

# **Antimicrobial Stewardship in Immunosuppressed Patients**

**Şiran Keske, MD**

American Hospital, Istanbul

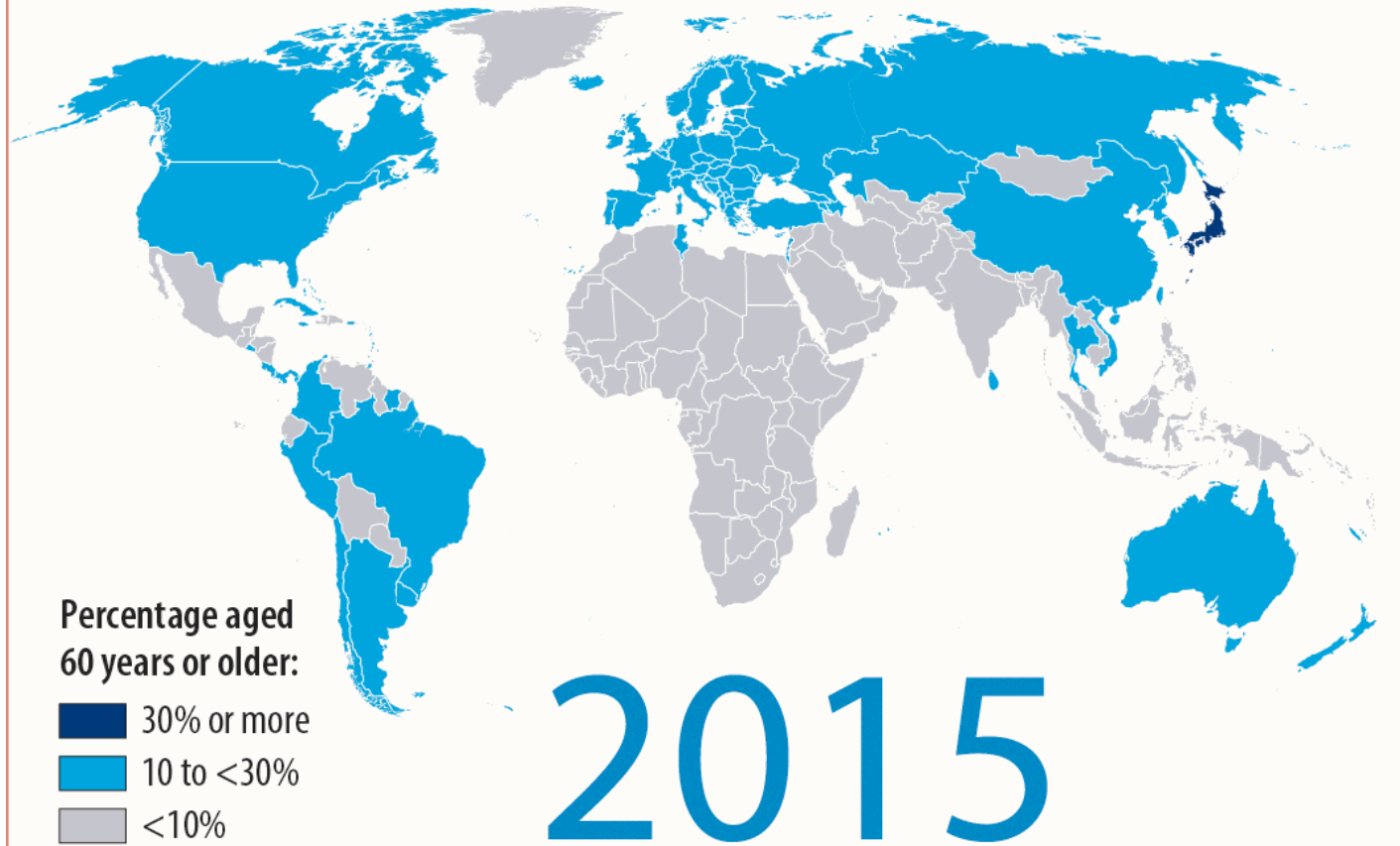
Department of Infectious Diseases

[sirankeske@yahoo.com](mailto:sirankeske@yahoo.com)

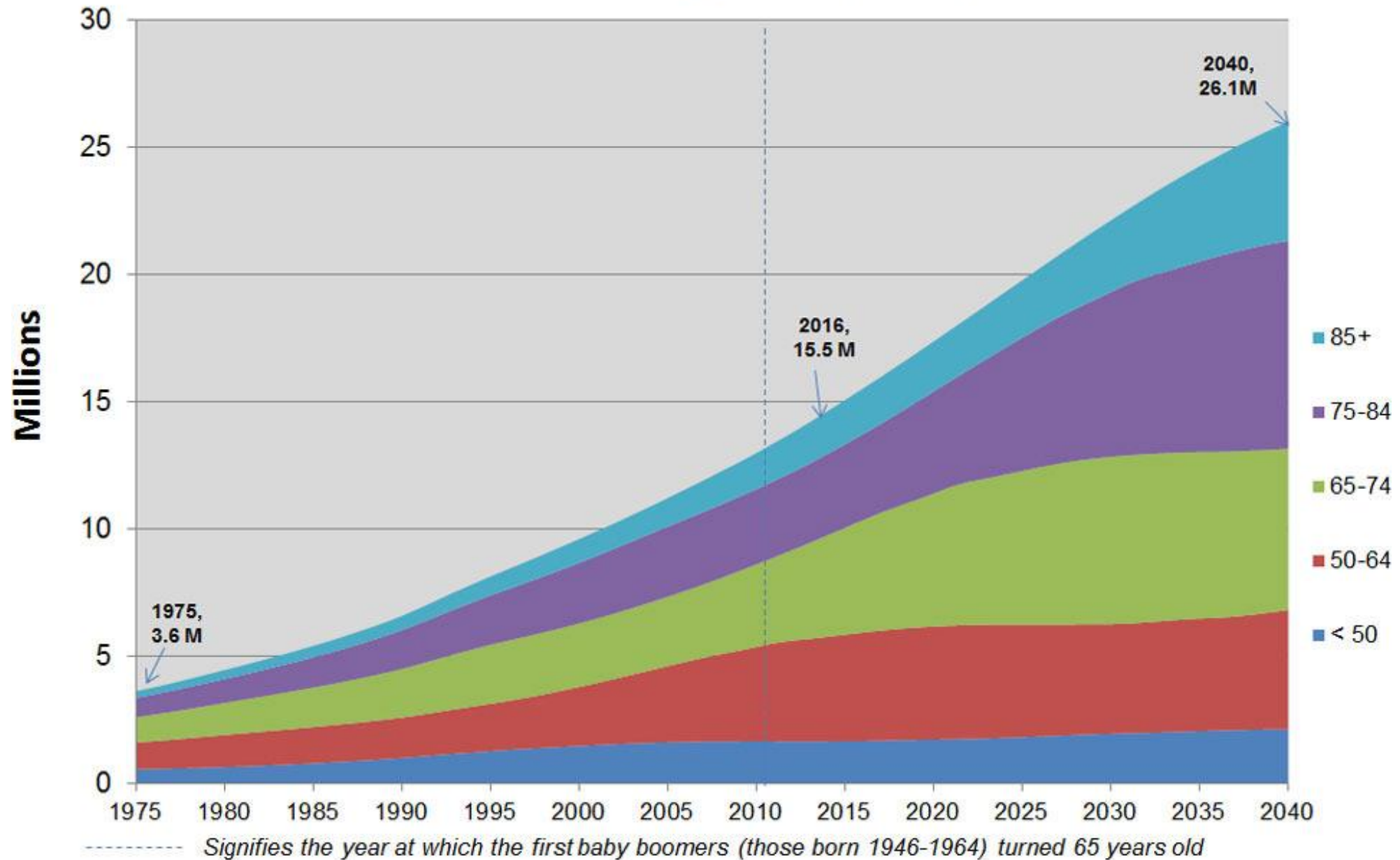
# Content

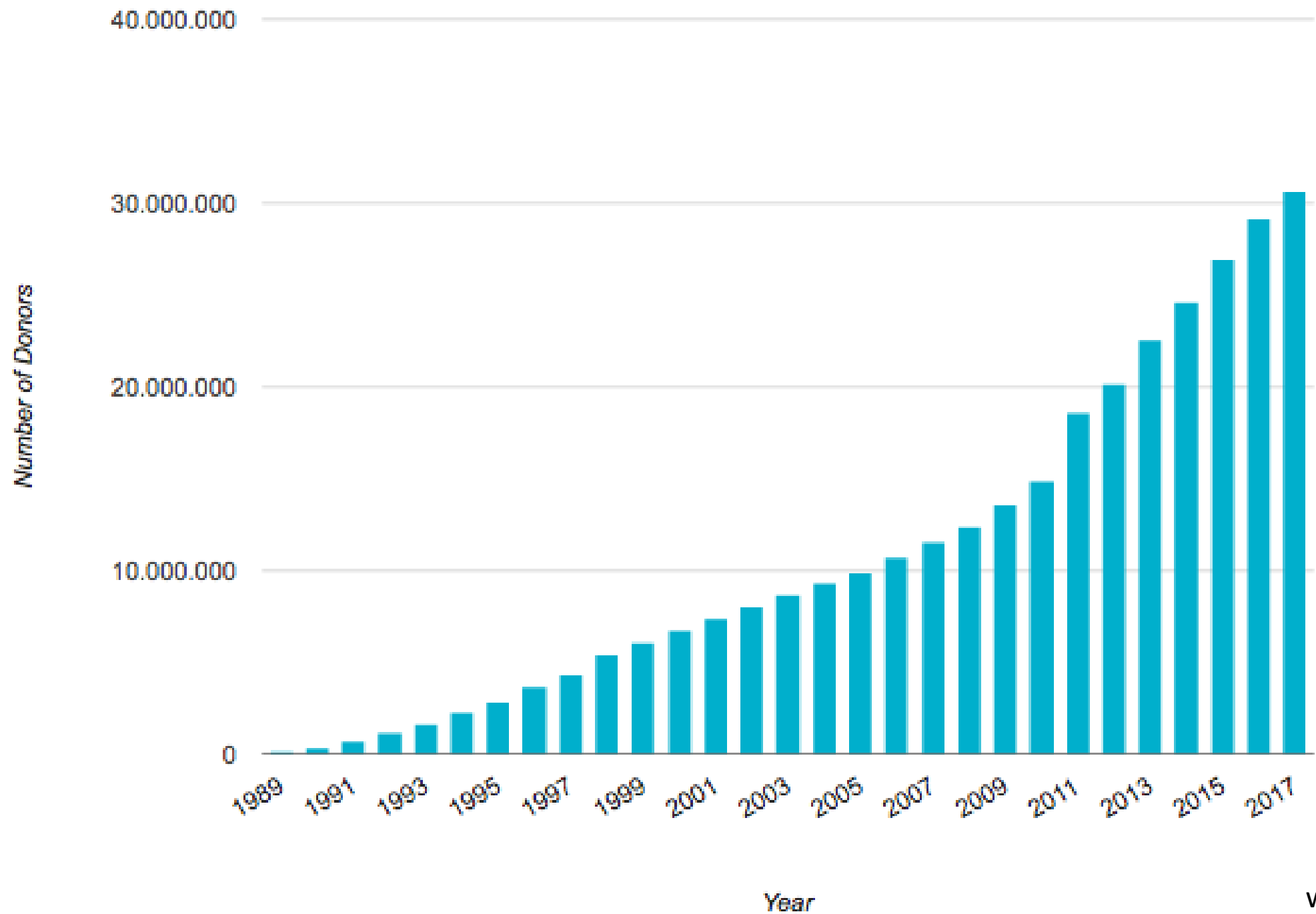
- Background/History
- Challenges/Barriers In AMS
- AMS Programmes
  - 1. Multidisciplinary approach
  - 2. Guidelines, protocols
  - 3. Feed-back
  - 4. Rapid diagnostic tests
  - 5. Infection control
- Conclusion

## Populations are getting older

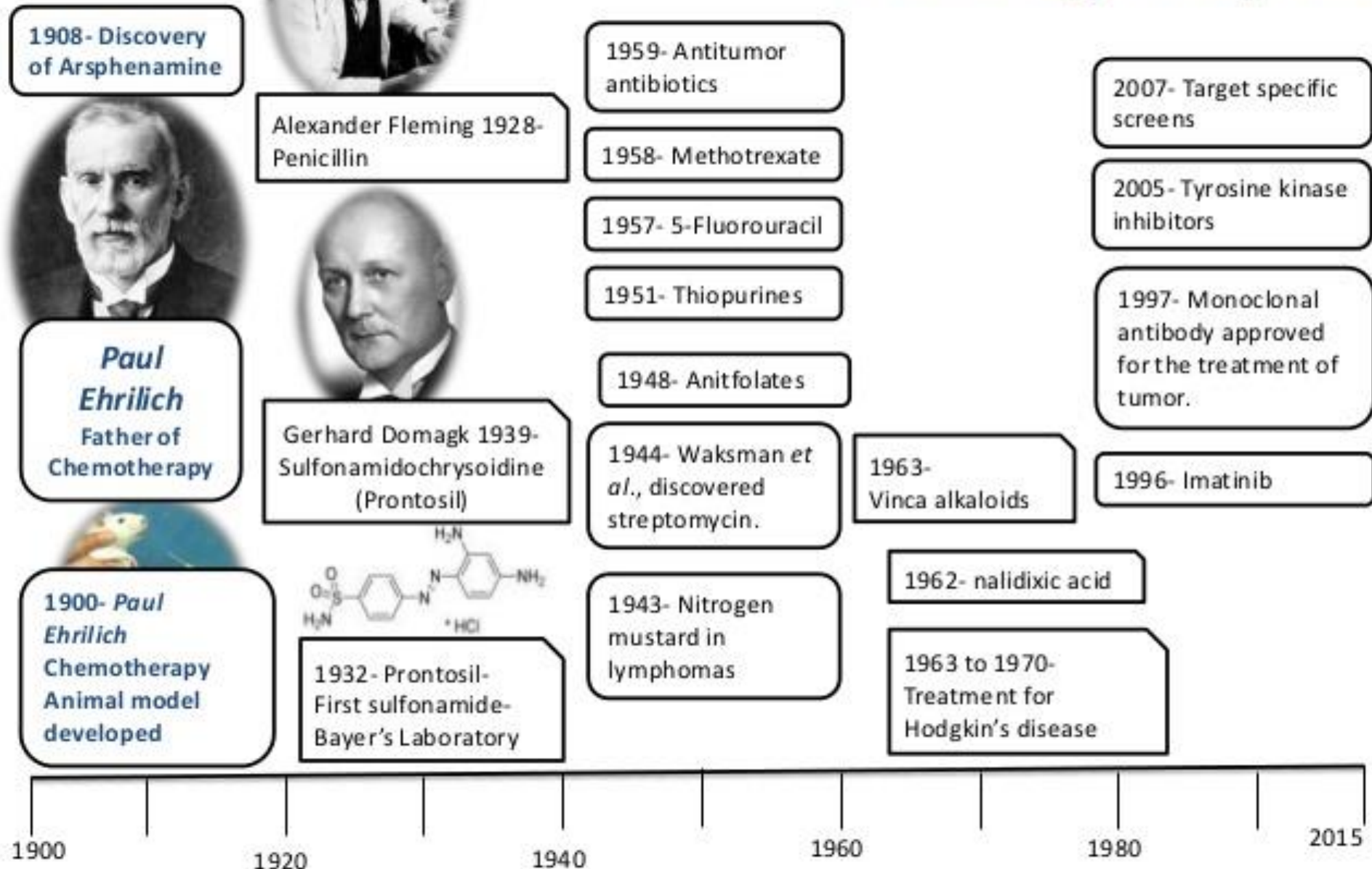


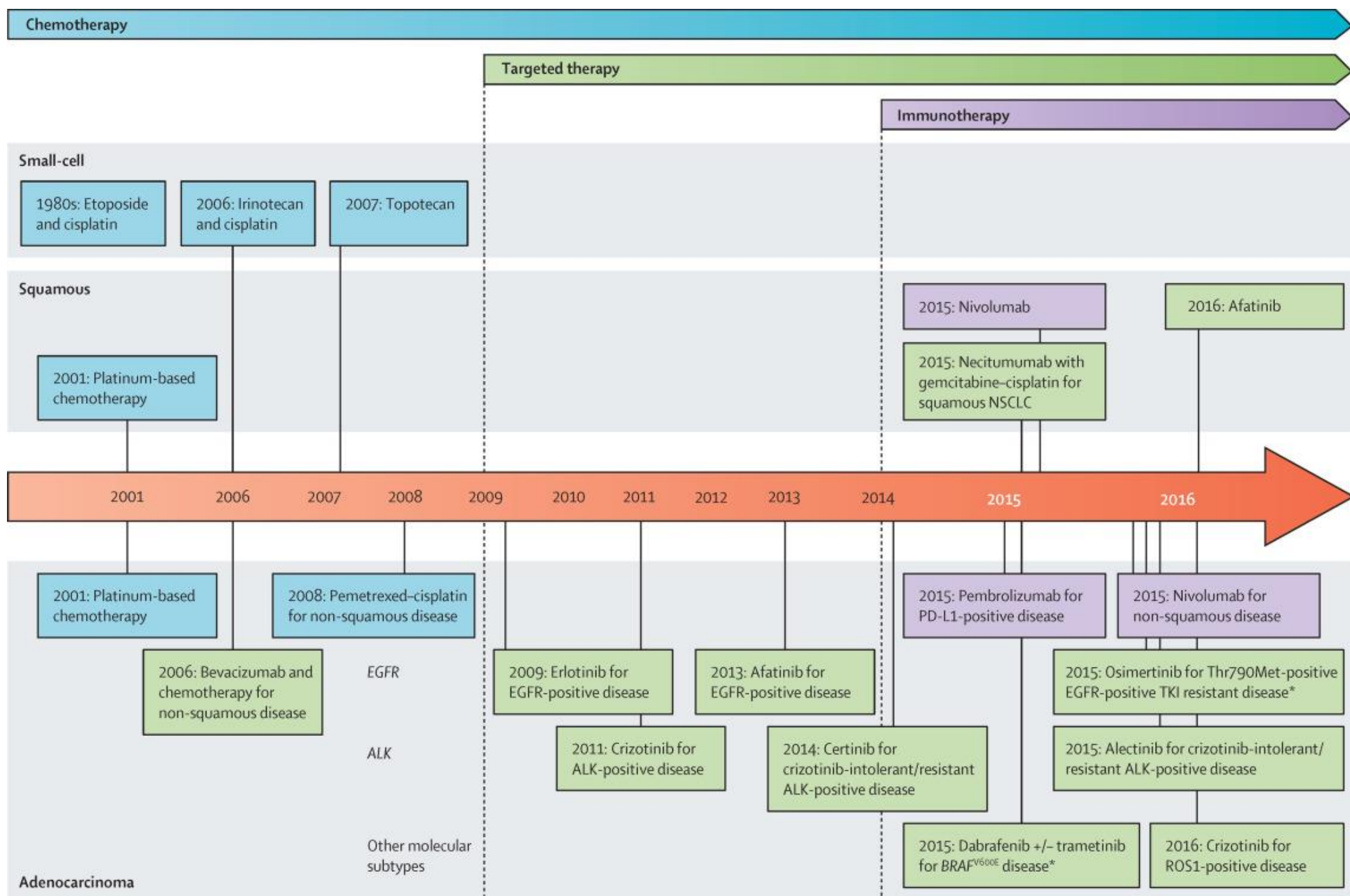
Estimated cancer prevalence by age in the US population  
from 1975 (216 M) to 2040 (380 M)





# Timeline history of chemotherapy development





Population is getting older

Malignancies are increasing

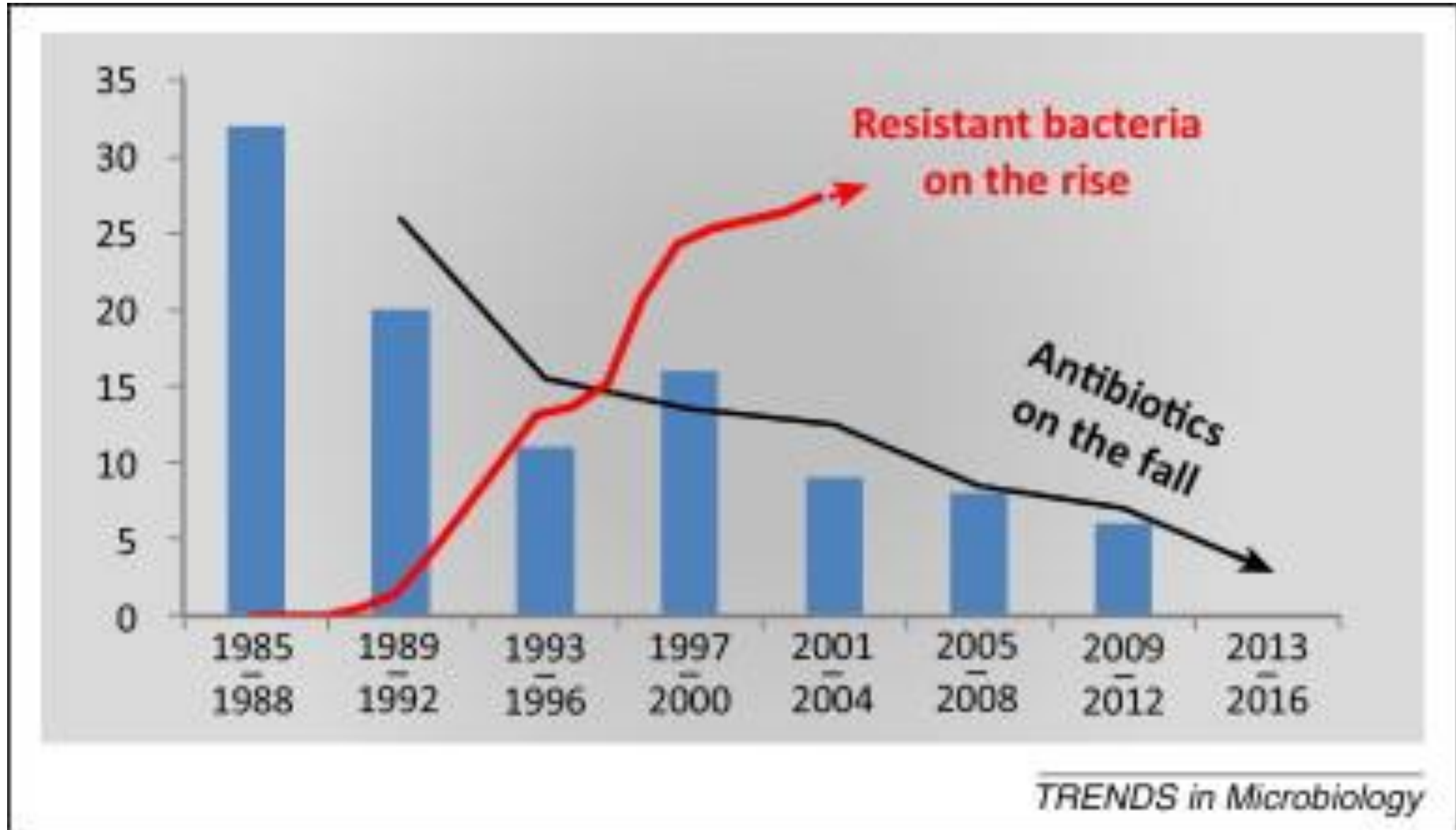
New chemotherapy and immunomodulator drugs are increasing

Transplantations are increasing



**Immunosuppressed Patients are  
increasing all over the world**

# New Antimicrobials- Antimicrobial resistance



# Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

**Tamar F. Barlam,<sup>1,a</sup> Sara E. Cosgrove,<sup>2,a</sup> Lilian M. Abbo,<sup>3</sup> Conan MacDougall,<sup>4</sup> Audrey N. Schuetz,<sup>5</sup> Edward J. Septimus,<sup>6</sup> Arjun Srinivasan,<sup>7</sup> Timothy H. Dellit,<sup>8</sup> Yngve T. Falck-Ytter,<sup>9</sup> Neil O. Fishman,<sup>10</sup> Cindy W. Hamilton,<sup>11</sup> Timothy C. Jenkins,<sup>12</sup> Pamela A. Lipsett,<sup>13</sup> Preeti N. Malani,<sup>14</sup> Larissa S. May,<sup>15</sup> Gregory J. Moran,<sup>16</sup> Melinda M. Neuhauser,<sup>17</sup> Jason G. Newland,<sup>18</sup> Christopher A. Ohi,<sup>19</sup> Matthew H. Samore,<sup>20</sup> Susan K. Seo,<sup>21</sup> and Kavita K. Trivedi<sup>22</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Section of Infectious Diseases, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts; <sup>2</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland;

<sup>3</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Florida; <sup>4</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco;

<sup>5</sup>Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical Center/New York–Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York; <sup>6</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Houston; <sup>7</sup>Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia; <sup>8</sup>Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle; <sup>9</sup>Department of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University and Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; <sup>10</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia; <sup>11</sup>Hamilton House, Virginia Beach, Virginia; <sup>12</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Denver Health, Denver, Colorado; <sup>13</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care

# ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP



Edited by

Céline Pulcini, Önder Ergönül, Füsün Can, Bojana Beović

## Chapter 17

### Antimicrobial Stewardship in Hematology Patients

Murat Akova

Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

#### INTRODUCTION

Among the several risk factors predisposing to infections in hematology patients, the most important one is neutropenia [1]. Patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and those undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT) are at the highest risk of developing profound and persistent (lasting >10 days) neutropenia, which may abate inflammatory signs and symptoms of infections. Thus, fever may be the only sign of severe infection. Overall, only up to 50% of patients with febrile neutropenia will have a microbiologically and/or clinically documented infection. Febrile neutropenia is a medical emergency and would require the initiation of immediate empirical antimicrobial therapy targeting the most frequent infecting pathogens. The choice of empirical antibacterials should depend on the local epidemiology [1–3]. Although this empirical approach will be preventing early mortality, it may cause an ecological impact that leads to selection of highly resistant bacteria and pathogens like *Clostridium difficile* [4,5]. A rational antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) strategy in patients with febrile neutropenia should include prompt initiation of appropriate empirical antibacterials, which should be adapted upon results of cultures when available. The strategy should also address prophylactic antimicrobial use, duration of empirical and targeted antibiotic therapies, appropriate pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics (PK/PD) applications, and infection control measures in selected groups of hematology patients. Above all, close cooperation between primary physician(s) in charge (i.e., hemato-/oncologist) and the infectious diseases (ID) specialists, the clinical microbiologists, and the clinical pharmacists is strongly advised [6].

**Challenging issues?**  
**Barriers?**

**1. Physician perceptions and attitudes: “My patient is sicker than yours”**

2. Wide range of possible infectious etiologies with diagnostic uncertainty

3. Difficulty in making an early diagnosis

4. Urgency for empiric effective antimicrobial therapy

1. Physician perceptions and attitudes: “My patient is sicker than yours”

## 2. Wide range of possible infectious etiologies with diagnostic uncertainty

21 years old patient  
AML, HSCT  
Profound neutropenia for 2 months  
Car R *P. aeruginosa* BSI  
Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis  
***Geotrichum clavatum*** BSI  
*E. faecium* BSI

1. Physician perceptions and attitudes: “My patient is sicker than yours”

2. Wide range of possible infectious etiologies with diagnostic uncertainty

**3. Difficulty in making an early diagnosis**

4. Urgency for empiric effective antimicrobial therapy

1. Physician perceptions and attitudes: “My patient is sicker than yours”

2. Wide range of possible infectious etiologies with diagnostic uncertainty

3. Difficulty in making an early diagnosis

**4. Urgency for empiric effective antimicrobial therapy**

## 5. Significant drug toxicities and potent drug interactions

6. Antimicrobial resistance

7. Difficulty with controlling the source  
such as neutropenia

20 years old, f, AML, HSCT

Colistin (7) + amikacin + ciprofloxacin

Chorea athetosis, tremor

35 years old, m, Lymphoma

Colistin + meropenem

14<sup>th</sup> day: Acute kidney failure

8. Immunosuppressed state increases the risk  
for opportunistic and uncommon infections

9. Prolonged exposure to prophylactic antimicrobials

5. Significant drug toxicities and potent drug interactions

## **6. Antimicrobial resistance**

7. Difficulty with controlling the source of infection due to issues, such as thrombocytopenia

8. Prolonged duration of immunosuppressed state increases the risk for uncommon presentations of common and uncommon infections

9. Prolonged exposure to prophylactic antimicrobials

5. Significant drug toxicities and potent drug interactions

6. Antimicrobial resistance

**7. Difficulty with controlling the source of infection due to issues, such as thrombocytopenia**

8. Prolonged duration of immunosuppressed state increases the risk for uncommon presentations of common and uncommon infections

9. Prolonged exposure to prophylactic antimicrobials

20 years old, f, AML, HSCT  
Profound neutropenia for 2 months  
Car R *P. aeruginosa* BSI  
Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis  
***Geotrichum clavatum*** BSI  
*E. faecium* BSI

74 years old, m, MDS  
DM, chronic kidney injury  
Profound neutropenia  
Prolonged fever  
***Geotrichum capitata*** BSI

**8. Prolonged duration of immunosuppressed state increases the risk for uncommon presentations of common and uncommon infections**

9. Prolonged exposure to prophylactic antimicrobials

5. Significant drug toxicities and potent drug interactions

6. Antimicrobial resistance

7. Source of infection due to issues,

S Posaconazole prophylaxis

Micafungin for Candidiasis

8. Suppressed state increases the risk

for common and uncommon infections

**9. Prolonged exposure to prophylactic antimicrobials**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF  
ANTIMICROBIAL  
STEWARDSHIP STRATEGIES  
FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED  
HOSTS**

**WHAT ARE THE GENERAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS?**

# **1. Multidisciplinary approach**

2. Guidelines, protocols

3. Feed-back

4. Rapid diagnostic tests

5. Infection control

# Multidisciplinary Approach

REVIEW



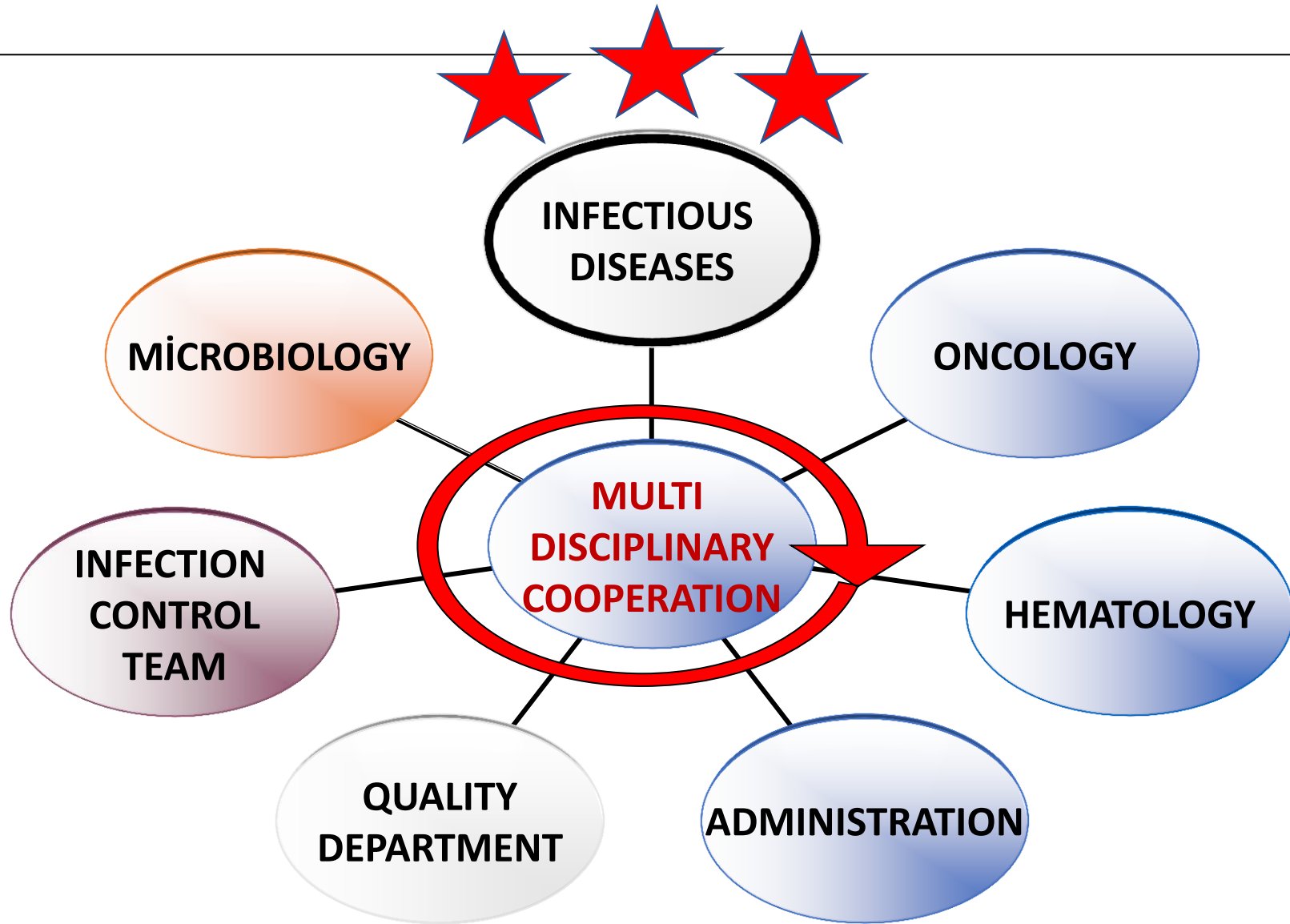
## **The impact of infectious diseases consultation on oncology practice**

---

*Bruno P. Granwehr<sup>a</sup> and Dimitrios P. Kontoyiannis<sup>b</sup>*

---

- Infectious diseases consultation results in improved outcomes in inpatient and outpatient settings.
- Mortality of *S. aureus* bacteremia and candidemia is reduced with infectious diseases consultation.
- Adherence with infectious diseases recommendations is associated with improved outcomes.
- Routine infectious diseases consultation for outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy is associated with more appropriate utilization of antibiotics, including discontinuation.
- Telephone, curbside, or other informal consultation is inferior to bedside consultation, resulting in increased mortality.



1. Multidisciplinary approach

## **2. Guidelines, protocols**

3. Feed-back

4. Rapid diagnostic tests

5. Infection control

# Algorithms, Protocols and Guidelines

Table 1. Principles of antimicrobial stewardship for hematology patients.

- The initiation of empirical antibiotic treatment should be prompted by fever and clinical signs, and not by C-reactive protein or other biomarkers, as studies of these have shown inconsistent results;<sup>10</sup> antibiotics should not be initiated on the basis of colonization by resistant organisms.
- Empirical antibiotic treatment should never be started or changed before taking at least two blood cultures, along with relevant specimens from the clinical site.

IDSA GUIDELINES

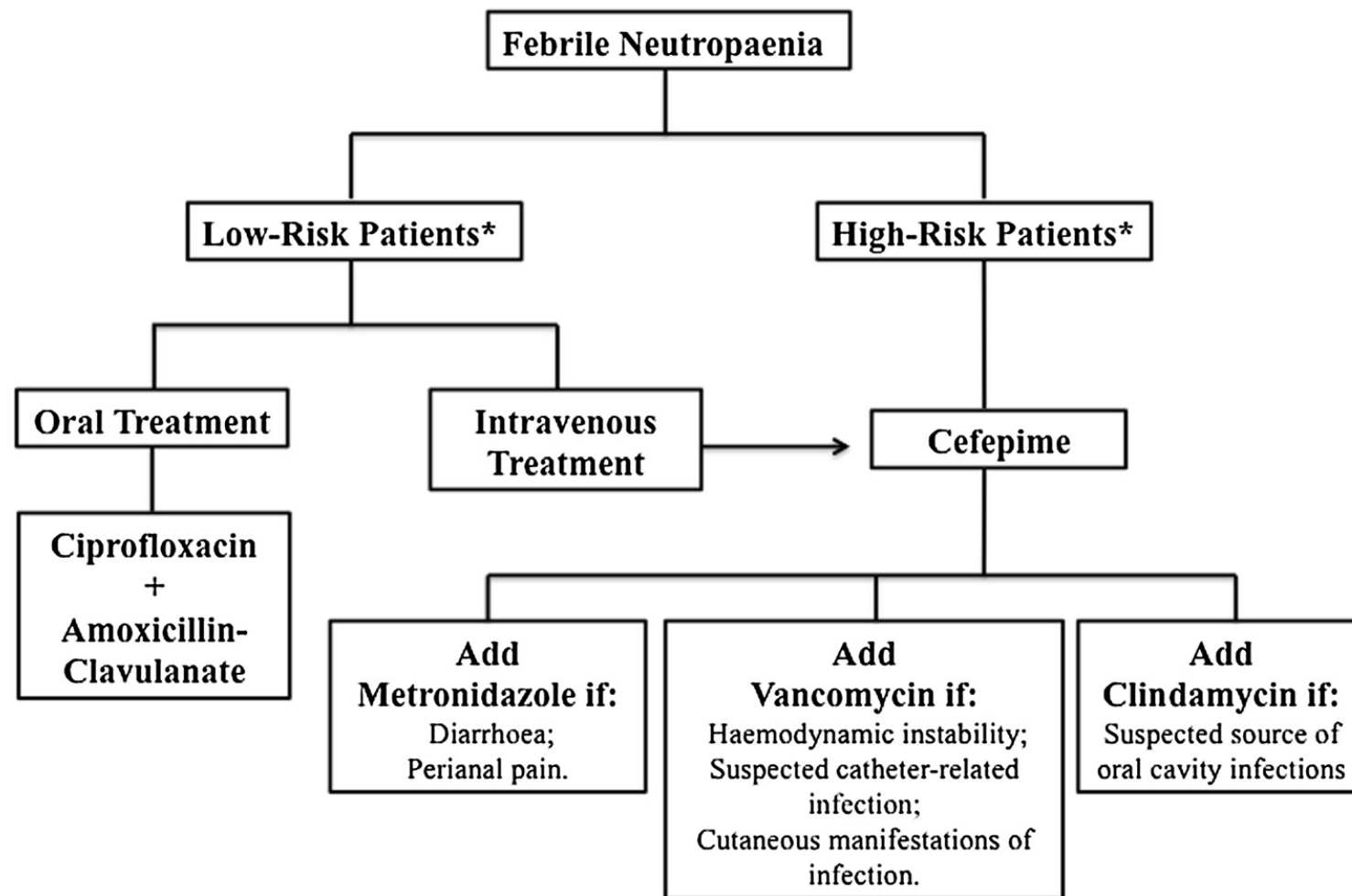
## Clinical Practice Guideline for the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Neutropenic Patients with Cancer: 2010 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America

**Alison G. Freifeld,<sup>1</sup> Eric J. Bow,<sup>9</sup> Kent A. Sepkowitz,<sup>2</sup> Michael J. Boeckh,<sup>4</sup> James I. Ito,<sup>5</sup> Craig A. Mullen,<sup>3</sup> Issam I. Raad,<sup>6</sup> Kenneth V. Rolston,<sup>6</sup> Jo-Anne H. Young,<sup>7</sup> and John R. Wingard<sup>8</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska; <sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York; <sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York; <sup>4</sup>Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research, Seattle, Washington; <sup>5</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, California; <sup>6</sup>Department of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas; <sup>7</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; <sup>8</sup>Division of Hematology/Oncology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida; and <sup>9</sup>Departments of Medical Microbiology and Internal Medicine, the University of Manitoba, and Infection Control Services, Cancer Care Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

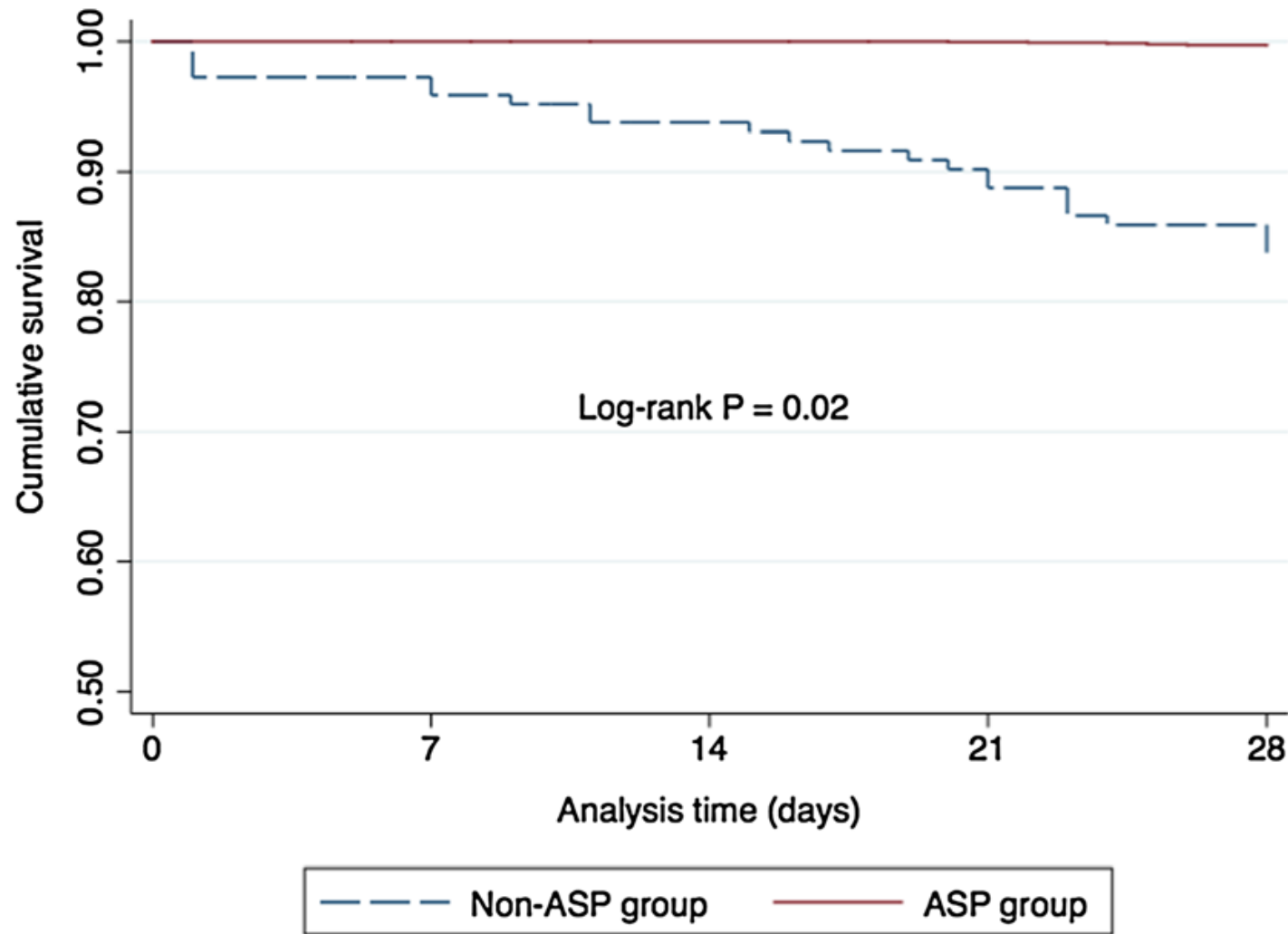
[Gyssens IC. ECIL-4. Haematologica. 2013;98\(12\):1821-5.](#)

IDSA Guideline. Clin Infect Dis. 2011;52(4):e56-93.



**Figure 1 Initial antimicrobial selection for the in-patient treatment of FN according to the ASP of the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre.**

\*High-risk patients = MASCC score < 21 points; Low-risk patients = MASCC score  $\geq$  21 points. Low-risk patients were treated with intravenous antibiotics if they had one or more of the following: presence of clinical comorbidities, FN after high-dose chemotherapy, expectation of duration of neutropenia > 7 days, documented infection, clinical instability (e.g. hypotension, acute respiratory failure, acute renal failure) and gastrointestinal intolerance (e.g. severe mucositis, vomiting). ASP, antimicrobial stewardship program; FN, febrile neutropaenia; MASCC, Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer.



**Figure 2** Kaplan–Meier curves of 28-day mortality according adherence to ASP after propensity score weighting.

1. Multidisciplinary approach

2. Guidelines, protocols

**3. Feed-back**

4. Rapid diagnostic tests

5. Infection control

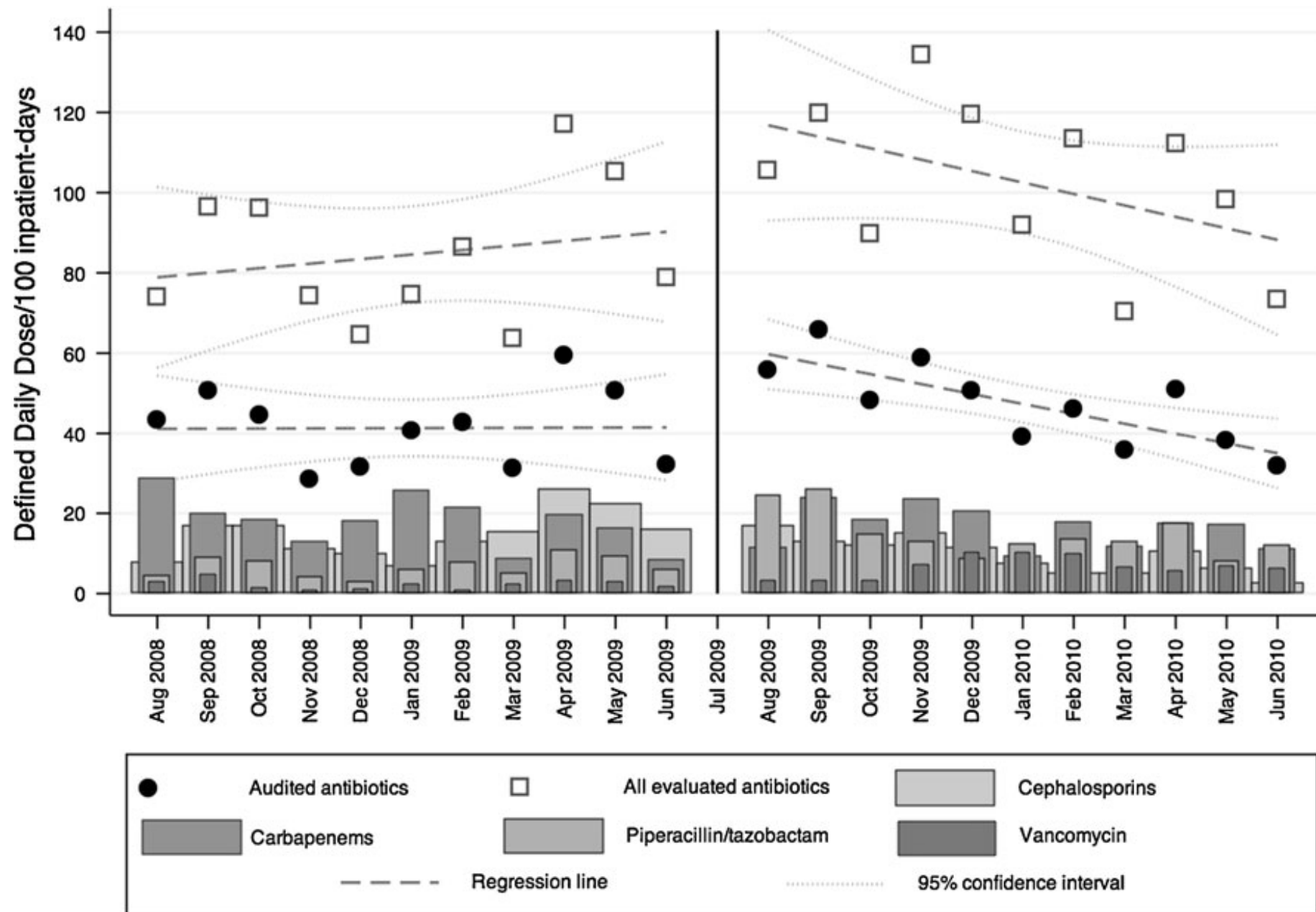
# Feed-back

- Local antimicrobial resistance rates
- Healthcare associated infections of hospital
- Feed back of infection control measures
  - Hand hygiene compliance
  - Isolation precautions adherence rates
- Reporting inappropriate antibiotic use

ARTICLE

# **Prospective audit and feedback on antibiotic prescription in an adult hematology-oncology unit in Singapore**

**C.-L. Yeo • D. S.-G. Chan • A. Earnest • T.-S. Wu •  
S.-F. Yeoh • R. Lim • R. Jureen • D. Fisher • L.-Y. Hsu**



**Fig. 2** Antibiotic prescription trends for National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) inpatients pre-intervention and post-antimicrobial stewardship program (ASP) implementation

1. Multidisciplinary approach

2. Guidelines, protocols

3. Feed-back

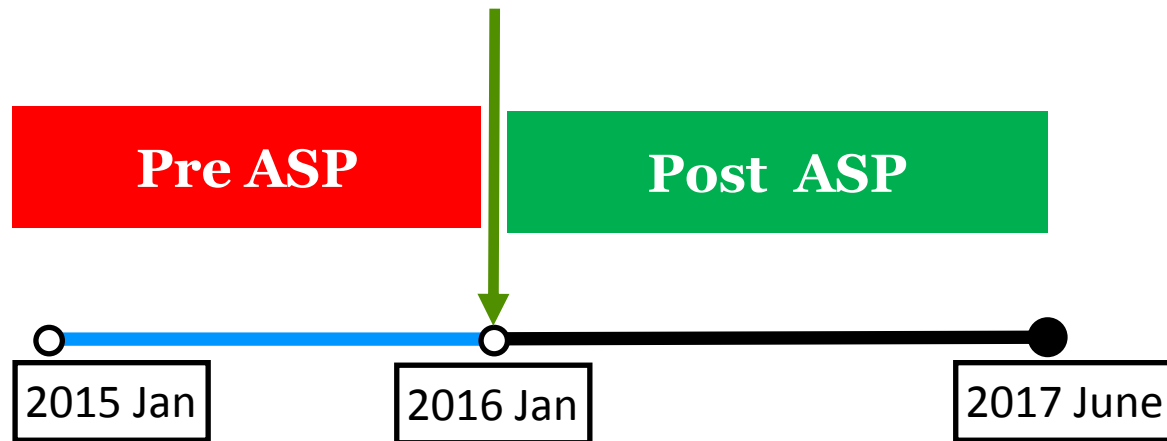
**4. Rapid diagnostic tests**

5. Infection control

# Rapid Diagnostic Tests

- PCR based tests
  - Respiratory system panel test
  - Gastrointestinal pathogen test
  - Blood PCR test for bacteremia
  - Rapid antibiotic resistance test
- Point-of-care tests

# Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme



## Clinical Pathway for Febrile Neutropenia

Cases

Fever (A single tympanic temperature measurement of  $\geq 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  or a temperature of  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$  sustained over a 1 hour period ) and neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count (ANC) of  $< 1,000$  cells/ $\text{mm}^3$  or an ANC that is expected to decrease to  $< 500$  cells /  $\text{mm}^3$  during the next 48 h)

On admission

- Don't enter in to the patient's room without mask.
- The **MASCC** (Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer) Score should be calculated and noted by the primary physician of the patient.
- Basic diagnostic tests: Complete blood count, CRP, procalcitonin, serum levels of liver enzymes, bilirubin and blood urea nitrogen, creatinine), blood culture (At least two sets) and if present from each lumen of the central venous catheter and chest X-ray.

First Step

- Appropriate empiric antibiotic therapy have to be initiated according to the patient's MASCC score
- **Low Risk** (MASCC $\geq 21$ ); If the patients is able to tolerate; oral **Ciprofloxacin + Amoxicillin-clavulanate**, if not, the patients are hospitalized and IV **ciprofloxacin + Ampicilline-sulbactam** treatment is started.
  - **High Risk** (MASCC $< 21$ ); IV **Piperacillin-tazobactam** or **Carbapenem** or **Ceftazidime** or **Cefepime**.

Second Step

- The initial empiric therapy could be change according to clinical condition and microbiological data.
- **Vancomycin** is not a standard part of empiric antibiotic therapy for fever and neutropenia. (These agents should be considered for special clinical indications, including suspected catheter – related infection, skin or soft tissue infection, pneumonia or hemodynamic instability).
- Add **metronidazole** for abdominal symptoms and signs or suspect of *C.difficile* infection
- Empiric antifungal coverage should be considered in high-risk patients who have persistent fever after 4–7 days of a broad-spectrum antibacterial regimen and with no identified fever source.

Third Step

- Initial antibiotic therapy can be prolonged if there is suspect of infection.
- In the absence of fever and no detection of microorganism, the antimicrobials should be discontinued after four days.

- Examine and re-image (CT-MR) for new or worsening sites of infection.
- Culture, biopsy, drain sites of worsening infection should assess.
- Antibiotic spectrum and dose should be re-evaluated.

- Observe 4-24 hours in clinic to ensure that empiric antibiotics are tolerated and patient remains stable prior to discharge for outpatient therapy.

	Total n=95 (%)	Pre-ASP n=50	Post-ASP n=45	p
Mean age (sd; min-max)	57 (15; 21-82)	57 (17; 18-82)	56 (15; 21-84)	0.781
Number of FN attacks per patient (min-max)	1.6 (1-5)	1.63 (1-5)	1.57 (1-4)	0.725
Duration of neutropenia per FN attack	4.2	4.9	3.5	0.1
Diagnosis				
Leukemia	35 (37)	22 (44)	13 (29)	0.127
Lymphoma	26 (27)	12 (24)	14 (31)	0.437
Multiple Myeloma	6 (6)	3 (6)	3 (6)	0.893
Solid tumors	4 (4)	2 (4)	2 (4)	0.914
MASCC < 21 (high risk)	81 (85)	45 (90)	36 (80)	0.352
Fatality	20 (21)	15 (30)	5 (11)	0.024

	Pre-ASP	Post-ASP	p
	Appropriateness/FN attack (%)	Appropriateness/FN attack (%)	
Appropriateness of antimicrobials			
Appropriate empirical use (first step)	60/78 (77)	52/71 (73)	0.603
Appropriate adding or changing antimicrobial (second step)	19/36 (53)	35/43 (81)	0.006
Appropriate continuation or de- escalation or discontinuation (third step)	32/60 (53)	60/71 (85)	<0.001

	FN attacks    n=152	Pre-ASP    n=81 (%)	Post-ASP    n=71 (%)	p
Gram positive bacteria	26	19(23)	7(10)	0.020
<i>Staphylococcus</i> spp	24	18(22)	6(8)	0.020
Methicillin resistance	15	12 (67)	3 (50)	0.025
<i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	2	1 (1)	1(1)	0.925
Gram negative bacteria	50	35(43)	15(20)	0.003
<i>E. coli</i>	19	12(15)	7(10)	0.357
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	16	11(14)	5(7)	0.190
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	10	8(10)	2(3)	0.080
<i>Acinetobacter</i>	3	2(2)	1(1)	0.639
<i>Salmonella</i>	1	1(1)	0(0)	0.348
<i>K. oxytoca</i>	1	1(1)	0(0)	0.348
Carbapenem resistance	12	11 (31)	1 (7)	0.005
Fungal agents				
Candida	26	16(20)	10(14)	0.354
Total	102	70(86)	32(45)	0.003

- After implementation of ASP, case fatality rate among the patients with FN decreased.
- Appropriate antimicrobial use increased and overall antimicrobial consumption was reduced.
- Bacterial infections and Candida infections decreased.

1. Multidisciplinary approach

2. Guidelines, protocols

3. Feed-back

4. Rapid diagnostic tests

**5. Infection control**

# Infection Control

Review



## Infection control issues in patients with haematological malignancies in the era of multidrug-resistant bacteria

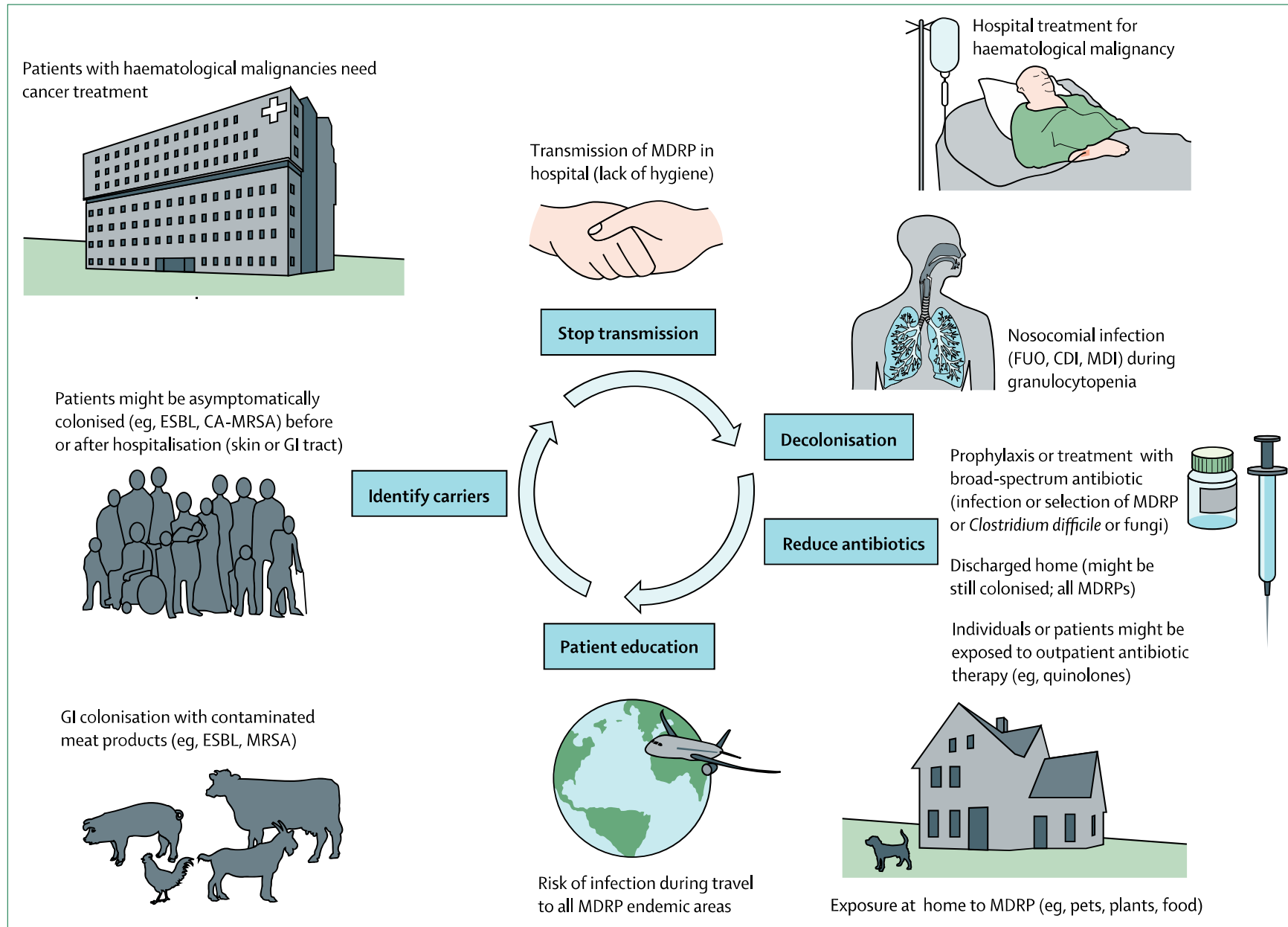


Markus Ruhnke, Renate Arnold, Petra Gastmeier

Drug-resistant Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria are now increasingly identified as a cause of infections in immunocompromised hosts. Bacteria identified include the multidrug-resistant (MDR) and even pandrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, as well as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae spp. The threat from MDR pathogens has been well-documented in the past decade with warnings about the consequences of inappropriate use of antimicrobial drugs. Resistant bacteria can substantially complicate the treatment of infections in critically ill patients and can have a substantial effect on mortality. Inappropriate antimicrobial treatment can affect morbidity, mortality, and overall health-care costs. Evidence-based data for prevention and control of MDR pathogen infections in haematology are scarce. Although not yet established a bundle of infection control and prevention measures with an anti-infective stewardship programme is an important strategy in infection control, diagnosis, and antibiotic selection with optimum regimens to ensure a successful outcome for patients.

*Lancet Oncol* 2014; 15: e606–19

Department of Hematology and Oncology, Paracelsus-Hospital Osnabrück, Germany (Prof M Ruhnke MD); Medical Department, Division of Haematology, Oncology and Tumour Immunology, Charité Campus Virchow Klinikum (Prof R Arnold MD); and Medical Department, Division of Haematology, Oncology and Tumour Immunology, Charité



**Figure 1: Settings contributing to transmission of MDR pathogens in patients with haematological malignancies, and infection control interventions**

MDRP=multidrug-resistant pathogen. ESBL=extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamase. CA-MRSA=community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

GI=gastro-intestinal. FUO=fever of unknown origin. CDI=clinically defined infection. MDI=microbiologically documented infection.

# In Conclusion

A very special and critical population.

Early diagnosis, early microbiological analysis, early treatment is life saving

Multi-disciplinary approach and collaboration

Protocols, algorithms, adherence to guideline and feedback increase appropriate antimicrobial use.

