg/L). Such resistance is typical of the two prevalent UK epidemic clones, EMRSA-15 and -16.
- In MSSA, resistance to ciprofloxacin (19%) and erythromycin (71%) was mostly borderline (MICs 1-2 mg/L).
- No resistance to vancomycin, linezolid or daptomycin was seen, and no ceftobiprole MICs >4 mg/L.
- For vancomycin, linezolid and daptomycin, MIC distributions were tightly clustered and unimodal, with MRSA no less susceptible than MSSA.
- Ceftobiprole MICs were ca. 4-fold higher for MRSA than MSSA, and were further increased, though never >4 mg/L, on Columbia agar + 2% NaCl at 30°C (see poster E-2036).

Acknowledgements

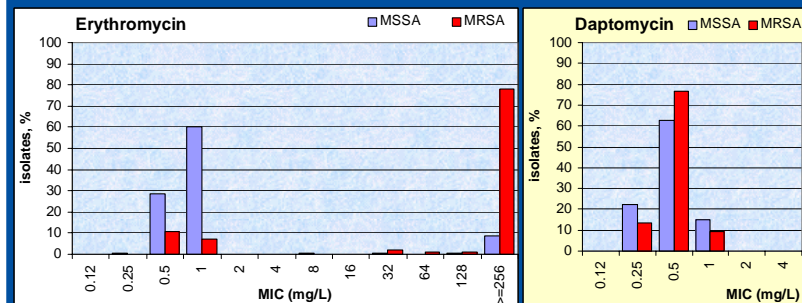
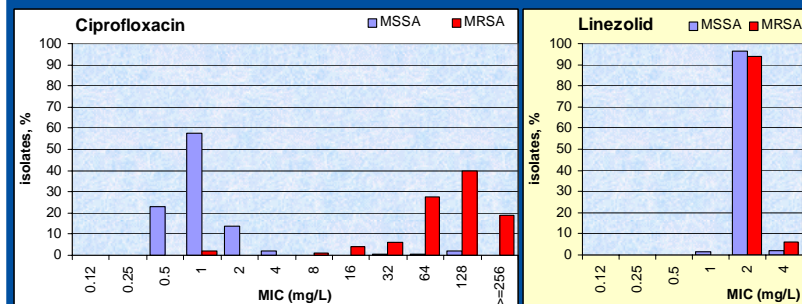
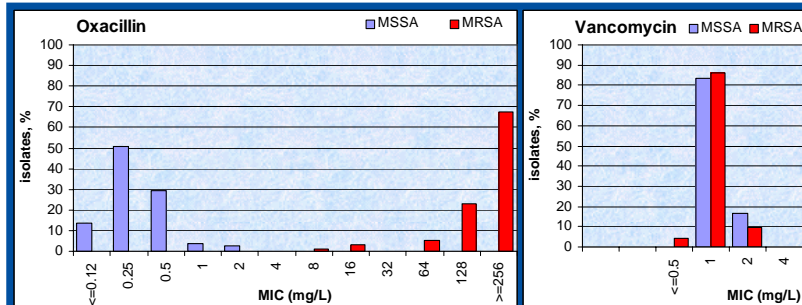
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**Abbreviations**

MSSA methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus*
 MRSA methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*

Conclusion

Linezolid, daptomycin and ceftobiprole all show good activity against current MRSA from the UK and Ireland.

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