



Spectrum  
Health

# Shorter is BETTER: The Changing Paradigm of Antibiotic Duration

Liam Sullivan, DO  
Spectrum Health Medical Group  
Infectious Disease



# Disclosures

- No financial disclosures
- I love dogs
- I am a we bit Irish



# Outline

## 01


Review  
consequences of  
antibiotic overuse

## 02

Discuss reasons  
for prolonged  
antibiotic durations

## 03

Discuss evidence  
supporting shorter  
courses of  
antibiotics



The Creation of Antibiotics  
*and the Birth of Modern Medicine*

**MIRACLE CURE**

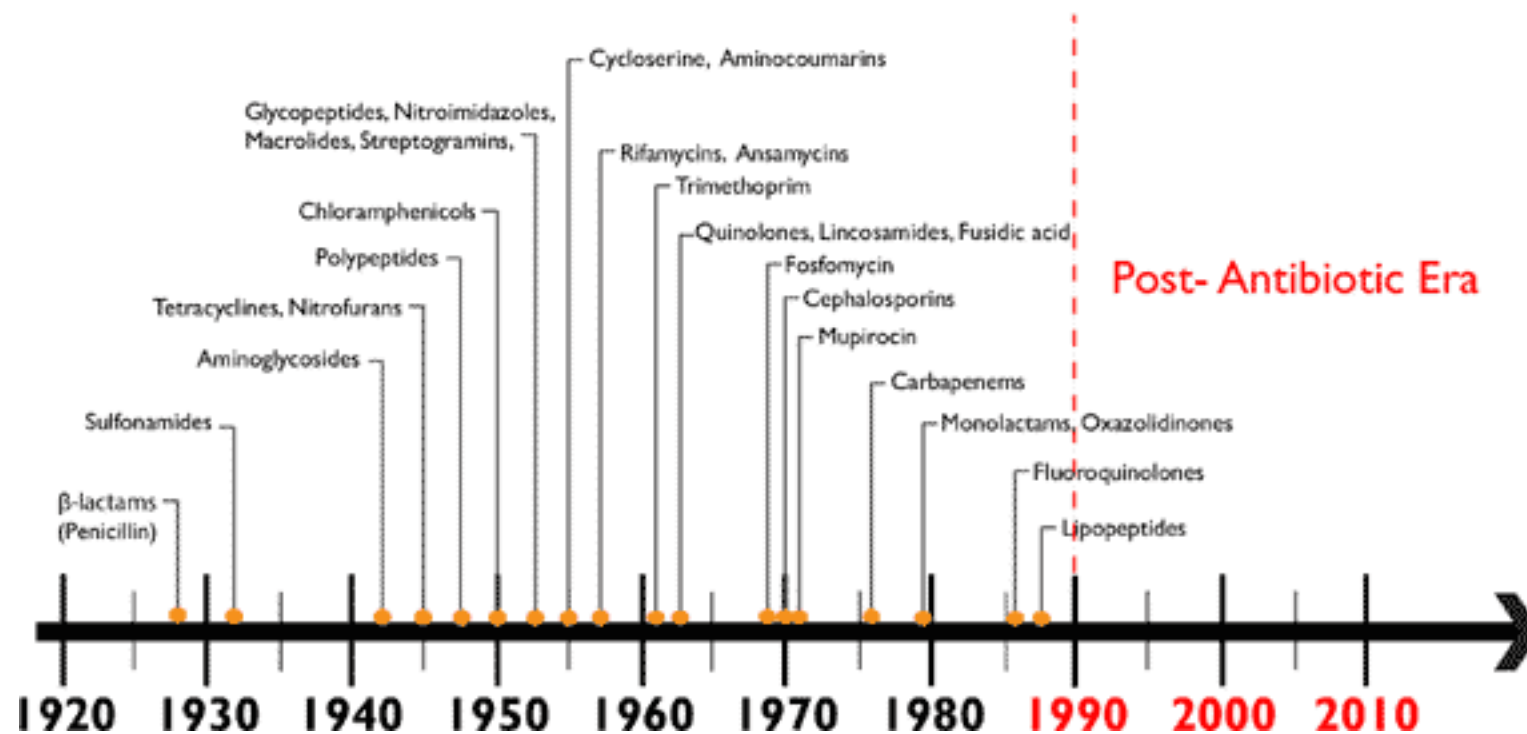
**WILLIAM ROSEN**



# The Miracle

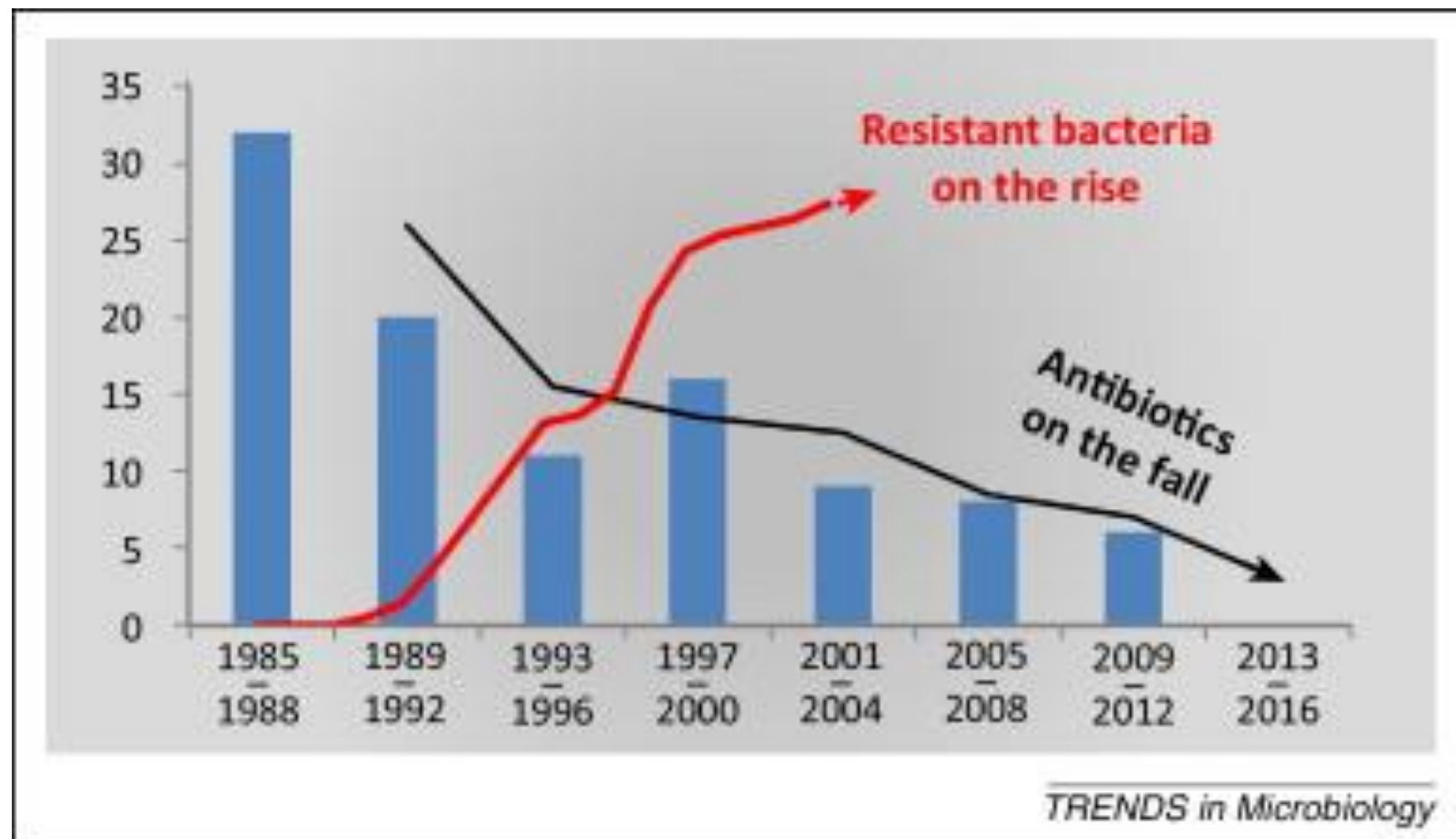
# Golden Age of Antibiotics

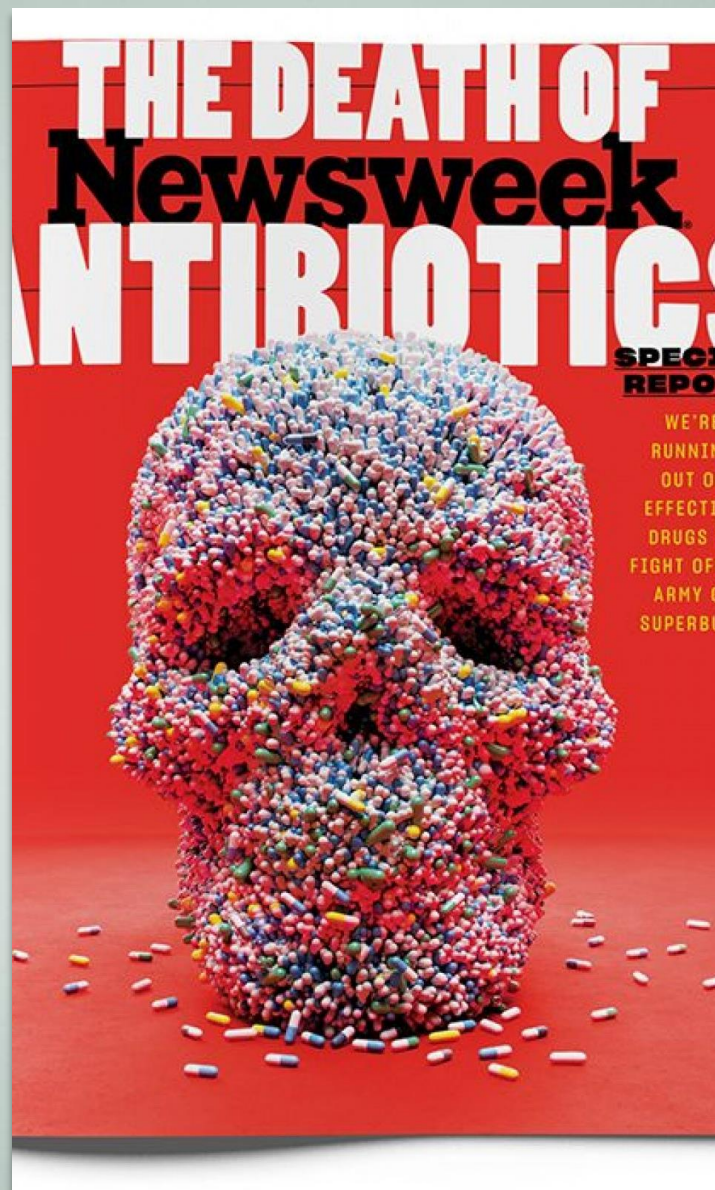
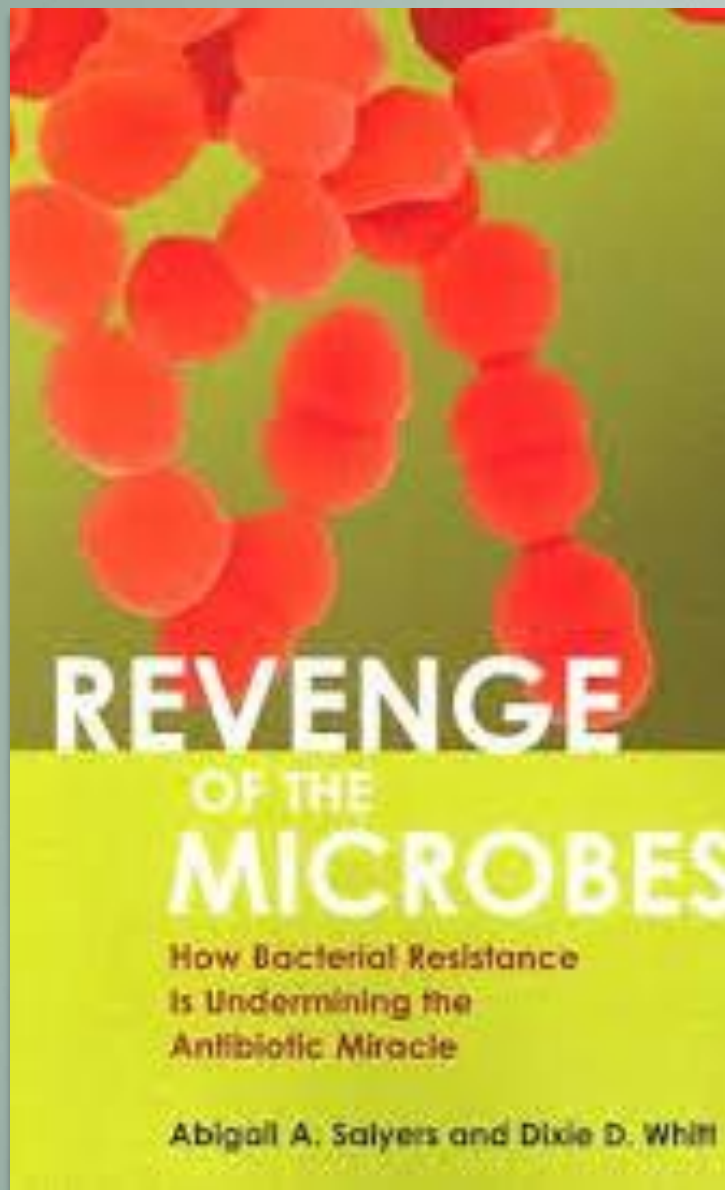
## ANTIBIOTIC DISCOVERY TIMELINE



Pawar, S, et al. Current Topics in Medicinal Chemistry (2017) 17: 251.

# RISE OF THE RESISTANCE





# Revenge








# Consequences of Antibiotic Overuse

**E***nterococcus faecium*

**S***taphylococcus aureus*

**K***lebsiella pneumoniae*

**A***cinetobacter baumannii*

 **P***seudomonas aeruginosa*

 **E***nterobacter species*

# ESKAPE Pathogens

## THE IMPACT OF *C. difficile* Infection (CDI)

CDI IS SERIOUS, DEADLY,  
AND EXPENSIVE



**29,000**  
US deaths/year  
within 30 days of diagnosis

CDI adds up to:  
**12** days in  
the hospital  
and

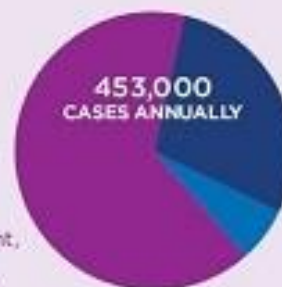
**\$27,160**  
per case  
in direct  
costs



**1 in 5** (83,000)  
recurrences  
within 2 months

MORE THAN 1/3 OF CDI CASES  
ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH  
INPATIENT STAY

**65%**  
at least  
one overnight,  
INPATIENT  
hospital stay

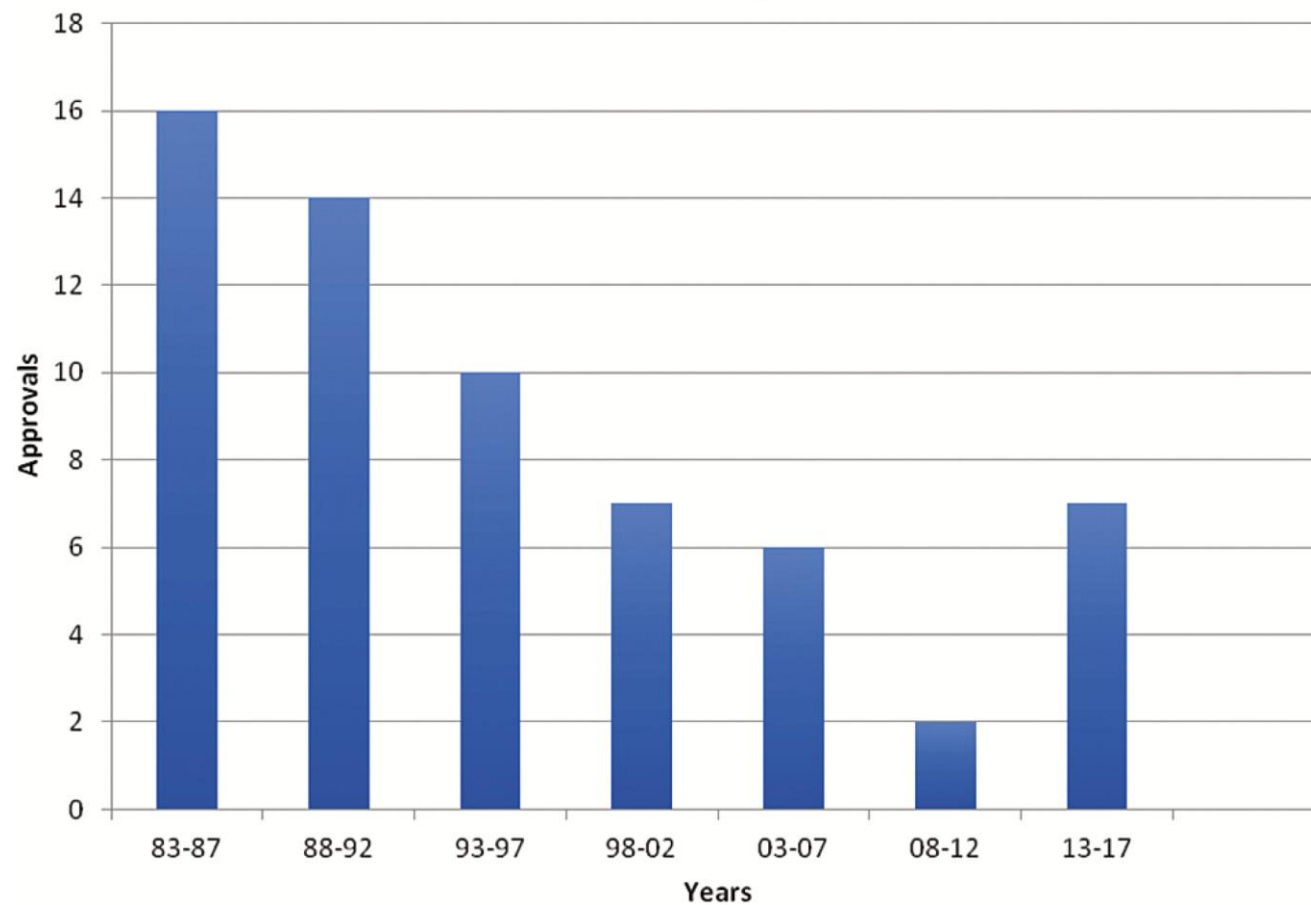


**29%**  
OUTPATIENT  
healthcare  
exposures  
including  
doctor and  
dentist offices

**6%**  
NOT HEALTHCARE-  
ASSOCIATED

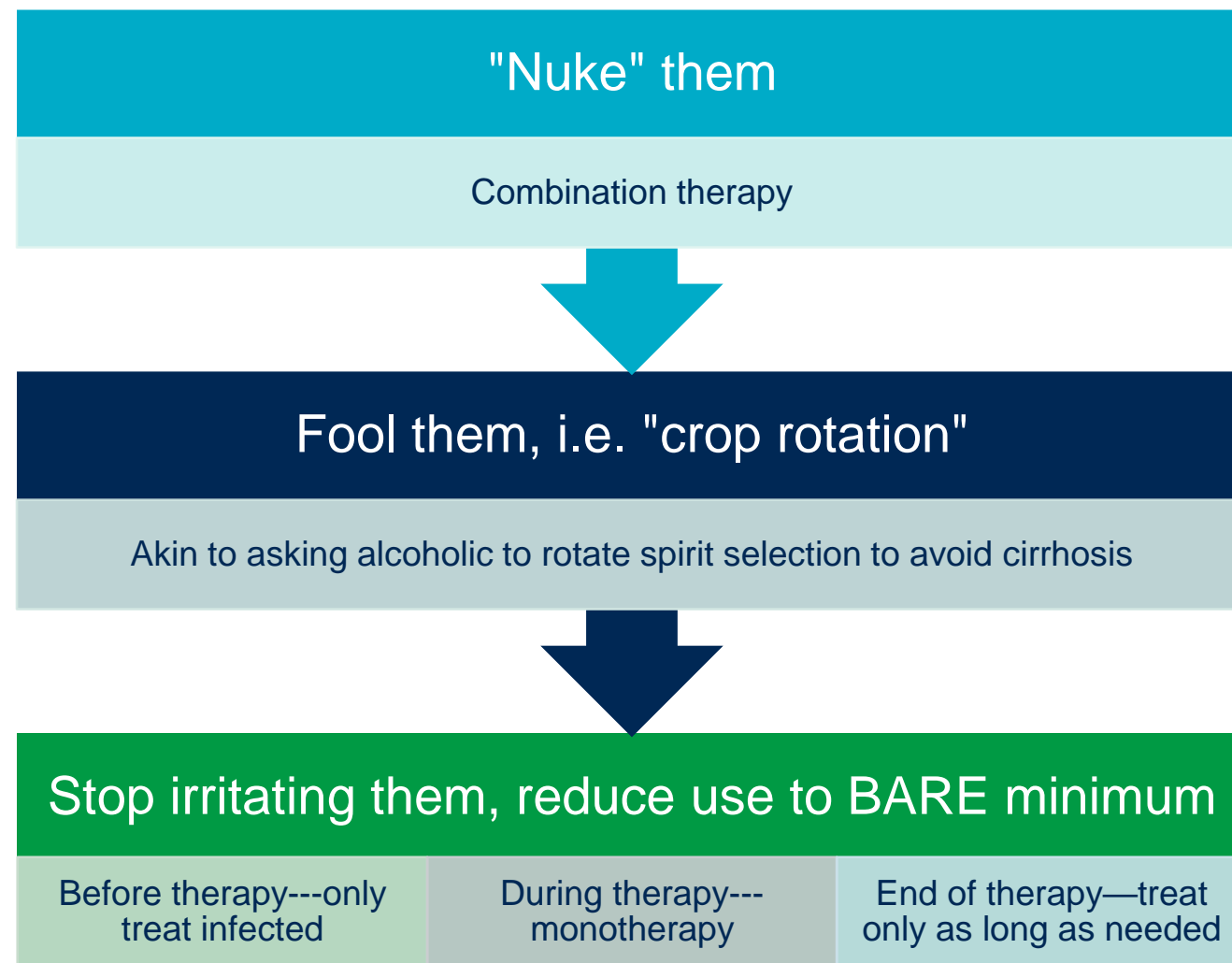
*Clostridium  
difficile*

## FDA Antibiotic Approvals



New Antibiotic  
Development

## Reducing Antibiotic Resistance



# "Just to Be Sure"



Extending courses beyond clinical improvement



"Can't hurt, might help!"



Often done to treat physician anxiety

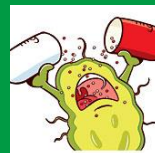


Fallicy that longer = less resistance

# Traditional Duration of Therapy

Based on 7 day week

## Why Does Duration Matter?



Longer exposure to antibiotics drives resistance



Longer exposure to antibiotics increases risk of adverse events

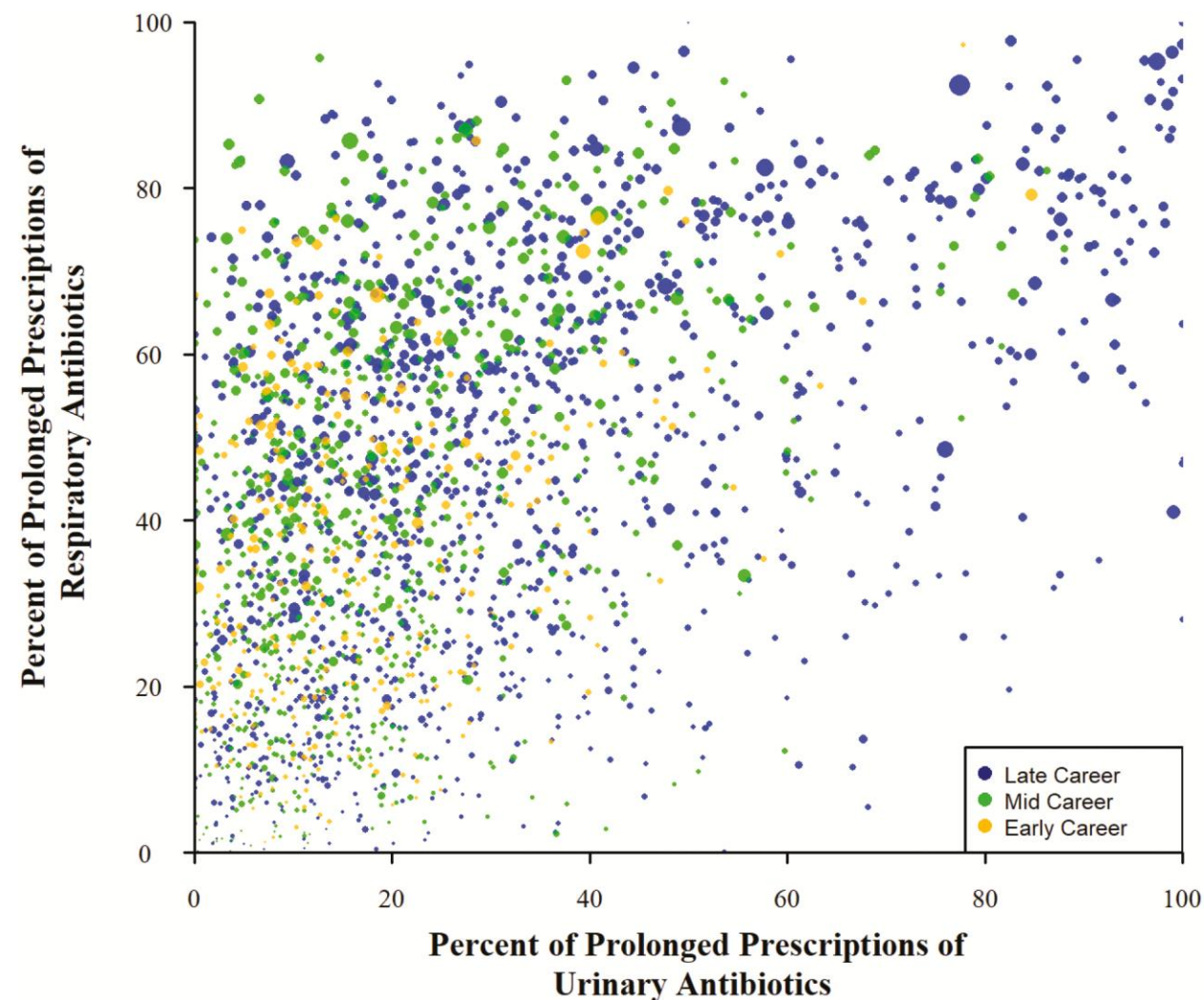


Longer exposure to antibiotics increases risk of C diff



# Predictors of Prolonged Therapy

- 10K Family physicians
- Proportion prolonged antibiotic courses (>8 d)
- Predictors
  - Late career physicians
  - Rural location
  - Comorbid conditions
- Brad Spellberg:
  - ***“We ALL perform poorly, some worse than others.”***



EDITORIAL

## The New Antibiotic Mantra—“Shorter Is Better”

Brad Spellberg, MD

# Revised Thinking

# Evidence for Shorter is Better

**Table. Infections for Which Short-Course Therapy Has Been Shown to Be Equivalent in Efficacy to Longer Therapy**

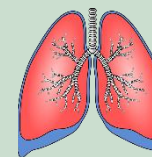
| Disease                                                         | Treatment, Days |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
|                                                                 | Short           | Long  |
| Community-acquired pneumonia <sup>1-3</sup>                     | 3-5             | 7-10  |
| Nosocomial pneumonia <sup>6,7</sup>                             | ≤8              | 10-15 |
| Pyelonephritis <sup>10</sup>                                    | 5-7             | 10-14 |
| Intraabdominal infection <sup>11</sup>                          | 4               | 10    |
| Acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis and COPD <sup>12</sup> | ≤5              | ≥7    |
| Acute bacterial sinusitis <sup>13</sup>                         | 5               | 10    |
| Cellulitis <sup>14</sup>                                        | 5-6             | 10    |
| Chronic osteomyelitis <sup>15</sup>                             | 42              | 84    |

Abbreviation: COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

# Community Acquired Pneumonia



6 prospective RCTs



Mild-moderate CAP

Hospitalized  
patients  
PSI IV-V



Treatment duration:  
3-5 days vs 8-10  
days

Clinical  
success equal  
NOT agent  
specific

## 2016 CAP Study

- Multicenter, non-inferiority
- 312 hospitalized patients
- Randomized at day 5
  - Control → continued treatment
  - Intervention → stopped treatment
- Primary outcome
  - Clinical success at day 10 & 30

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of Study Participants<sup>a</sup>

| Characteristic                           | Control Group<br>(n = 150) | Intervention Group<br>(n = 162) |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Age, mean (SD), y                        | 66.2 (17.9)                | 64.7 (18.7)                     |
| Sex                                      |                            |                                 |
| Male                                     | 95 (63.3)                  | 101 (62.3)                      |
| Female                                   | 55 (36.7)                  | 61 (37.7)                       |
| Tobacco                                  |                            |                                 |
| Current smoker                           | 32 (21.3)                  | 36 (22.6)                       |
| Never smoker                             | 68 (45.3)                  | 71 (44.7)                       |
| Former smoker                            | 50 (33.3)                  | 52 (32.7)                       |
| Alcohol consumption (yes)                | 24 (16.1)                  | 17 (10.5)                       |
| Comorbidities                            |                            |                                 |
| Liver disease                            | 4 (2.7)                    | 4 (2.5)                         |
| Heart disease                            | 38 (25.3)                  | 39 (24.1)                       |
| Congestive heart failure                 | 14 (9.3)                   | 12 (7.4)                        |
| Cerebrovascular disease                  | 16 (10.7)                  | 9 (5.6)                         |
| Renal disease                            | 12 (8.0)                   | 12 (7.4)                        |
| COPD                                     | 21 (14)                    | 27 (16.7)                       |
| Diabetes                                 | 25 (16.7)                  | 21 (13.0)                       |
| Charlson Comorbidity Index, median (IQR) | 1 (0-2)                    | 1 (0-2)                         |
| Charlson Comorbidity Index, categorized  |                            |                                 |
| 0                                        | 61 (40.7)                  | 70 (43.2)                       |
| 1                                        | 37 (24.7)                  | 47 (29.0)                       |
| >1                                       | 52 (34.7)                  | 45 (27.8)                       |
| Katz Index, mean (SD) <sup>b</sup>       | 0.6 (1.6)                  | 0.4 (1.3)                       |
| PSI class                                |                            |                                 |
| I-III                                    | 89 (59.3)                  | 102 (63.0)                      |
| IV-V                                     | 61 (40.7)                  | 60 (37.0)                       |
| PSI score, mean (SD)                     | 83.7 (33.7)                | 81.8 (33.8)                     |

# Primary Outcome

Table 2. Results for the Primary Study Outcomes

| Outcome                                                 | Control Group | Intervention Group | P Value |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Intent-to-Treat Analysis</b>                         |               |                    |         |
| Total No. of participants                               | 150           | 162                |         |
| Clinical success, No. (%) <sup>a</sup>                  |               |                    |         |
| At day 10                                               | 71 (48.6)     | 90 (56.3)          | .18     |
| At day 30                                               | 132 (88.6)    | 147 (91.9)         | .33     |
| CAP symptom questionnaire score, mean (SD) <sup>b</sup> |               |                    |         |
| At day 5                                                | 24.7 (11.4)   | 27.2 (12.5)        | .10     |
| At day 10                                               | 18.6 (9.0)    | 17.9 (7.6)         | .69     |
| <b>Per-Protocol Analysis</b>                            |               |                    |         |
| Total No. of participants                               | 137           | 146                |         |
| Clinical success, No. (%) <sup>a</sup>                  |               |                    |         |
| At day 10                                               | 67 (50.4)     | 86 (59.7)          | .12     |
| At day 30                                               | 126 (92.7)    | 136 (94.4)         | .54     |
| CAP symptom questionnaire score, mean (SD) <sup>b</sup> |               |                    |         |
| At day 5                                                | 24.3 (11.4)   | 26.6 (12.1)        | .16     |
| At day 10                                               | 18.1 (8.5)    | 17.6 (7.4)         | .81     |

# Secondary Outcomes

Table 4. Results for Secondary Study Outcomes in the Per-Protocol Analysis<sup>a</sup>

| Outcome                                            | Control Group<br>(n = 137) | Intervention Group<br>(n = 146) | P Value |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Time, median (IQR), d                              |                            |                                 |         |
| Taking antibiotics                                 | 10 (10-11)                 | 5 (5-6.5)                       | <.001   |
| Not taking antibiotics                             | 21 (10-27)                 | 25 (5-32)                       | .001    |
| Taking intravenous antibiotics                     | 2 (1-4)                    | 3 (2-4)                         | .22     |
| Until clinical improvement                         | 12 (8-18)                  | 12 (7-15)                       | .41     |
| Return to normal activity                          | 18 (9-25)                  | 15 (10-21)                      | .36     |
| Radiographic resolution at day 30                  | 93 (73.2)                  | 112 (81.2)                      | .12     |
| In-hospital mortality                              | 2 (1.5)                    | 3 (2.1)                         | >.99    |
| 30-d Mortality                                     | 3 (2.2)                    | 3 (2.1)                         | >.99    |
| Recurrence by day 30                               | 6 (4.4)                    | 4 (2.8)                         | .53     |
| Readmission by day 30                              | 9 (6.6)                    | 2 (1.4)                         | .02     |
| In-hospital complications                          |                            |                                 |         |
| Pleural effusion                                   | 10 (7.3)                   | 5 (3.4)                         | .15     |
| Treatment failure <sup>b</sup>                     | 2 (1.5)                    | 3 (2.1)                         | >.99    |
| Respiratory failure <sup>c</sup>                   | 26 (19.0)                  | 31 (21.2)                       | .64     |
| Severe sepsis <sup>d</sup>                         | 7 (5.1)                    | 8 (5.5)                         | .89     |
| Renal failure <sup>e</sup>                         | 5 (3.7)                    | 6 (4.1)                         | .85     |
| ICU admission                                      | 2 (1.5)                    | 1 (0.7)                         | .61     |
| Use of invasive mechanical ventilation             | 2 (1.5)                    | 1 (0.7)                         | .61     |
| Use of noninvasive mechanical ventilation          | 3 (2.2)                    | 2 (1.4)                         | .67     |
| Need for vasopressors                              | 2 (1.5)                    | 3 (2.1)                         | >.99    |
| Antibiotic adverse effects by day 30               | 18 (13.1)                  | 17 (11.7)                       | .72     |
| Time with antibiotic adverse effects, mean (SD), d | 3 (2.8)                    | 1.7 (2.1)                       | .24     |
| Length of hospital stay, mean (SD), d              | 5.5 (2.3)                  | 5.7 (2.8)                       | .69     |

## CAP: Does 3 days work?

Double blind RCT 3 vs 8 days

310 non-critically ill adults

Abx stopped at clinical stability

No differences in 3 vs 8 days

- Cure
- Adverse events
- Mortality



# CAP: Excess Duration & Adverse Events

- Multicenter retrospective study in Michigan
- Primary outcome
  - Rate of excess antibiotic treatment duration
- Results
  - 2/3 pts received excess therapy (median: 8 days)
  - 93% excess therapy at discharge
- No differences in mortality or readmission
- Increase antibiotics associated AE in excess duration group

**Table 3. Association of Excess Antibiotic Treatment Duration With 30-Day Adverse Outcomes (n = 6481)\***

| Outcomes at 30 Days                         | Appropriate Duration (n = 2090), n (%)† | Excess Duration (n = 4391), n (%)‡ | Unadjusted OR per Excess Day (95% CI)§ | Unadjusted P Value§ | Adjusted OR per Excess Day (95% CI)§ | Adjusted P Value§ |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mortality                                   | 40 (1.9)                                | 88 (2.0)                           | 0.99 (0.94-1.03)                       | 0.52                | 1.01 (0.97-1.05)                     | 0.60              |
| Readmission                                 | 294 (14.1)                              | 497 (11.3)                         | 0.99 (0.96-1.02)                       | 0.48                | 1.00 (0.98-1.03)                     | 0.92              |
| Emergency department visit                  | 238 (11.4)                              | 480 (10.9)                         | 0.97 (0.94-1.00)                       | 0.021               | 0.98 (0.95-1.01)                     | 0.166             |
| Antibiotic-associated adverse event¶        | 72 (3.4)                                | 210 (4.8)                          | 1.04 (1.01-1.07)                       | 0.012               | 1.03 (1.00-1.06)                     | 0.038             |
| <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> infection** | 11 (0.5)                                | 22 (0.5)                           | 0.92 (0.81-1.05)                       | 0.21                | 0.93 (0.81-1.07)                     | 0.30              |
| Provider-documented††††                     | 43 (2.1)                                | 87 (2.0)                           | 1.00 (0.94-1.05)                       | 0.86                | 0.99 (0.94-1.05)                     | 0.85              |
| Patient-reported††§§                        | 26/1132 (2.3)                           | 114/2460 (4.6)                     | 1.05 (1.02-1.08)                       | <0.001              | 1.05 (1.02-1.08)                     | 0.001             |
| Composite adverse outcome                   | 499 (23.9)                              | 897 (20.4)                         | 0.98 (0.96-1.00)                       | 0.078               | 0.99 (0.97-1.01)                     | 0.40              |

# What About Ventilator Associated Pneumonia?

---

Traditional duration 14-21 days

---

2 RCTs: 8 vs 15 days

---

Similar clinical outcomes & mortality

---

Significant reduction MDR pathogen  
in shorter treatment group

---

No specific studies for HAP



# STOP-IT: Short Course for Intra-Abdominal Infections

- Typically treated until resolution of SIRS
  - 7-14 days most common
- Evidence for optimal duration scant & poor
- 2015 NEJM study: STOP-IT trial
  - Prospective, randomized, open label
  - Source control procedure
  - Treatment duration: 4 days after source control vs 2 days after resolution of SIRS
  - Primary outcome: SSI, recurrent IAI or death at 30 days
    - 56/257 in experimental group
    - 58/260 in control group

**Table 2. Primary and Major Secondary Outcomes.\***

| Variable                                                                                                | Control Group (N = 260) | Experimental Group (N = 257) | P Value |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Primary outcome: surgical-site infection, recurrent intraabdominal infection, or death — no. (%)</b> | 58 (22.3)               | 56 (21.8)                    | 0.92    |
| Surgical-site infection                                                                                 | 23 (8.8)                | 17 (6.6)                     | 0.43    |
| Recurrent intraabdominal infection                                                                      | 36 (13.8)               | 40 (15.6)                    | 0.67    |
| Death                                                                                                   | 2 (0.8)                 | 3 (1.2)                      | 0.99    |
| <b>Time to event — no. of days after index source-control procedure</b>                                 |                         |                              |         |
| Diagnosis of surgical-site infection                                                                    | 15.1±0.6                | 8.8±0.4                      | <0.001  |
| Diagnosis of recurrent intraabdominal infection                                                         | 15.1±0.5                | 10.8±0.4                     | <0.001  |
| Death                                                                                                   | 19.0±1.0                | 18.5±0.5                     | 0.66    |

# Septic Arthritis

- 154 cases
  - 2/3 hand & wrist
  - 30% *Staphylococcus aureus*
  - Infected implants excluded
- Median length of IV therapy: 1-2 days
- Median surgeries: 1
- Cure rate equivalent in both arms
  - Median follow up 6 mths
- 2 weeks arm decreased LOS

## CLINICAL SCIENCE

### Two weeks versus four weeks of antibiotic therapy after surgical drainage for native joint bacterial arthritis: a prospective, randomised, non-inferiority trial

Ergys Gjika,<sup>1</sup> Jean-Yves Beaulieu,<sup>1</sup> Konstantinos Vakalopoulos,<sup>1</sup> Morgan Gauthier,<sup>1</sup> Cindy Bouvet,<sup>1</sup> Amanda Gonzalez,<sup>1</sup> Vanessa Morello,<sup>1</sup> Christina Steiger,<sup>1</sup> Stefanie Hirsiger,<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Alan Lipsky,<sup>2,3</sup> Ilker Uçkay<sup>2,4</sup>

# Gram Negative Bacteremia

- 604 patients, prospective, randomized, open label, non-inferiority
- 7 d vs 14 d
- Primary outcome
  - 90 day mortality, clinical failure & readmission
  - 7 days: 45.8%
  - 14 days: 48.3%

*Clinical Infectious Diseases*

MAJOR ARTICLE



## Seven Versus 14 Days of Antibiotic Therapy for Uncomplicated Gram-negative Bacteremia: A Noninferiority Randomized Controlled Trial

Dafna Yahav,<sup>1,2</sup> Erica Franceschini,<sup>3</sup> Fidi Koppel,<sup>4</sup> Adi Turjeman,<sup>2,5</sup> Tanya Babich,<sup>2,5</sup> Roni Bitterman,<sup>4</sup> Ami Neuberger,<sup>4,6</sup> Nesrin Ghanem-Zoubi,<sup>4</sup> Antonella Santoro,<sup>3</sup> Noa Eliakim-Raz,<sup>1,2</sup> Barak Pertzov,<sup>5</sup> Tali Steinmetz,<sup>5</sup> Anat Stern,<sup>4</sup> Yaakov Dickstein,<sup>4</sup> Elias Maroun,<sup>4</sup> Hiba Zayyad,<sup>4</sup> Jihad Bishara,<sup>1,2</sup> Danny Alon,<sup>7</sup> Yonatan Edel,<sup>2,8</sup> Elad Goldberg,<sup>9</sup> Claudia Venturelli,<sup>3</sup> Cristina Mussini,<sup>3</sup> Leonard Leibovici,<sup>2,5</sup> Mical Paul<sup>4,6</sup>; for the Bacteremia Duration Study Group<sup>a</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Infectious Diseases Unit, Rabin Medical Center, Beilinson Hospital, Petah-Tikva, and <sup>2</sup>Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel; <sup>3</sup>Clinic of Infectious Diseases, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy; <sup>4</sup>Infectious Diseases Institute, Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, <sup>5</sup>Department of Medicine E, Rabin Medical Center, Beilinson Hospital, Petah-Tikva, <sup>6</sup>The Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, and <sup>7</sup>Department of Medicine B, <sup>8</sup>Department of Medicine C, and <sup>9</sup>Department of Medicine F, Rabin Medical Center, Beilinson Hospital, Petah-Tikva, Israel

## What about Pseudomonas, shouldn't that be longer?

- Fabre, et. al. CID 2019
  - 249 pt Pseudomonas bacteremia
    - Short course (7-11 days) vs long course
  - Propensity matched retrospective cohort
    - Excluded: osteoarticular, endovascular & CNS infections
    - **Included: immunocompromised**
  - Outcome:
    - Recurrent Pseudomonas bacteremia or death at 30 days
  - Results
    - No outcomes difference short vs long course
    - ~1/3 transition to oral FQ day 5-6
    - **Short course: 4 fewer days average LOS**

*Clinical Infectious Diseases*

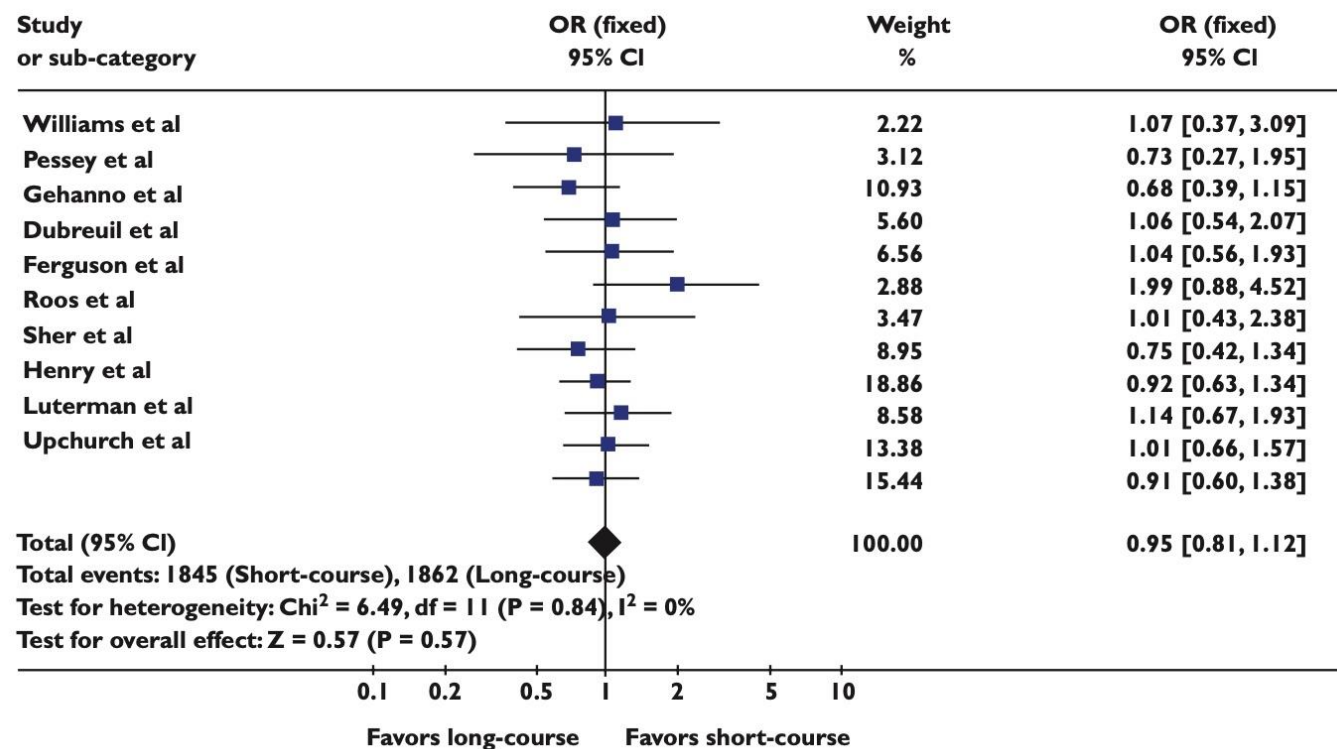
**BRIEF REPORT**

### Antibiotic Therapy for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Bloodstream Infections: How Long Is Long Enough?

Valeria Fabre,<sup>1</sup> Joe Amoah,<sup>2</sup> Sara E. Cosgrove,<sup>1</sup> and Pranita D. Tamma<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, and <sup>2</sup>Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland

# Acute Bacterial Sinusitis



# Uncomplicated Cellulitis

- 2004 study: 5 vs 10 days
- Randomized, double blind, prospective
- Primary outcome: resolution at 14 days, no relapse at 28 days
- 87 patients
  - 43---10 days therapy
  - 44---5 days therapy
- Result: no difference at 14 & 28 days



# Summary

- Excessively long durations of antibiotic therapy contribute of antibiotic overuse & its unintended consequences
- Traditional antibiotic durations most often are excessively long & have traditionally been based on arbitrary numbers (e.g. 7 day week)
- Over the last 20 yrs, numerous studies of many commonly encountered infections have time & again demonstrated shorter courses of antibiotics are equivalent & often superior to longer courses of antibiotics
- Shorter is Better is an essential antimicrobial stewardship mantra that ALL clinicians should embrace & practice



**Less is more**

The  
Bottom  
Line

# Questions?

There's NO CAKE people.