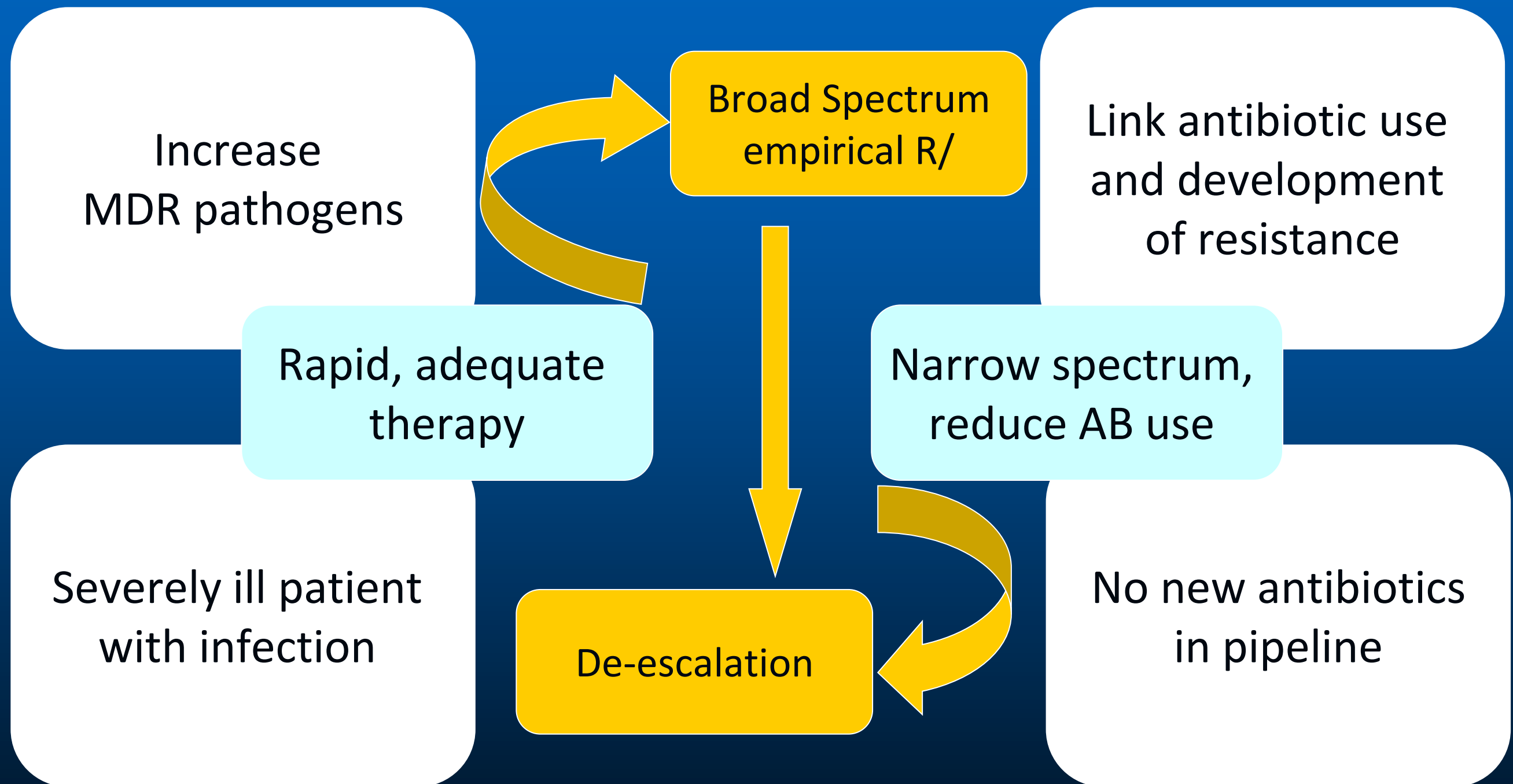


# De-escalation of antibiotic therapy



*Jeroen Schouten, MD PhD  
intensivist, Nijmegen (Neth)  
Istanbul, Oct 7th 2016*

# De-escalation: concept



# De-escalation: concept

## GUIDELINES

### Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America Guidelines for Developing an Institutional Program to Enhance Antimicrobial Stewardship

Timothy H. Dellit,<sup>1</sup> Robert C. Owens,<sup>2</sup> John E. McGowan, Jr.,<sup>3</sup> Dale N. Gerding,<sup>4</sup> Robert A. Weinstein,<sup>5</sup>  
John P. Burke,<sup>6</sup> W. Charles Huskins,<sup>7</sup> David L. Paterson,<sup>8</sup> Neil O. Fishman,<sup>9</sup> Christopher F. Carpenter,<sup>10</sup> P. J. Brennan,<sup>9</sup>  
Marianne Billeter,<sup>11</sup> and Thomas M. Hooton<sup>12</sup>

Streamlining or de-escalation of empirical antimicrobial therapy on the basis of culture results and elimination of redundant combination therapy can more effectively target the causative pathogen, resulting in decreased antimicrobial exposure and substantial cost savings

A-II → good evidence, but no RCT's (2007)

# De-escalation: concept

Intensive Care Med (2013) 39:165–228  
DOI 10.1007/s00134-012-2769-8

## GUIDELINES

R. P. Dellinger  
Mitchell M. Levy  
Andrew Rhodes  
Djillali Annane  
Herwig Gerlach  
Steven M. Opal  
Jonathan E. Sevransky  
Charles L. Sprung  
Ivor S. Douglas  
Roman Jaeschke  
Tiffany M. Osborn  
Mark E. Nunnally  
Sean R. Townsend  
Konrad Reinhart  
Ruth M. Kleinpell  
Derek C. Angus  
Clifford S. Deutschman  
Flavia R. Machado  
Gordon D. Rubenfeld  
Steven Webb  
Richard J. Beale  
Jean-Louis Vincent  
Rui Moreno

The Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines Committee  
including The Pediatric Subgroup\*

### **Surviving Sepsis Campaign: International Guidelines for Management of Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock, 2012**

Antimicrobial regimen should be reassessed daily for potential de-escalation

Grade 1B → strong recommendation, but no RCT's (2012)



## De-escalation of antimicrobial treatment for adults with sepsis, severe sepsis or septic shock (Review)

Silva BNG, Andriolo RB, Atallah AN, Salomão R



THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®

### *Authors conclusions (2012)*

- “We did not include any study”
- There is no adequate evidence that de-escalation of antimicrobial agents is effective and safe in patients with sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock

# De-escalation: definitions

Narrow the spectrum

Reduce the amount of antibiotics

Stop 'safety' antibiotics (MRSA)

Stop if infection is unlikely

Therapy aimed at 'causative pathogen'

'Switching'

# The de-escalation paradigm


Hit hard with appropriate antibiotic(s)  
administered adequately - early, IV,  
high dose, PK/PD



De-escalate when possible:  
change to NARROWER SPECTRUM

This is not exactly right!


# Elaboration of a consensual definition of de-escalation all

 Weiss, J.-R. Zahar, P. Lesprit, E. Ruppe, M. Leone, J. Chastre, J.-C. Lucet, C. Paugam-Burtz, C. Brun-Buisson, J.-F. Timsit on behalf of the 'De-escalation' Study Group

- It is not just about the spectrum! but also on the impact on bystander microbiota and on colonisation resistance: both have to be considered (84% agreement)
- potential ecological effects = not only spectrum but also route, PK/PD, and *in vivo* inactivation



# Elaboration of a consensual definition of de-escalation all

 Weiss, J.-R. Zahar, P. Lesprit, E. Ruppe, M. Leone, J. Chastre, J.-C. Lucet, C. Paugam-Burtz, C. Brun-Buisson, J.-F. Timsit on behalf of the 'De-escalation' Study Group

- no consensus was reached on the delay within which DE should be performed and on whether or not the shortening of antibiotic therapy duration should be included in DE definition
- work also underlines the difficulties of reaching a consensus on the relative ecological impact of each individual drug and on the timing of DE

# De-escalation: goals?

Reduce selection  
of  
MDR bacteria

Reduce  
colonisation with  
MDR bacteria

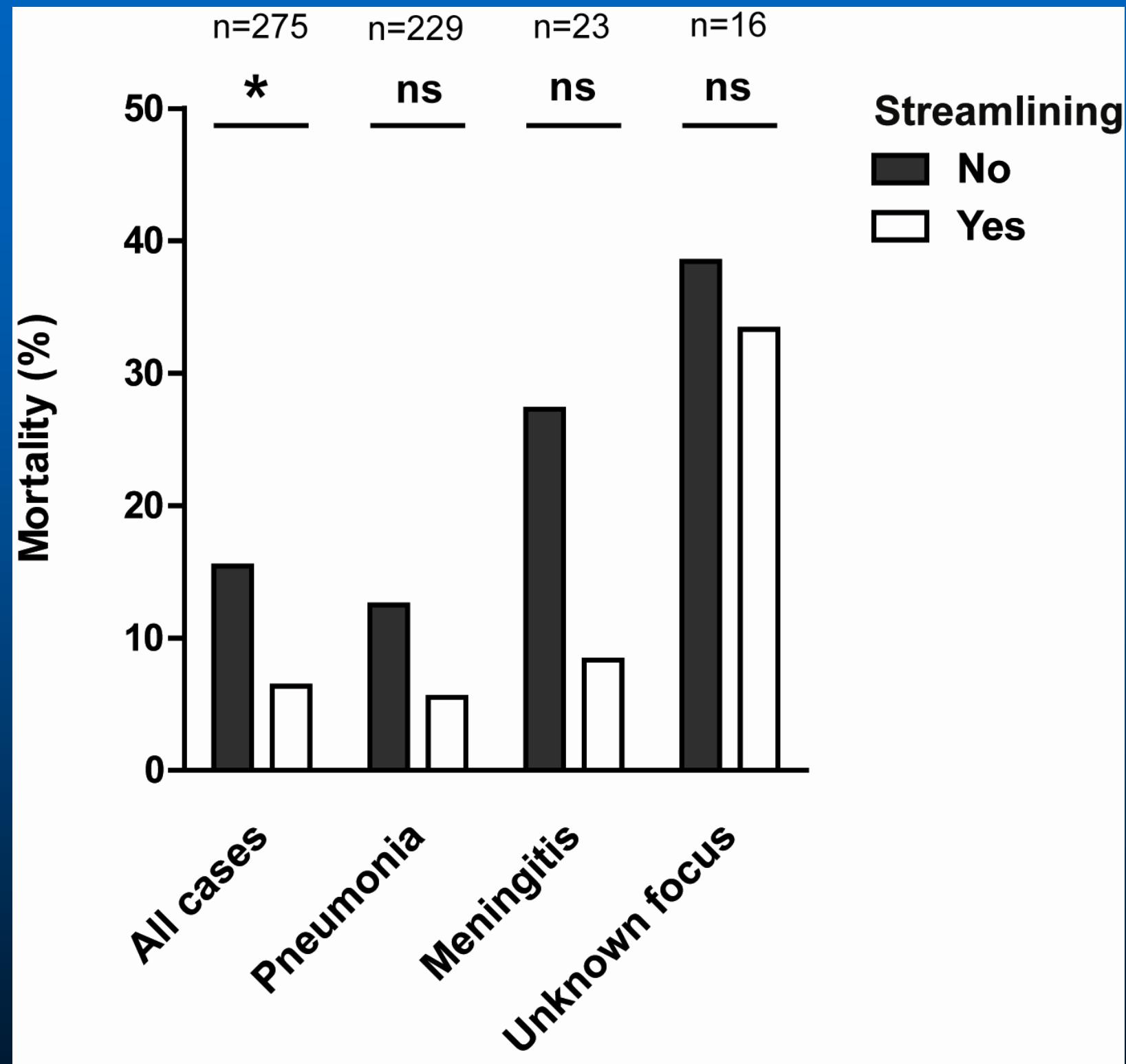
Reduce  
infection with  
MDR bacteria

Reduce  
Antibiotic use  
(DDD)

Reduce  
costs

Reduce  
time to recovery  
LOS, mortality

# De-escalation in pneumococcal bacteremia

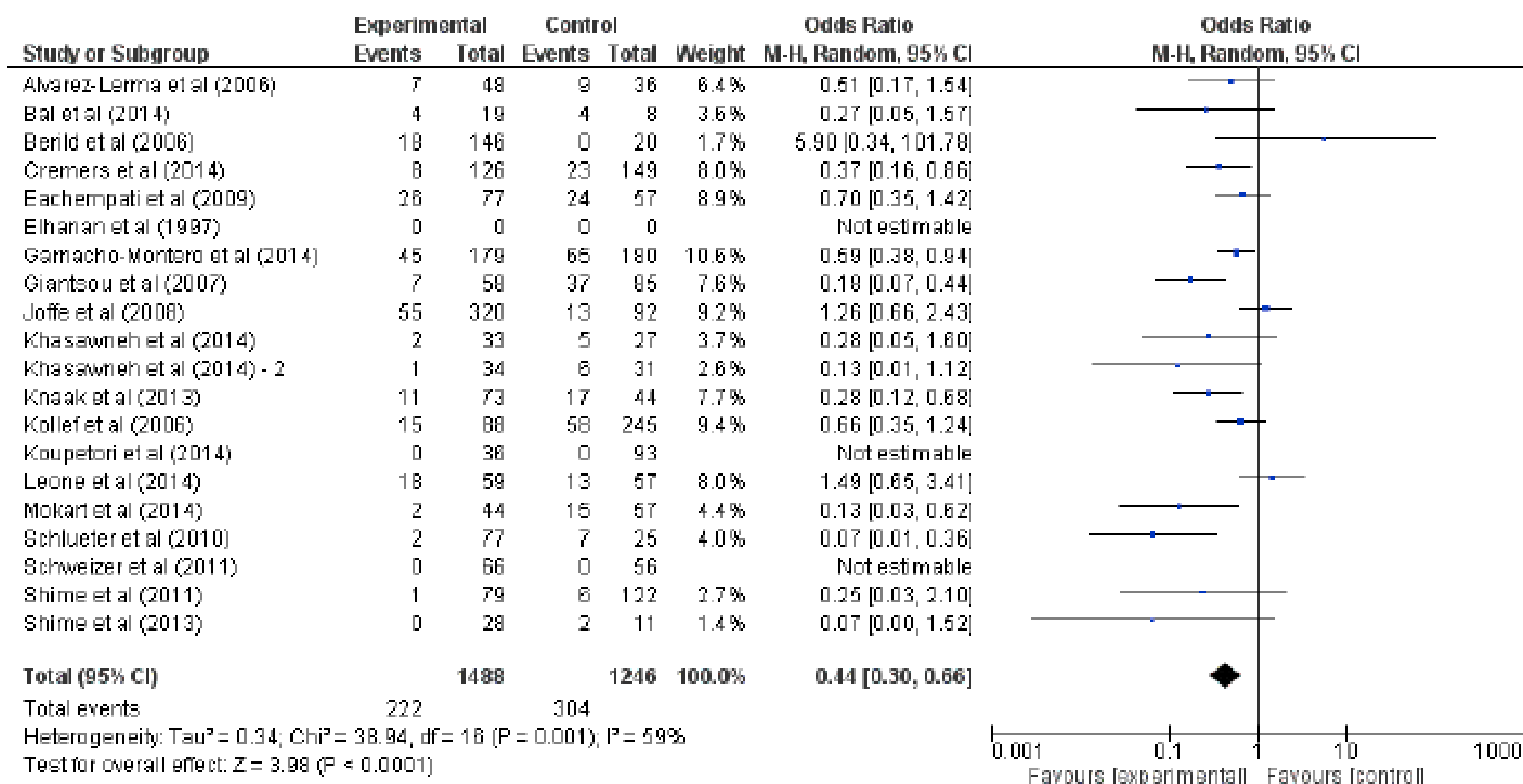


# Current evidence on hospital antimicrobial stewardship objectives: a systematic review and meta-analysis



Emelie C Schuts, Marlies E J L Hulscher, Johan W Mouton, Cees M Verduin, James W T Cohen Stuart, Hans W P M Overdiek, Paul D van der Linden, Stephanie Natsch, Cees M P M Hertogh, Tom F W Wolfs, Jeroen A Schouten, Bart Jan Kullberg, Jan M Prins

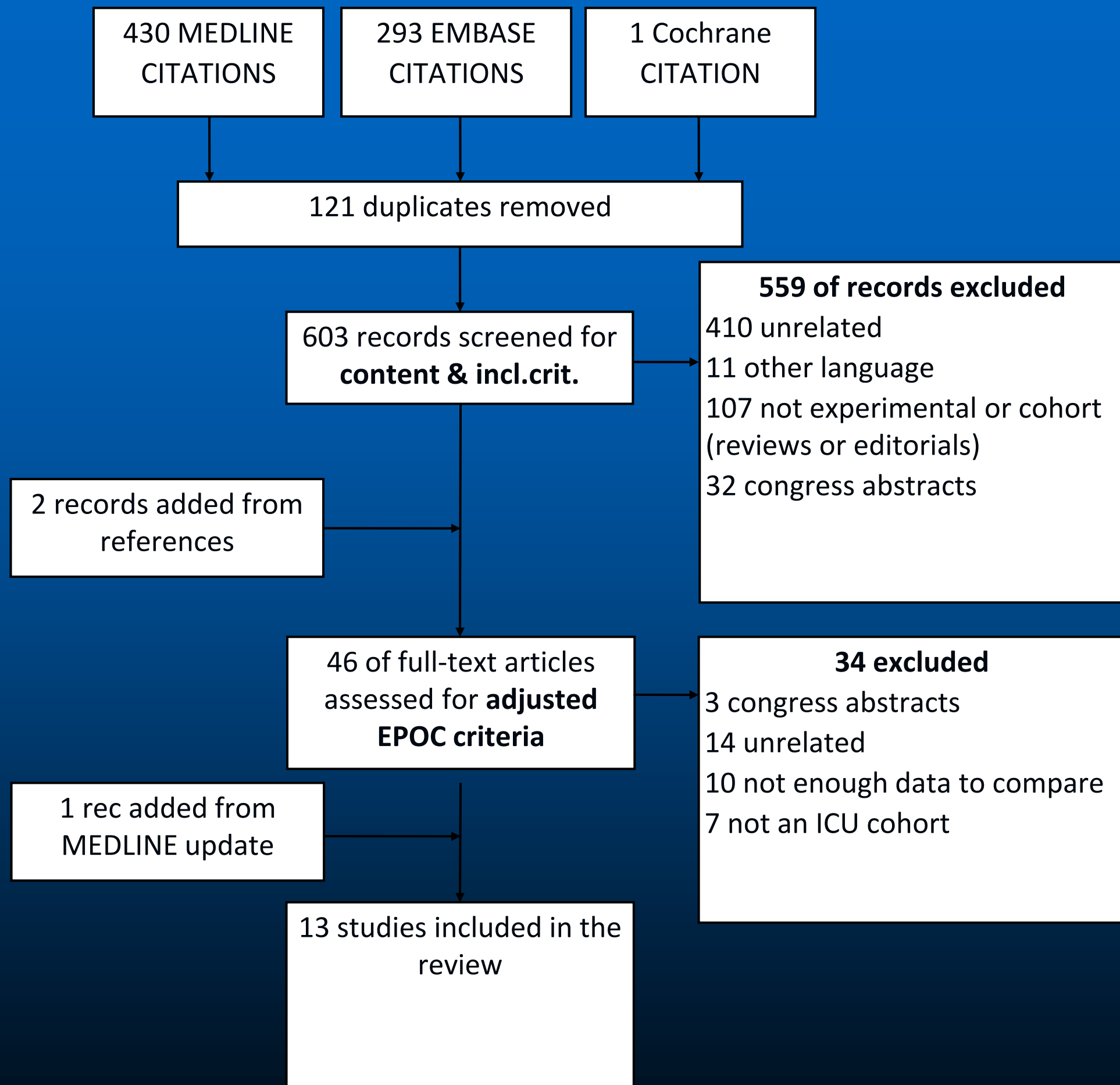
Fig. 2 Effect on mortality of de-escalation of therapy based on culture results



## *Goal*

- Which are the definitions used for de-escalation in the literature?
- What is the effect of de-escalation on outcomes of care in ICU patients?





# What evidence exists to support antimicrobial de-escalation in the intensive care unit?

## *A systematic review*

*Results: 14 studies*

- two randomised clinical trials (unblinded) Cochrane Risk of Bias tool
- 12 cohort studies Newcastle–Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

# What evidence exists to support antimicrobial de-escalation in the intensive care unit?

## *A systematic review*

Which definitions are used for de-escalation in the literature?

- Always described as “narrowing” or “streamlining” therapy, considerable variability
- Ranking “broadness of spectrum” in 4/14 studies
- Concept of the “pivotal” antibiotic (Leone)

# What evidence exists to support antimicrobial de-escalation in the intensive care unit?

## *A systematic review*

### Outcomes after de-escalation:

- Lower or improving severity scores associated with DE ( $p=0.04$  to  $<0.001$ )
- Pooled effect of DE on mortality protective (RR 0.68, 95% CI 0.52-0.88)
- Limited quality of cohort studies
  - Adjustment and multivariable analysis on the effect of DE on outcome only in 4 /12 cohort studies
  - Two studies accounted for severity of illness at the moment where DE was considered

# What evidence exists to support antimicrobial de-escalation in the intensive care unit?

## *A systematic review*

Secondary outcomes after de-escalation:

- Non-inferiority length of stay in DE group
- More superinfections and longer AB use in DE
- No (measurable) effect on ecology



# RCT de-escalation in ICU

Intensive Care Med  
DOI 10.1007/s00134-014-3411-8

SEVEN-DAY PROFILE PUBLICATION

Marc Leone  
Carole Bechis  
Karine Baumstarck  
Jean-Yves Lefrant  
Jacques Albanèse  
Samir Jaber  
Alain Lepape  
Jean-Michel Constantin  
Laurent Papazian  
Nicolas Bruder  
Bernard Allaouchiche  
Karine Bézulier  
François Antonini  
Julien Textoris  
Claude Martin  
For the AZUREA Network Investigators

**De-escalation versus continuation of empirical antimicrobial treatment in severe sepsis: a multicenter non-blinded randomized noninferiority trial**

# De-escalation: Leone et al. 2014

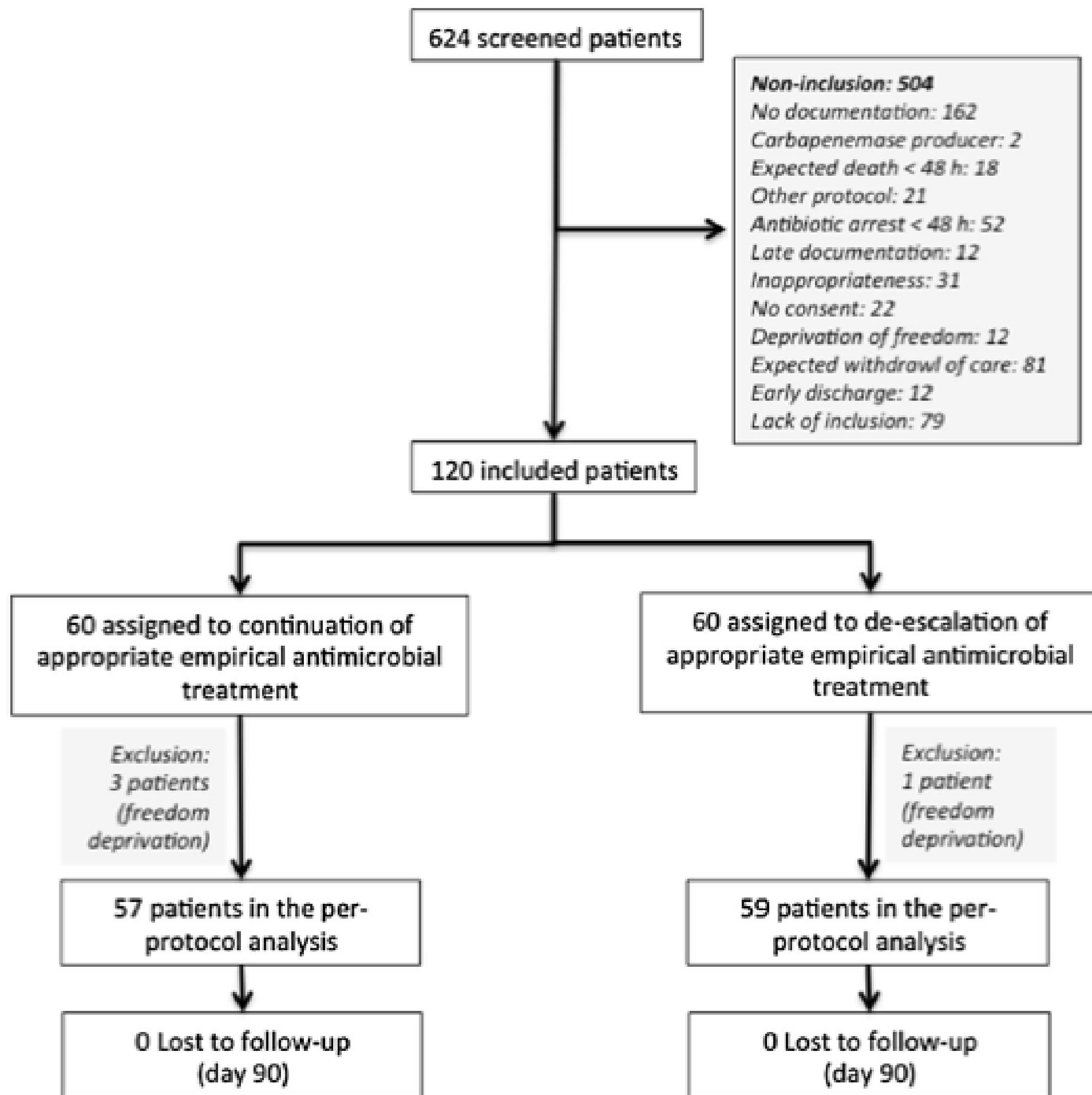
- Multicenter (9) ICU study in France
- Randomised: continue vs. de-escalate
- Unblinded
- 120 patients
- Primary outcome: LOS (non-inferiority de-escalation)
- Secondary outcomes: 90 day M; AB free days; superinfections; *Clostridium difficile* infections

# De-escalation: Leone et al. 2014

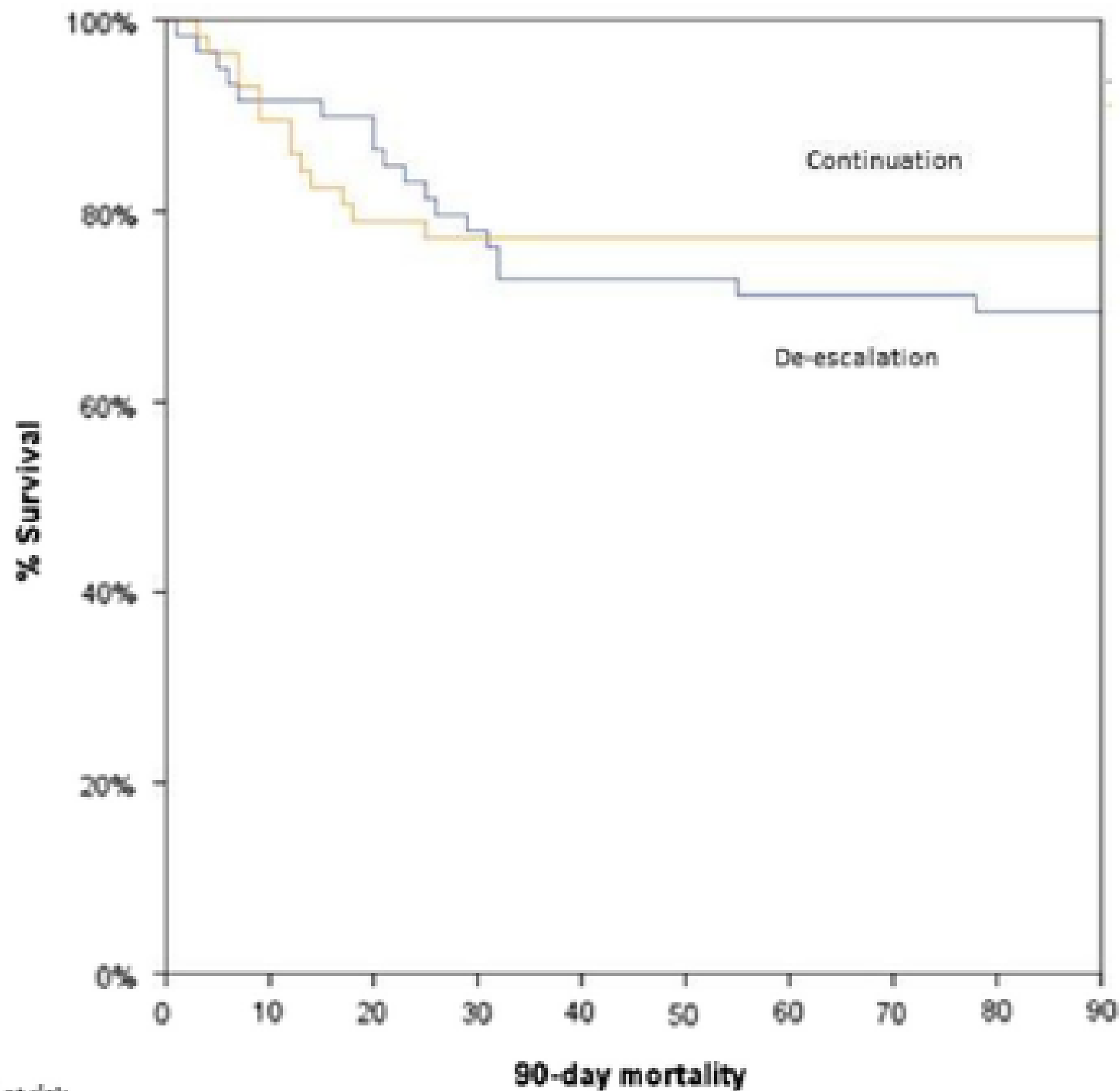
- *Inclusion* severe sepsis / septic shock
- Randomisation as soon as positive cultures available
- Adequate empirical therapy acc. guidelines
- *Definition* de-escalation:
  - *Change "Pivotal antibiotic" to AB with narrowest possible spectrum*
  - *Stop combination therapy (quinolone, amino-glycoside or macrolide) at day 3*
  - *Stop Vancomycin if no rationale for MRSA*

# De-escalation: Leone et al. 2014

- *Definition continue:*
  - *Continue "Pivotal antibiotic"*
  - *Stop combination therapy (quinolone, amino-glycoside or macrolide) between day 3 and 5*
  - *Stop Vancomycin if no rationale for MRSA*
  - *Therapy duration acc. to international guidelines*







$p = 0.35$

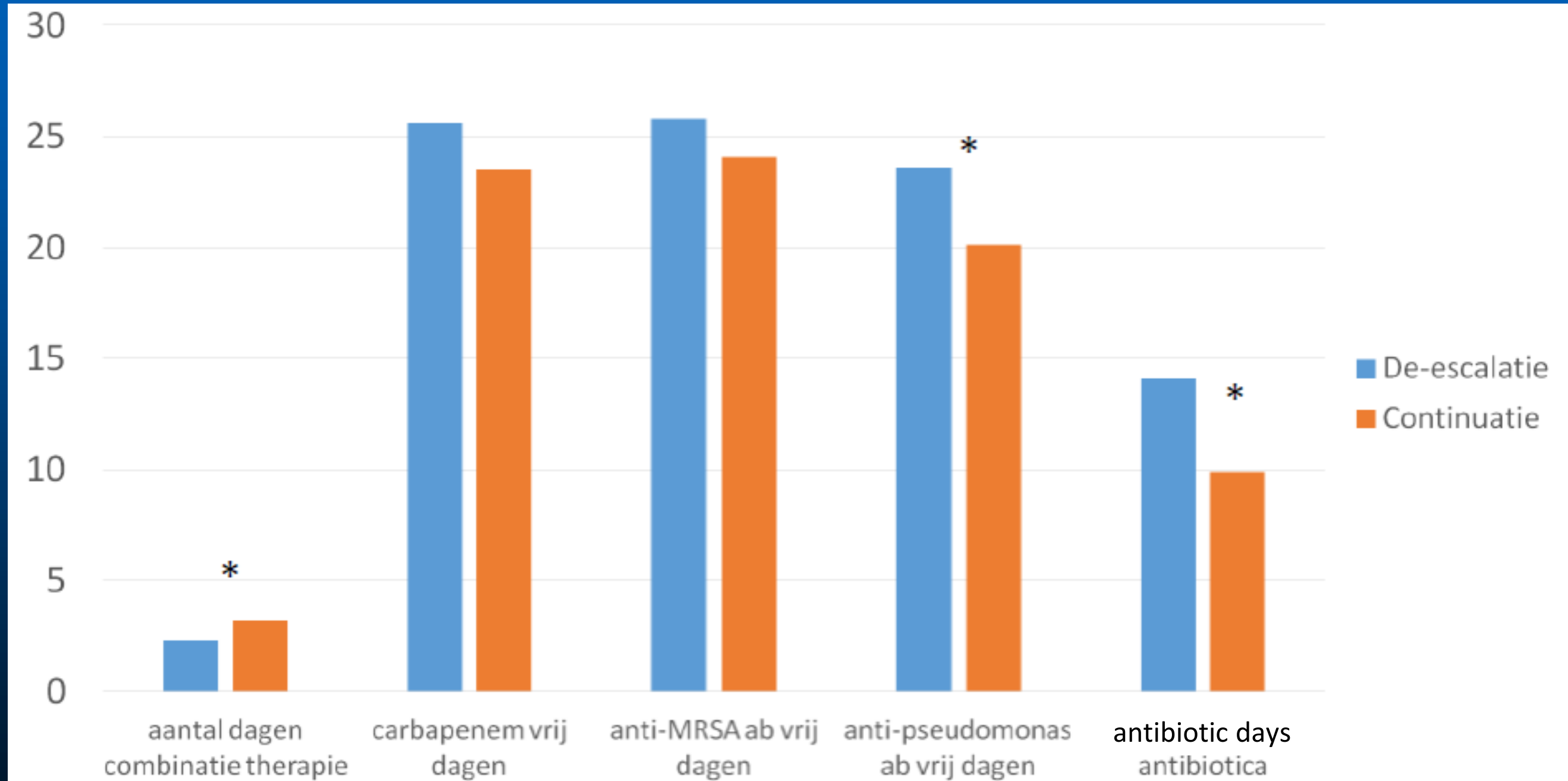
N\* at risk

De-escalation	59	54	53	46	43	43	42	42	41	41
Continuation	57	51	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	44

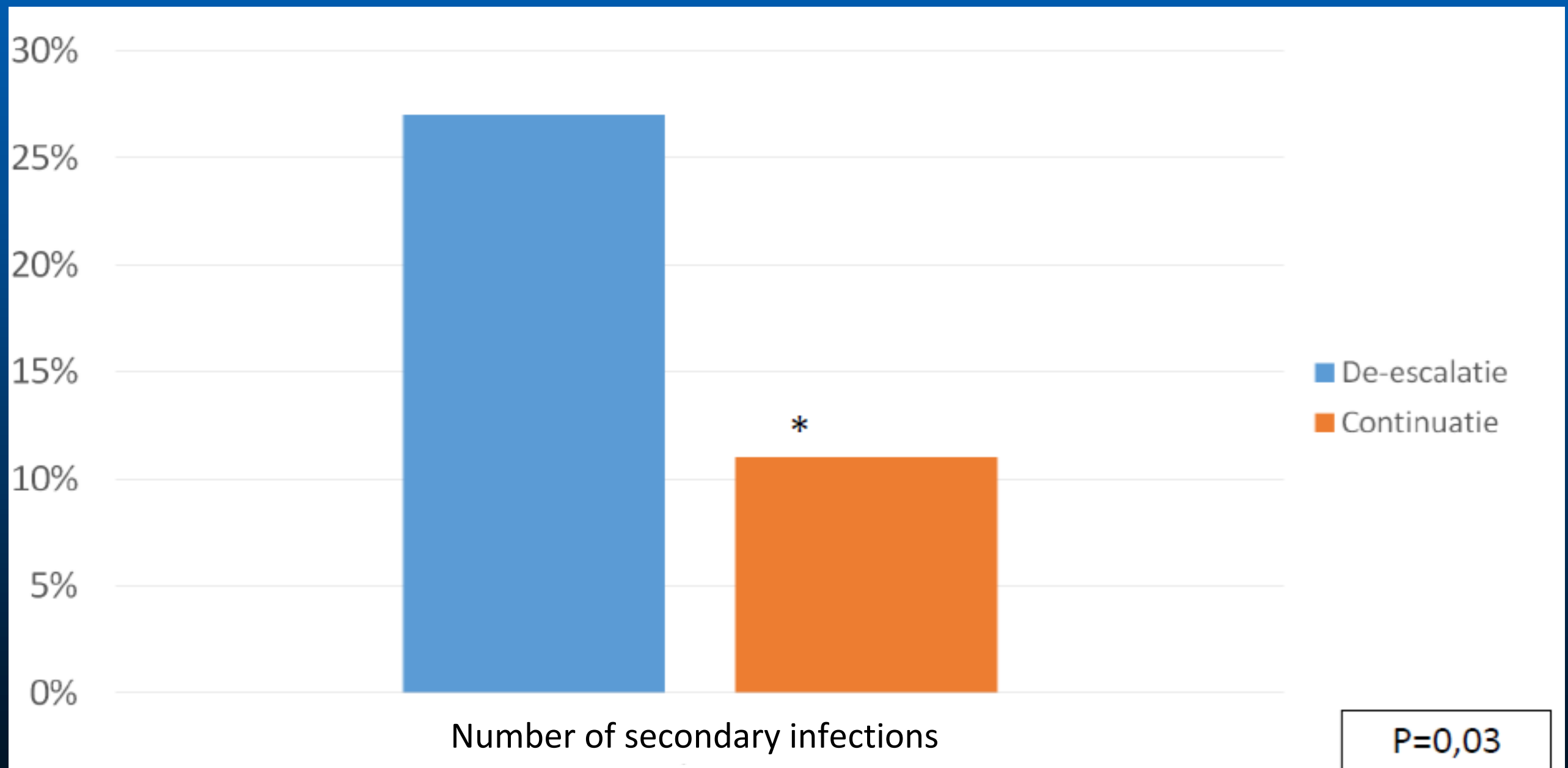
# De-escalation: Leone et al. 2014

Duration	De-escalation group ( <i>n</i> = 59)	Continuation group ( <i>n</i> = 57)	<i>P</i>
Duration of ICU stay (days)			
From inclusion to discharge	15.2 ± 15.0 9 [1–79]	11.8 ± 12.6 8 [1–60]	0.71
From admission to discharge	29.1 ± 50.0 13 [1–375]	18.1 ± 15.7 12 [3–67]	0.11

# De-escalation: Leone et al. 2014



# De-escalation: Leone et al. 2014



# De-escalation: goals?


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Reduce  
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Reduce  
Antibiotic use  
(DDD)

Reduce  
costs

  
Reduce  
time to recovery  
LOS, mortality




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Reduce  
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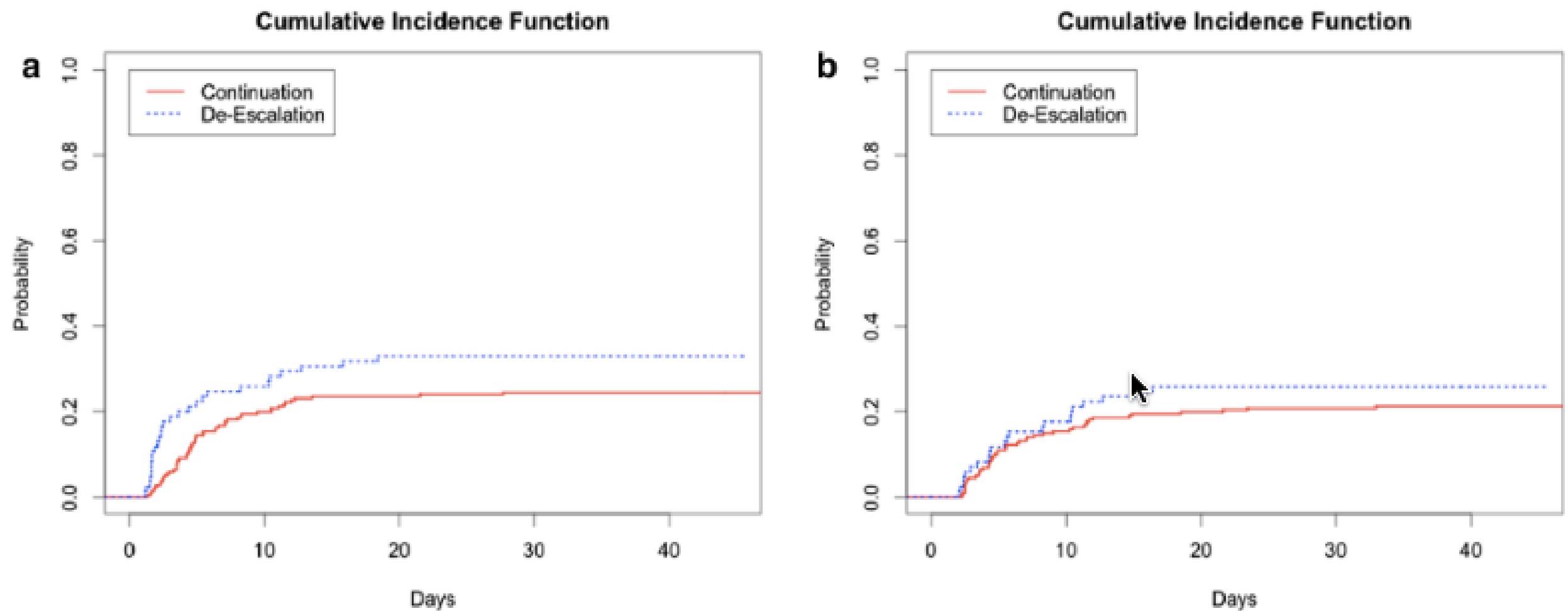
Reduce  
time to recovery  
LOS, mortality

# Impact of de-escalation of beta-lactam antibiotics on the emergence of antibiotic resistance in ICU patients: a retrospective observational study

- Retrospective study comparing de-escalation vs. escalation vs. continuation for betalactam use
- Outcomes:
  - \* Duration of antibiotic course, Antibiotic consumption
  - \* Cumulative incidence of MDR resistant pathogens to the initial betalactam antibiotic using systematically collected surveillance cultures (!)

**Table 3 Patient outcome after de-escalation and escalation of anti-pseudomonal beta-lactam therapy**

Patient outcome	Treatment				p value	
	Total (n = 344)	Continuation (n = 221; 64%)	De-escalation (n = 85; 25%)	Escalation (n = 38; 11%)	De-escalation vs. continuation	Escalation vs. continuation
Antibiotic treatment duration in the ICU for the infection under study (days)	6 (5–9)	5 (4–7)	8 (6–10)	11 (8–19)	<0.001	<0.001
Total antibiotic consumption in the ICU (days)	10 (5–20)	7 (4–15)	12 (7–22)	24 (13–39)	<0.001	<0.001
Antibiotic-free days (14 days after onset of infection) <sup>a</sup> (n = 116)	1 (0–4)	2 (0–6)	1 (0–3)	0 (0–1)	0.04	<0.001



**Fig. 2 a** Cumulative incidence function (after adjustment for ICU discharge and death as competing risk events) of emergence of pathogens resistant to the initial anti-pseudomonal betalactam antibiotic. **b** Cumulative incidence function (after adjustment for ICU discharge and death as competing risk events) of emergence of MDR pathogens


ation of expected favorable effect of de-escalation on selection of antimicrobia

**Table 2 Multivariate analysis on determinants of de-escalation and escalation of anti-pseudomonal beta-lactam antibiotic therapy**


Factors associated with de-escalation or escalation	De-escalation versus continuation		Escalation versus continuation	
	Adjusted OR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	p value	Adjusted OR (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>	p value
ICU department (medical/surgical ICU)	0.81 (0.5–1.3)	0.39	0.24 (0.1–0.61)	0.003
Hospitalization duration prior to Initiation of BL therapy (days)	0.99 (0.98–1)	0.11	0.96 (0.92–0.99)	0.04
Antibiotic exposure during ICU stay prior to Initiation of BL therapy	0.68 (0.41–1.15)	0.15	0.52 (0.2–1.34)	0.17
Type of Initial BL therapy	0.98 (0.75–1.28)	0.88	1.17 (0.67–2.1)	0.59
Focus of Infection	0.98 (0.86–1.12)	0.76	0.92 (0.73–1.17)	0.5
Severe sepsis/septic shock	1.1 (0.65–1.85)	0.72	0.38 (0.15–0.9)	0.03
$\Delta$ SOFA <sup>c</sup>	1.01 (0.94–1.08)	0.83	0.87 (0.79–0.97)	0.008
Microbiologically documented Infection	3.96 (2.4–6.55)	<0.001	1.4 (0.62–3.15)	0.42
Presence of (non-etiological) Isolates resistant to the Initial BL therapy	1.46 (0.87–2.48)	0.16	3 (1.26–7.11)	0.01

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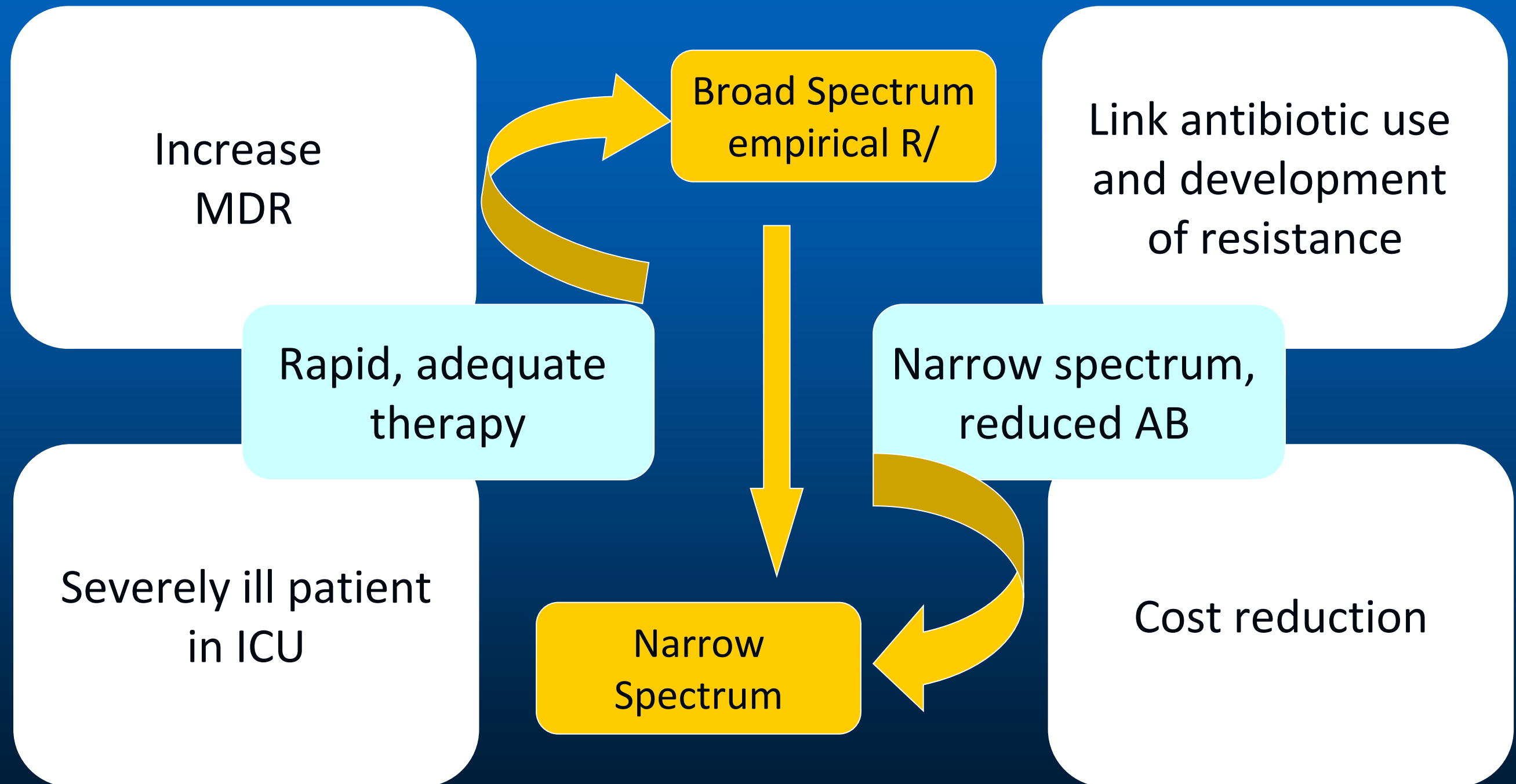


Reduce  
costs



Reduce  
time to recovery  
LOS, mortality

# De-escalation: future ?



# De-escalation: future

## **De-escalation?**

- no uniform definition
- no reduction of AB duration, costs or length of stay
- no effects on AMR
- protective of mortality? bias!

large cluster-RCT required

# De-escalation: future

**De-escalation?**

rather focus on early stop!

ic use  
ment  
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Seve

tion

# Even short courses of antibiotics cause selection of resistant bacteria

Harbarth Circulation 2000

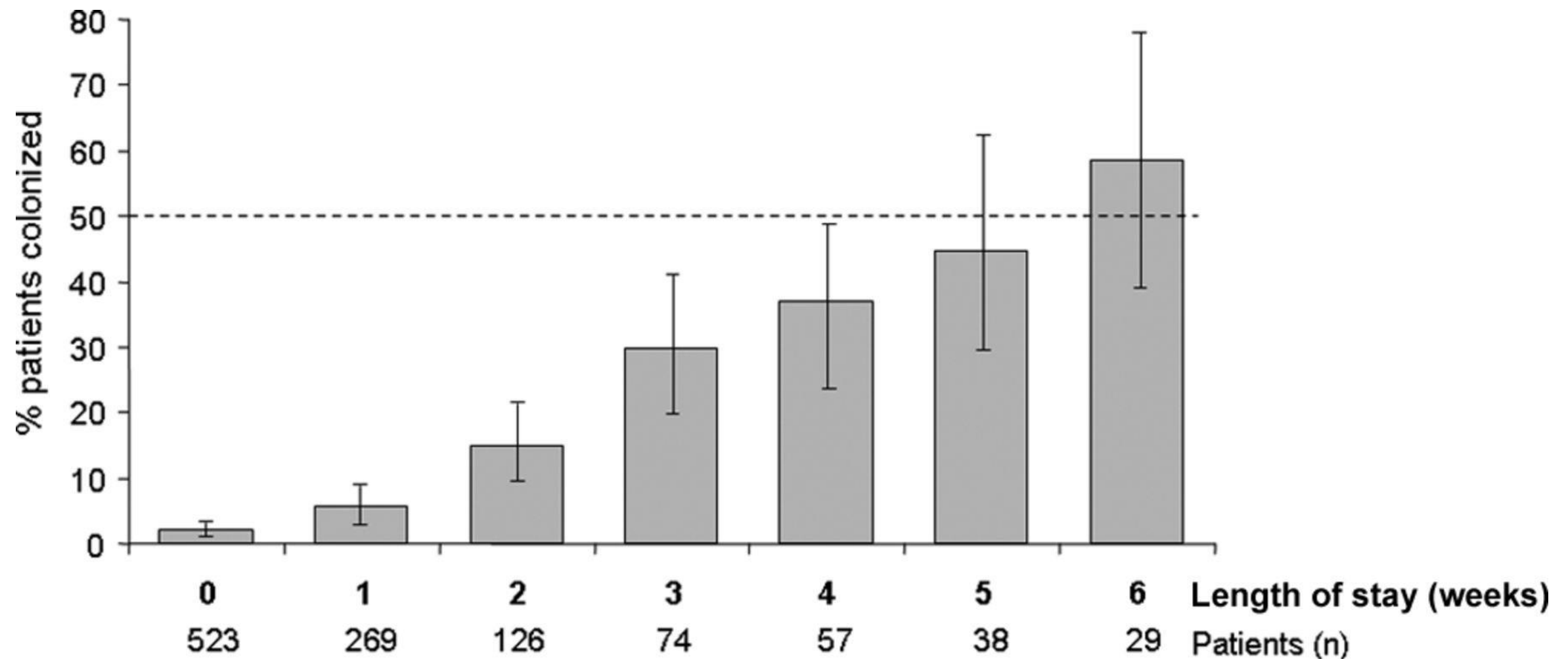
Taconelli AAC 2010

Lefevre AAC 2013



- we need to move to more rapid culture-independent micro identification methods
- we need swift communication between micro lab and ICU:
  - leading to faster achievement of appropriate therapy
  - duration of empirical therapy may be limited

## Rates of intestinal colonization by imipenem-resistant gram-negative bacilli in intensive care patients.



Laurence Armand-Lefèvre et al. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 2013;57:1488-1495

Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy

# Efficacy and safety of procalcitonin guidance in reducing the duration of antibiotic treatment in critically ill patients: a randomised, controlled, open-label trial



Evelien de Jong, Jos A van Oers, Albertus Beishuizen, Piet Vos, Wytze J Vermeijden, Lenneke E Haas, Bert G Loeff, Tom Dormans, Gertrude C van Melsen, Yvette C Kluiters, Hans Kemperman, Maarten J van den Elsen, Jeroen A Schouten, Jörn O Streefkerk, Hans G Krabbe, Hans Kieft, Georg H Kluge, Veerle C van Dam, Joost van Pelt, Laura Bormans, Martine Bokelman Otten, Auke C Reidinga, Henrik Endeman, Jos W Twisk, Ewoudt M W van de Garde, Anne Marie G A de Smet, Jozef Kesecioglu, Armand R Girbes, Maarten W Nijsten, Dylan W de Lange

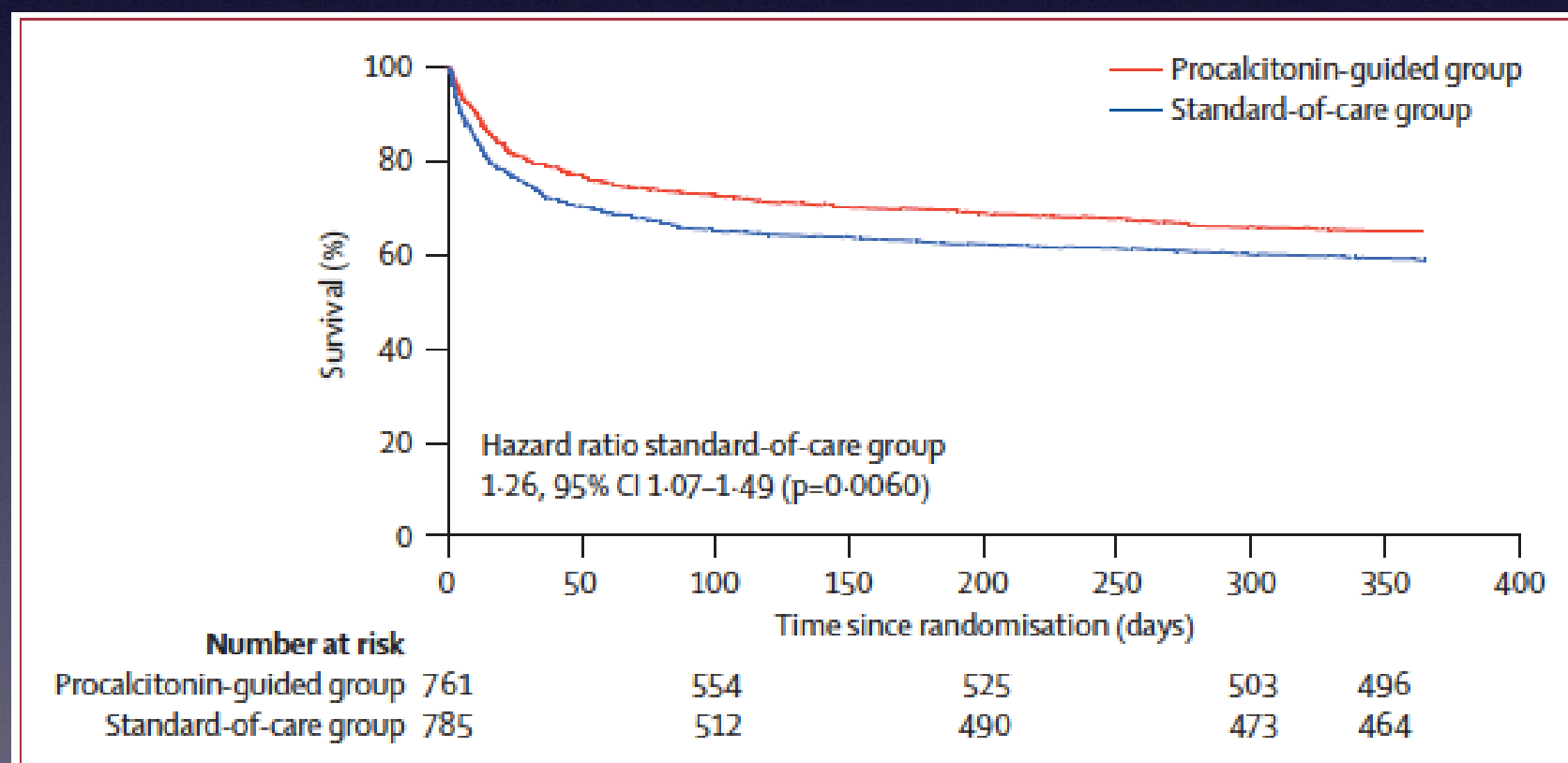


Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier plot for probability of survival from random assignment to day 365, in the modified intention-to-treat population

	Procalcitonin-guided group (n=761)	Standard-of-care group (n=785)	Between-group absolute difference in means (95% CI)	p value
Antibiotic consumption (days)				
Daily defined doses in first 28 days	7.5 (4.0 to 12.8)	9.3 (5.0 to 16.5)	2.69 (1.26 to 4.12)	<0.0001
Duration of treatment	5.0 (3.0 to 9.0)	7.0 (4.0 to 11.0)	1.22 (0.65 to 1.78)	<0.0001
Antibiotic-free days in first 28 days	7.0 (0.0 to 14.5)	5.0 (0 to 13.0)	1.31 (0.52 to 2.09)	0.0016
Mortality (%)				
28-day mortality	149 (19.6%)	196 (25.0%)	5.4% (1.2 to 9.5)	0.0122
1-year mortality	265 (34.8%)	321 (40.9%)	6.1% (1.2 to 10.9)	0.0158
Adverse events				
Reinfection	38 (5.0)	23 (2.9)	-2.1% (-4.1 to -0.1)	0.0492
Repeated course of antibiotics	175 (23.0)	173 (22.0)	-1.0% (-5.1 to 3.2)	0.67
Time (days) between stop and reinstitution of antibiotics	4.0 (2.0 to 8.0)	4.0 (2.0 to 8.0)	-0.22 (-1.31 to 0.88)	0.96
Costs				
Total cumulative costs of antibiotics	€150 082	€181 263	NA	NA
Median cumulative costs antibiotics per patient	€107 (51 to 229)	€129 (66 to 273)	€33.6 (2.5 to 64.8)	0.0006
Length of stay (days)				
On the intensive care unit	8.5 (5.0 to 17.0)	9.0 (4.0 to 17.0)	-0.21 (-0.92 to 1.60)	0.56
In hospital	22.0 (13.0 to 39.3)	22.0 (12.0 to 40.0)	0.39 (-2.69 to 3.46)	0.77

Data are median (IQR), n (%), or mean (95% CI). Between-group absolute differences were calculated using the mean values, percentage differences, and 95% CIs. NA=not applicable.

**Table 2: Primary and secondary outcome measures**

E de Jong, *Lancet Infect Dis* march 2016



# De-escalation needs a more solid evidence base

- How quickly is the damage to the microbiota done and how long does it last?
- Does sequential therapy with two different antimicrobials increase damage or is it beneficial?  
What about combination therapy?
- What is the impact of dosing and duration of therapy on AMR selection?

# De-escalation: a revised view

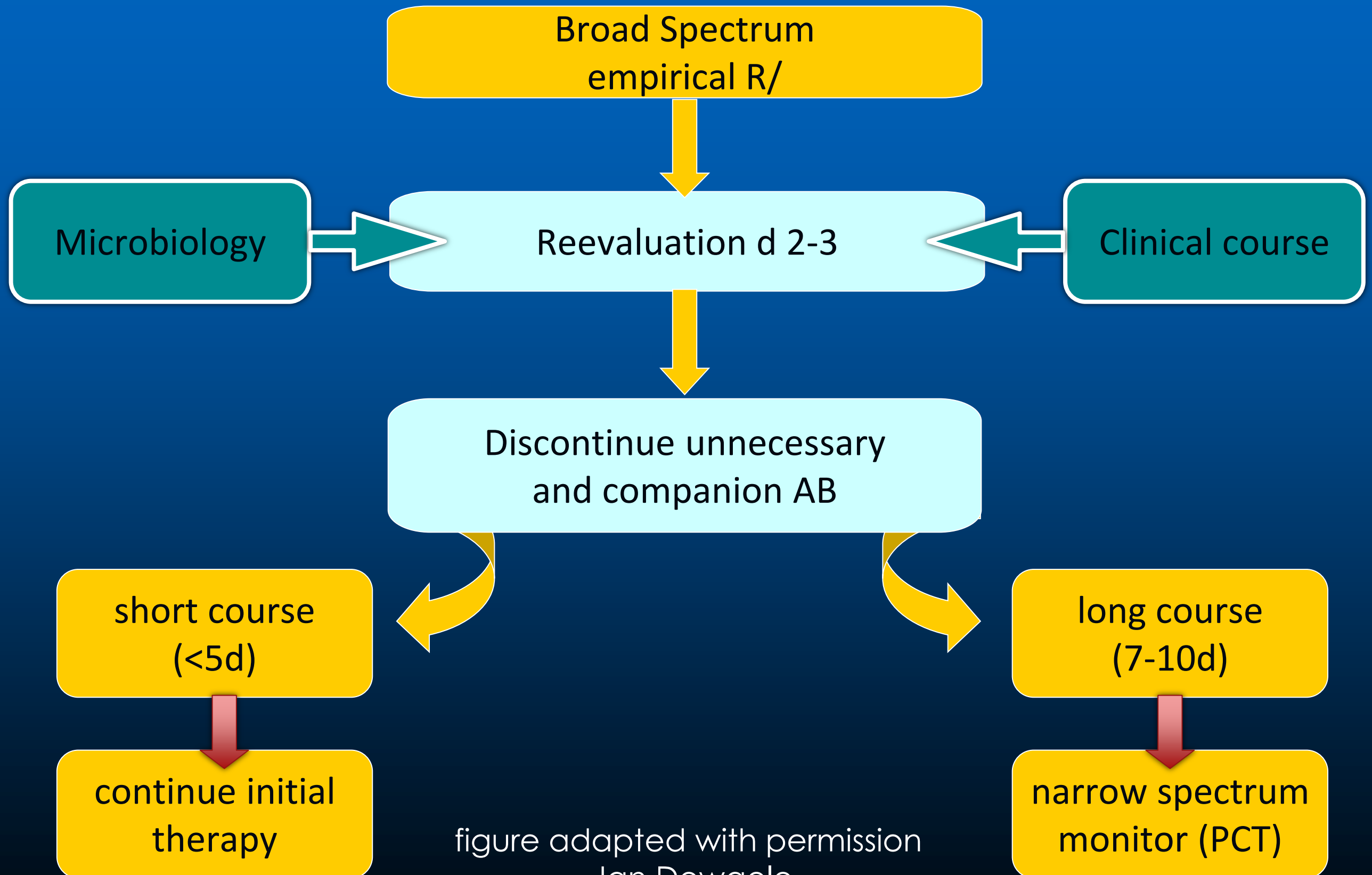


figure adapted with permission  
Jan Dewaele