

# Understanding antibiotic PK/PD profiles to optimize patient outcomes

**Paul M. Tulkens, MD, PhD \***



Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology & Center for Clinical Pharmacy  
Louvain Drug Research Institute, Catholic University of Louvain  
Brussels, Belgium



International Society of antiinfective Pharmacology

PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group of the  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



**7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Respiratory Tract Infections Forum  
Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam**

*With thanks to Françoise Van Bambeke, Johan Mouton and Gunnar Kahlmeter and colleagues from ISAP for slides, discussions and help*



**With approval of the Belgian Ethical Healthplatform – visa no. 13/V1/4806/049703**

# Disclosures

Financial support from

- the Belgian *Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique* for basic research on pharmacology antibiotics and related topics
- *Université catholique de Louvain* for personal support
- Commercial Relationships:
  - AstraZeneca, GSK, Sanofi-Aventis, Bayer HealthCare, Cempra Pharmaceuticals, The Medicines Company, Northern Antibiotics, Vetoquinol
- Other relationships in relation to this talk
  - Belgian Antibiotic Policy Coordination Committee,
  - Belgian Transparency and Reimbursement Committees
  - Participation to EMA expert meetings for novel antibiotics and as Industry supporting expert for assessment of toxicity of older ones

# What is an anti-infective drug ?



**Paul Ehrlich and Sahachiro Hata  
looking for "Therapia sterilisans magna"  
(a treatment that could kill pathogens)  
and discoverers of Salvarsan®**

**THE LANCET, AUGUST 16, 1913.**

---

---

Address in Pathology  
ON

**CHEMOTHERAPEUTICS:**

SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES, METHODS, AND RESULTS.

*Delivered before the Seventeenth International Congress  
of Medicine*

BY WIRKL. GEH. OBER-MED.-RAT PROFESSOR  
DR. PAUL EHRLICH,

DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL THERAPY,  
FRANKFURT AM M.

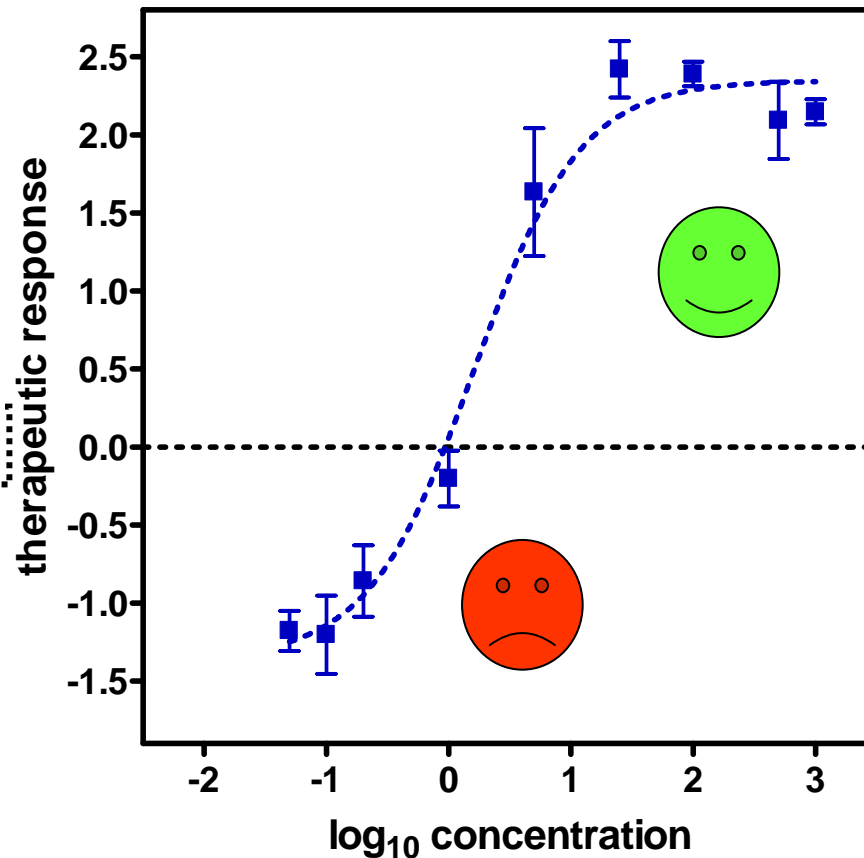
**THE THERAPIA STERILISANS MAGNA.**

The therapia sterilisans magna consists in this, that by means of one or at most two injections the body is freed from the parasites. In experiments on animals, and also in the case of a series of important maladies, this principle can be carried through in a clear and pure manner. Here, therefore, the old therapeutic remedy is applicable:

*“Frapper fort et frapper vite.”*

# A simple pharmacological concept...

The dose must be adapted to the goal...



Point of equilibrium

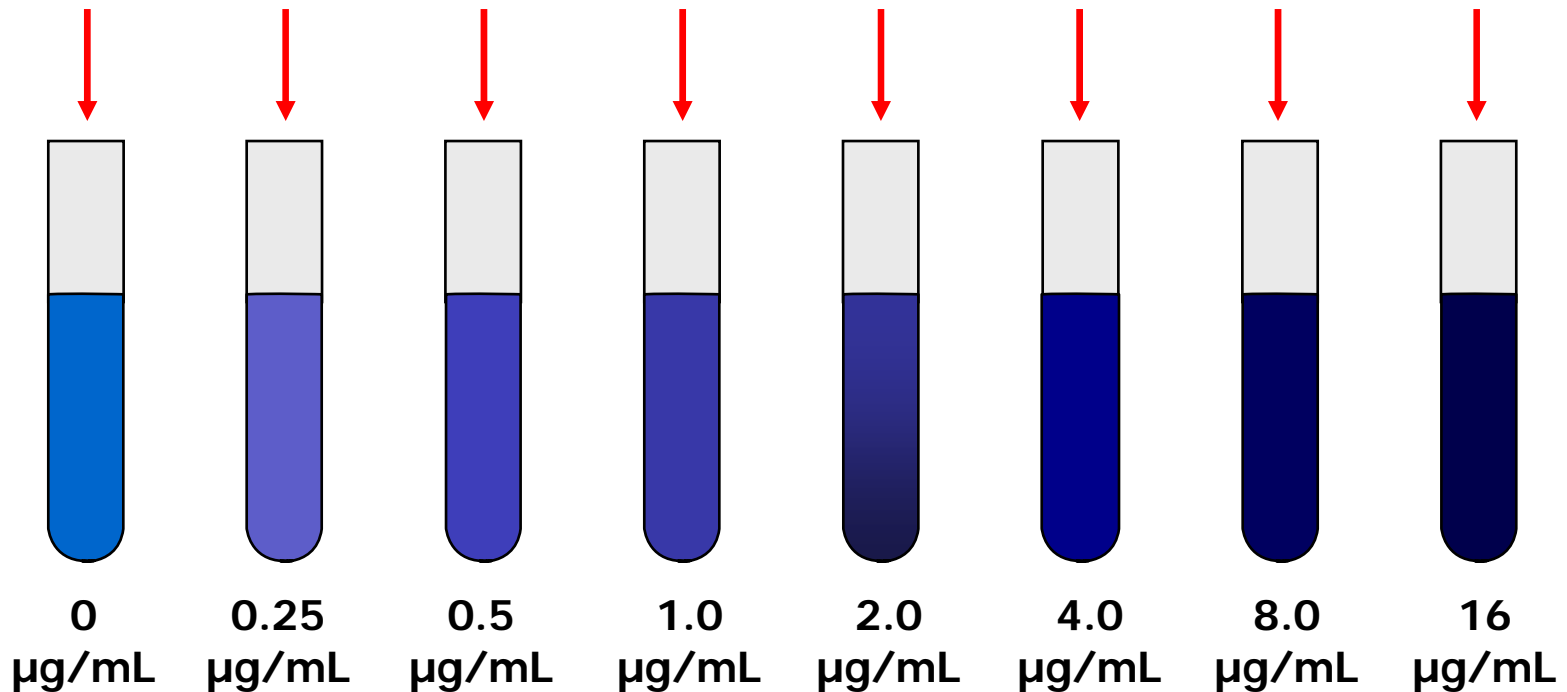
Improving situation

Worsening situation

# In a nutshell...

The target is the bacteria = MIC

Known quantity of bacteria placed into each tube



Increasing antibiotic concentration

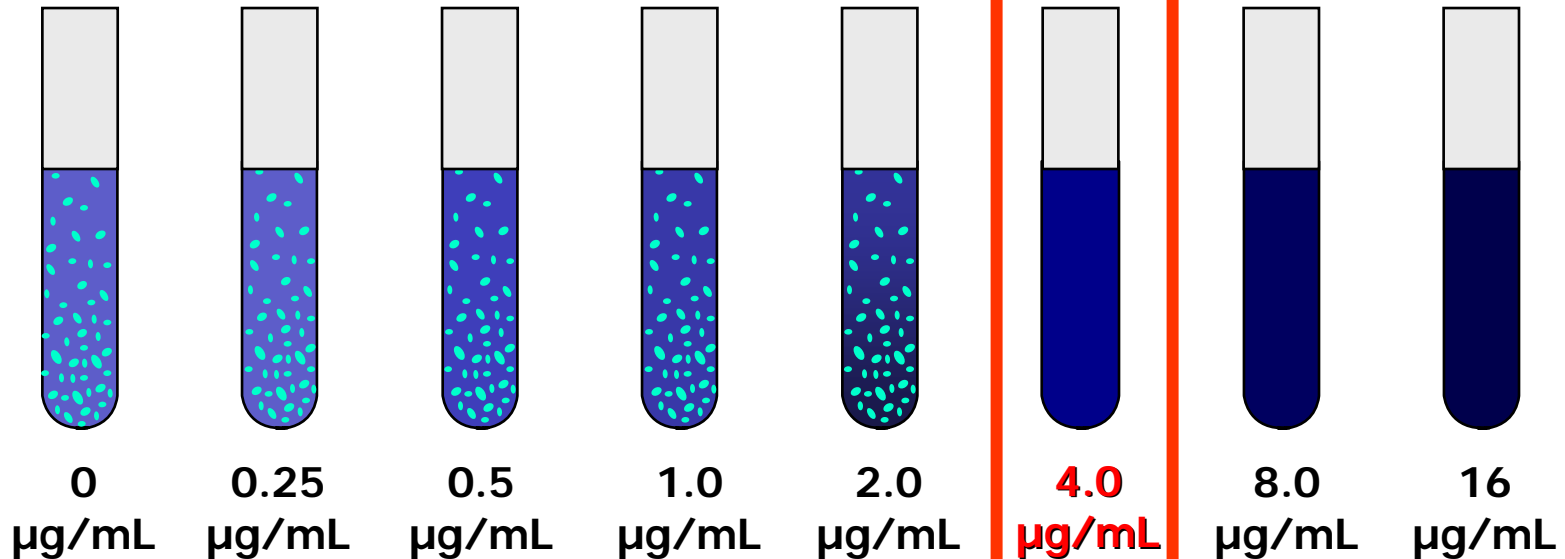


# In a nutshell...

The target is the bacteria = MIC

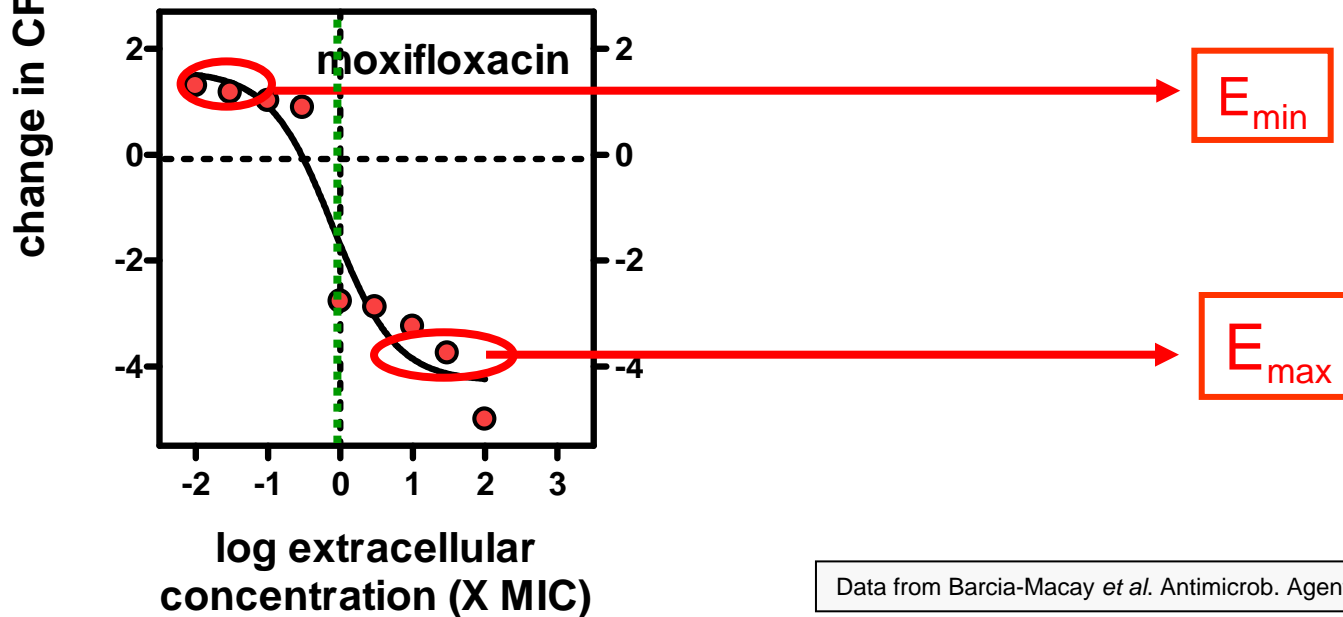
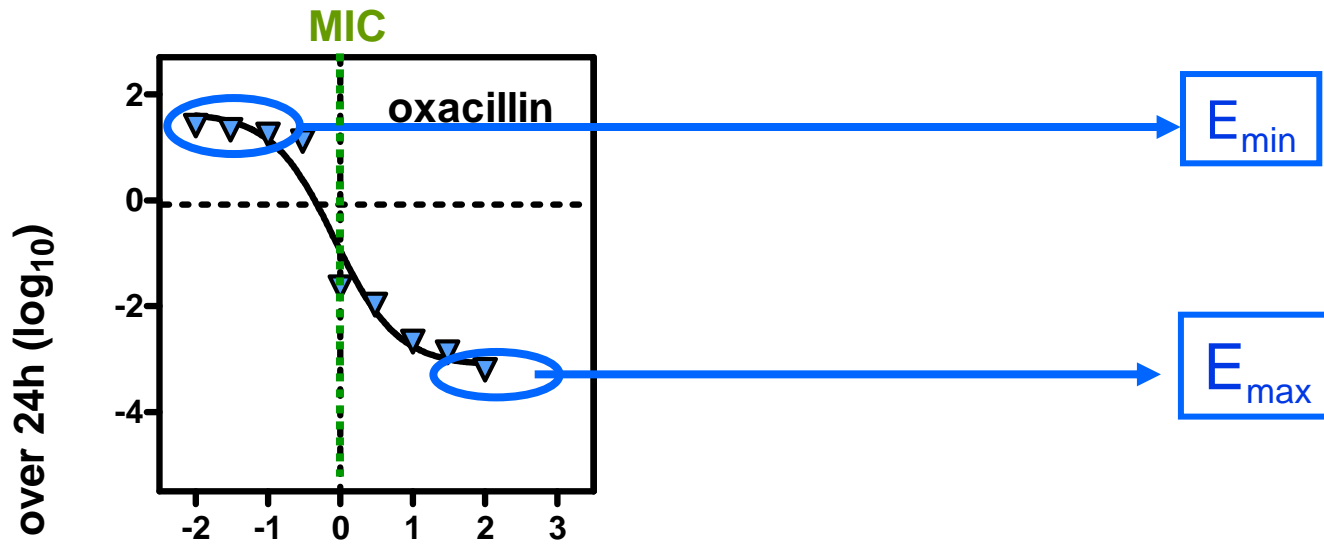
24h later...

Lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that results in the inhibition of visible growth of a microorganism



# What is the relationship between MIC and effect?

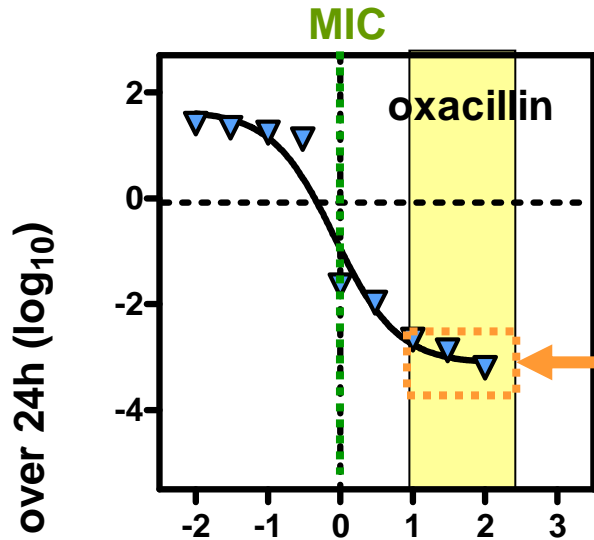
*S. aureus*



Data from Barcia-Macay *et al.* Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. (2006) 50:841-851

# But here comes pharmacokinetics ...

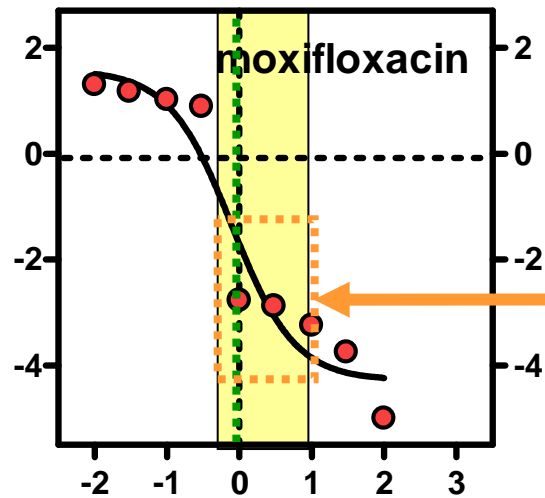
*S. aureus*



Weak concentration-dependence (max. effect) over the  $C_{\min}$ - $C_{\max}$  range

→ TIME will emerge as the main parameter in vivo

$C_{\min}$ - $C_{\max}$



high concentration-dependence over the  $C_{\min}$ - $C_{\max}$  range

→ CONCENTRATION will emerge as an important parameter in vivo

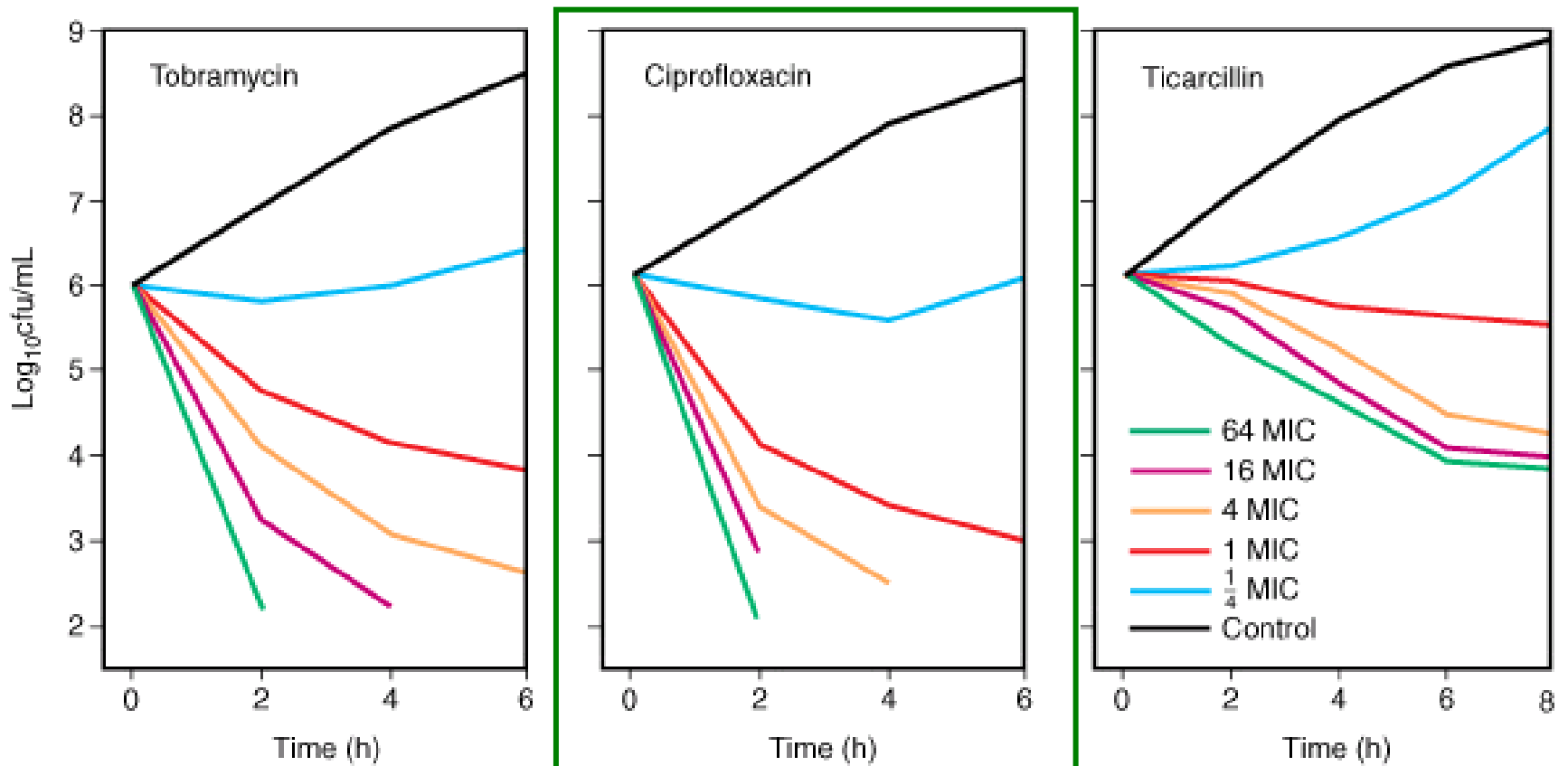
- data from Barcia-Macay *et al.* Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. (2006) 50:841-851
- $C_{\min}$ - $C_{\max}$ : Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 7th Ed. Mandell *et al.* eds., Elsevier





# A further comparison: in vitro kill curves

conc. dependent



Copyright © 2005, 2004, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1979 by Elsevier Inc.

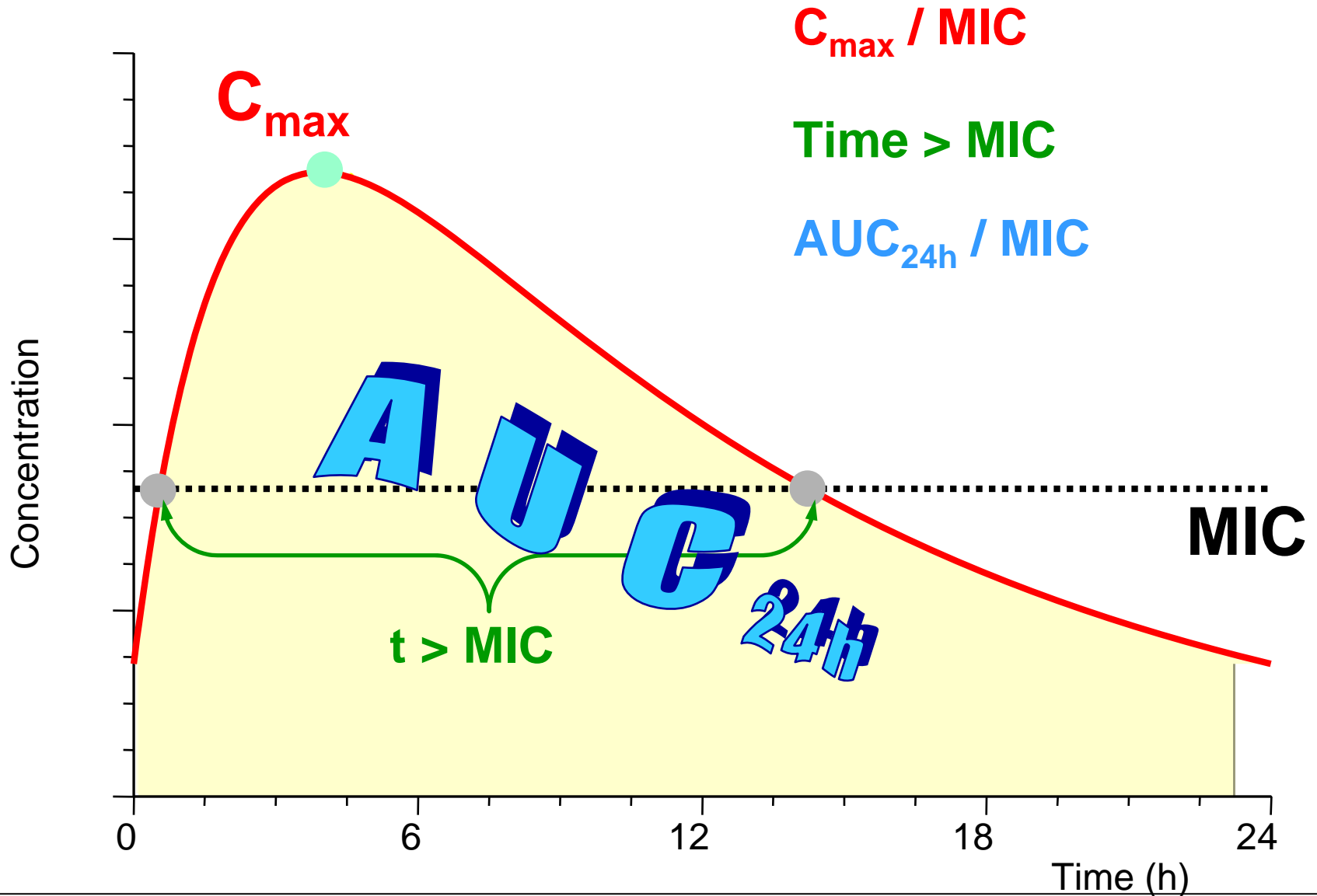
Time kill curves for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853 with exposure to tobramycin, ciprofloxacin, and ticarcillin at concentrations from one fourth to 64 times the minimum inhibitory concentration.  
(From Craig WA, Ebert SC. Killing and regrowth of bacteria in vitro: A review. Scand J Infect Dis. 1990;74:63–70.)

# First conclusions

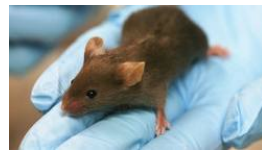
Considering their pharmacokinetics in humans

- $\beta$ -lactams appear as **"time-dependent"** antibiotics because their serum concentrations is almost always  $>$  MICs ...  
if you administer them several times a day (most have only short serum half-lives)
- Fluroquinolones (and aminoglycosides) are primarily **"concentration-dependent"** antibiotics as their bactericidal effect increases in proportion to their  $C_{\max}/\text{MIC}$  ratio.

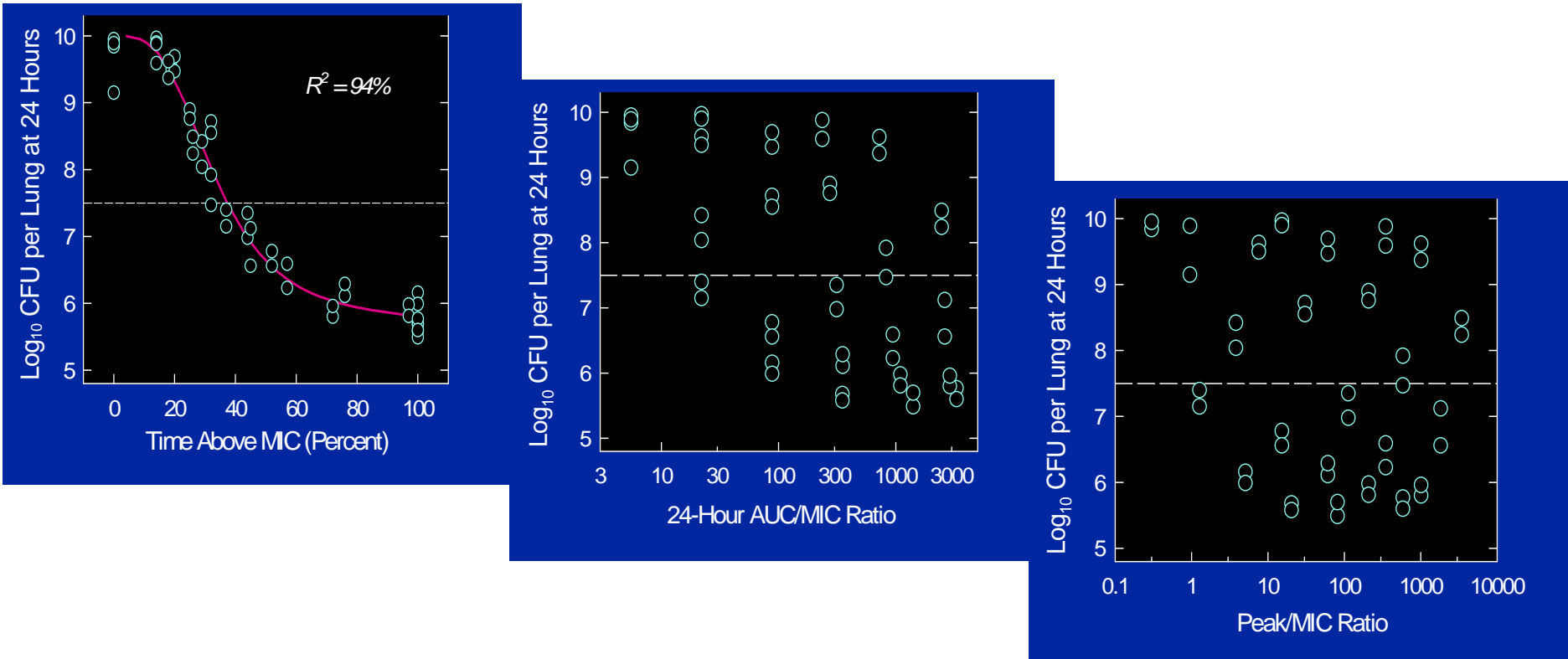
# Moving to actual conditions of use



# PK/PD in animals: $\beta$ -lactams

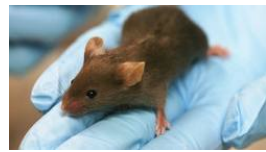


## 1. For $\beta$ -lactams, time > MIC is the only key index for efficacy

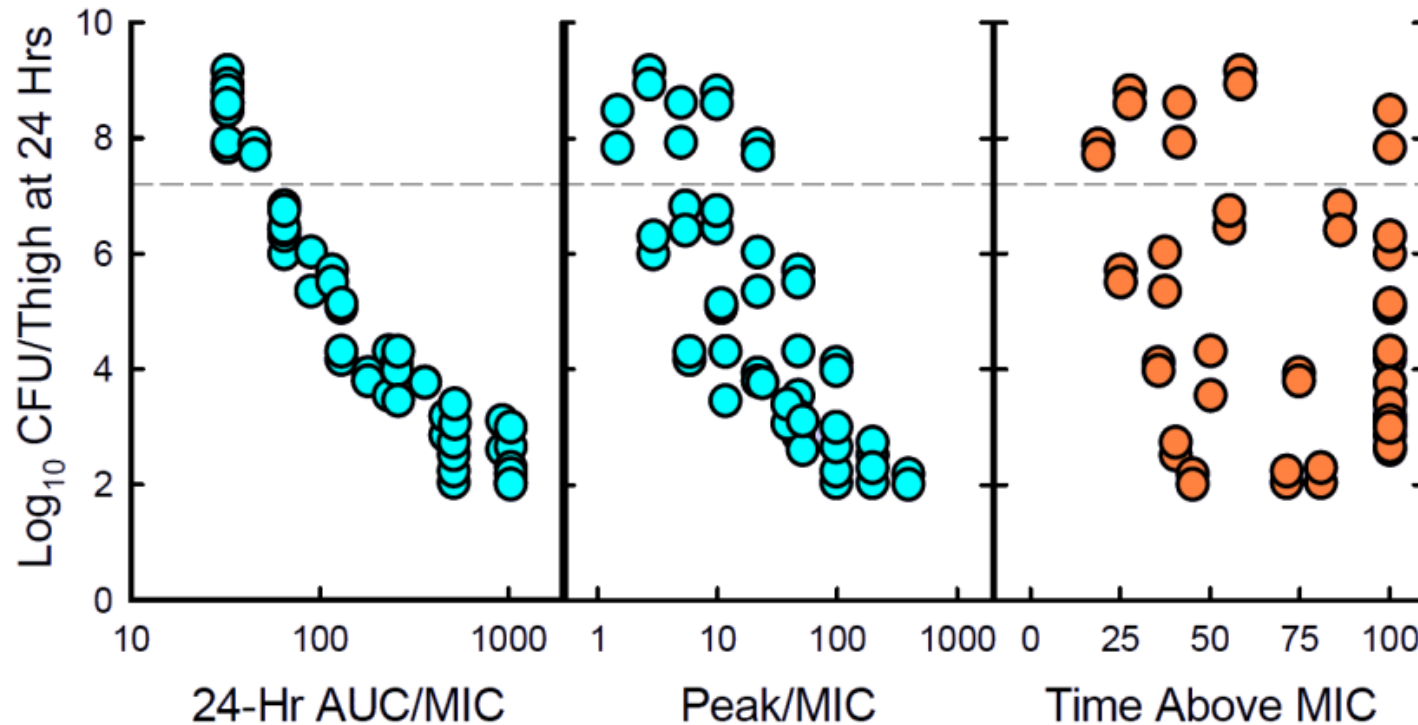


Correlation of PK/PD Indices with Efficacy of Cefotaxime against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in a Murine Pneumonia Model (W.A. Craig – ISAP workshop – Stockholm, Sweden, 2000)

# PK/PD in animals: fluoroquinolones

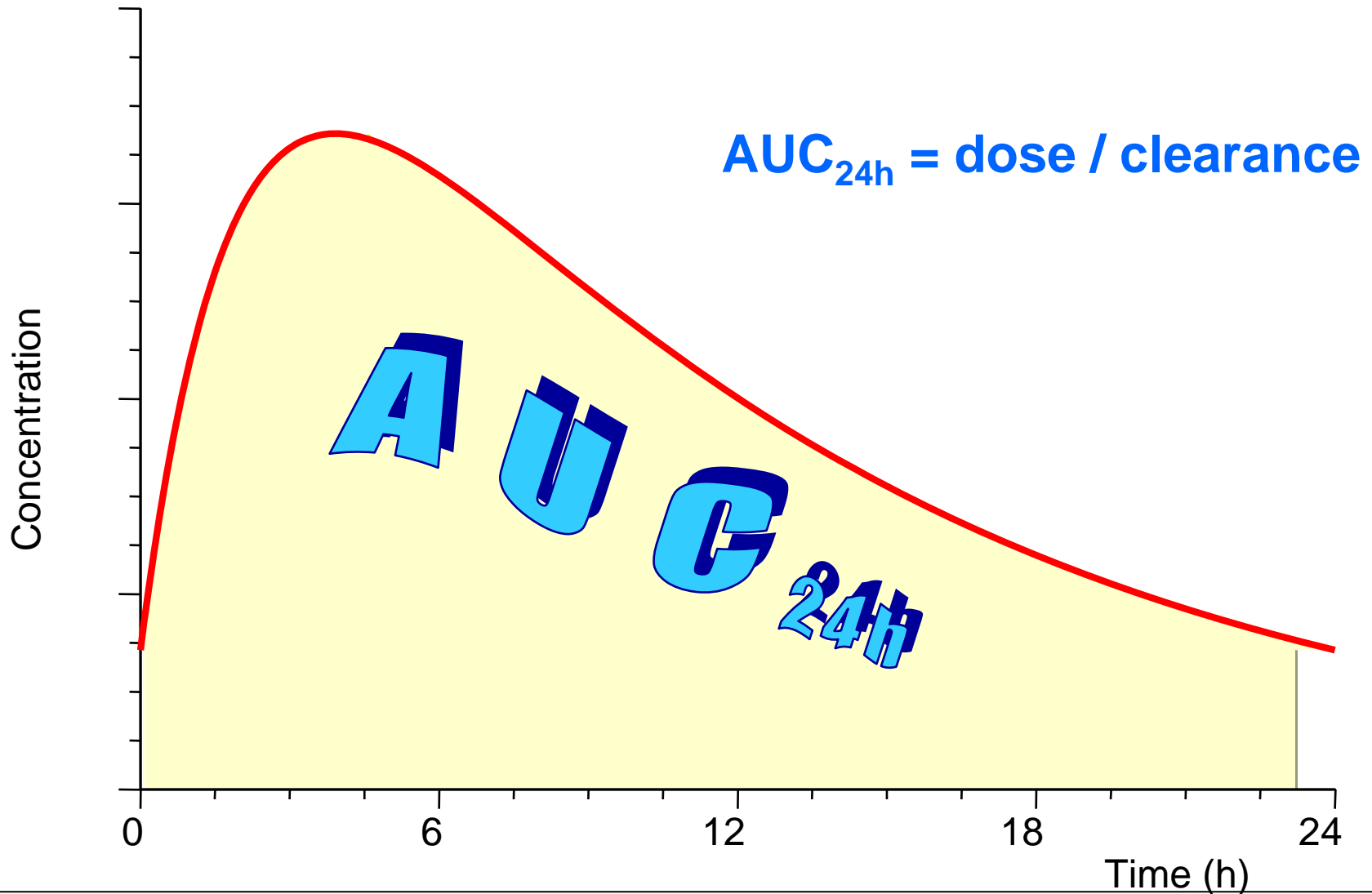


2. For fluoroquinolones, both  $AUC_{24h}/MIC$  and  $C_{max}$  emerge as key indices



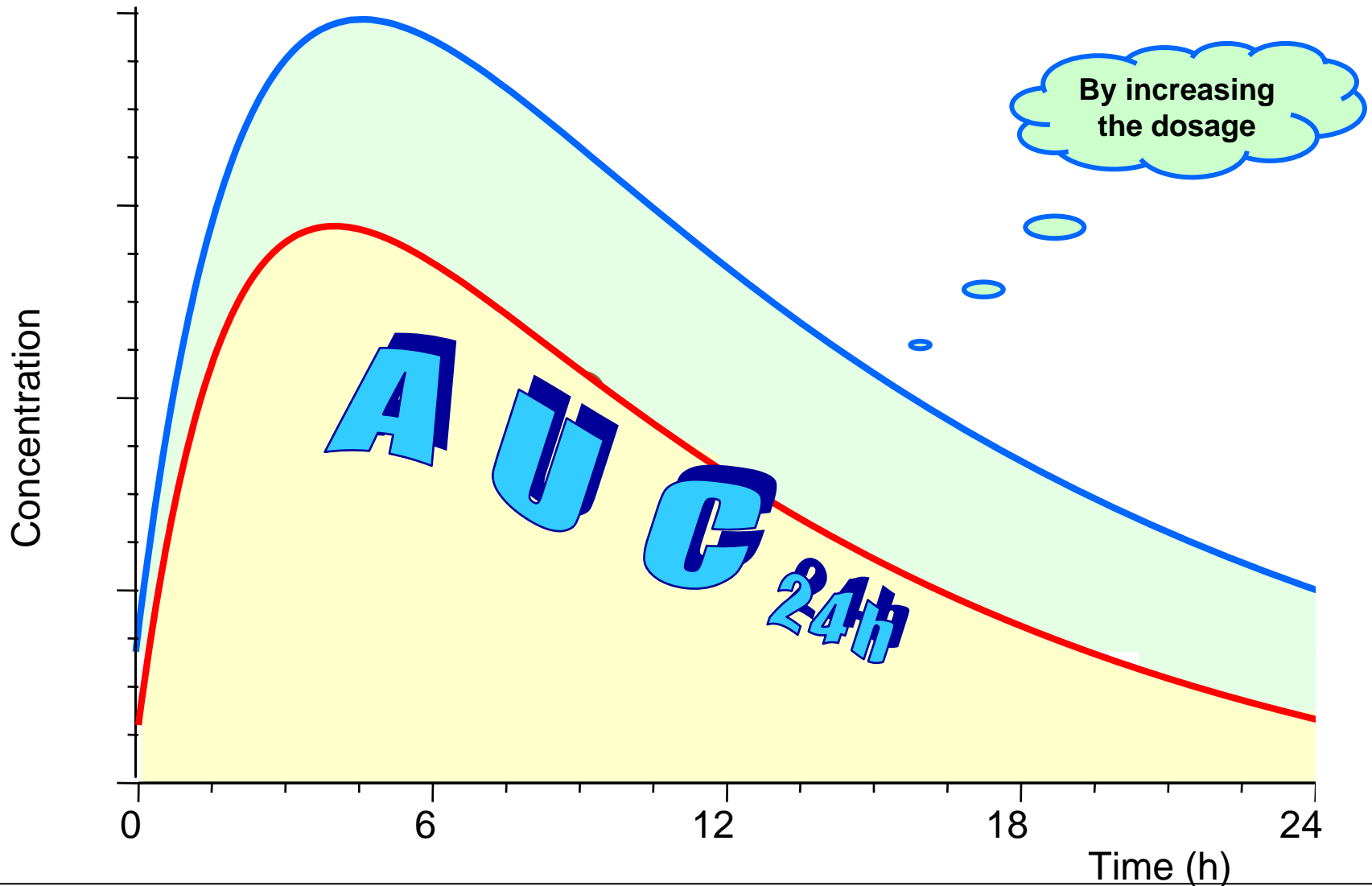
Correlation of PK/PD Indices with Efficacy of Levofloxacin against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in Thighs of Neutropenic Mice  
(W.A. Craig – ISAP workshop – ICAAC 2009)

# What is an $AUC_{24h}$ ?



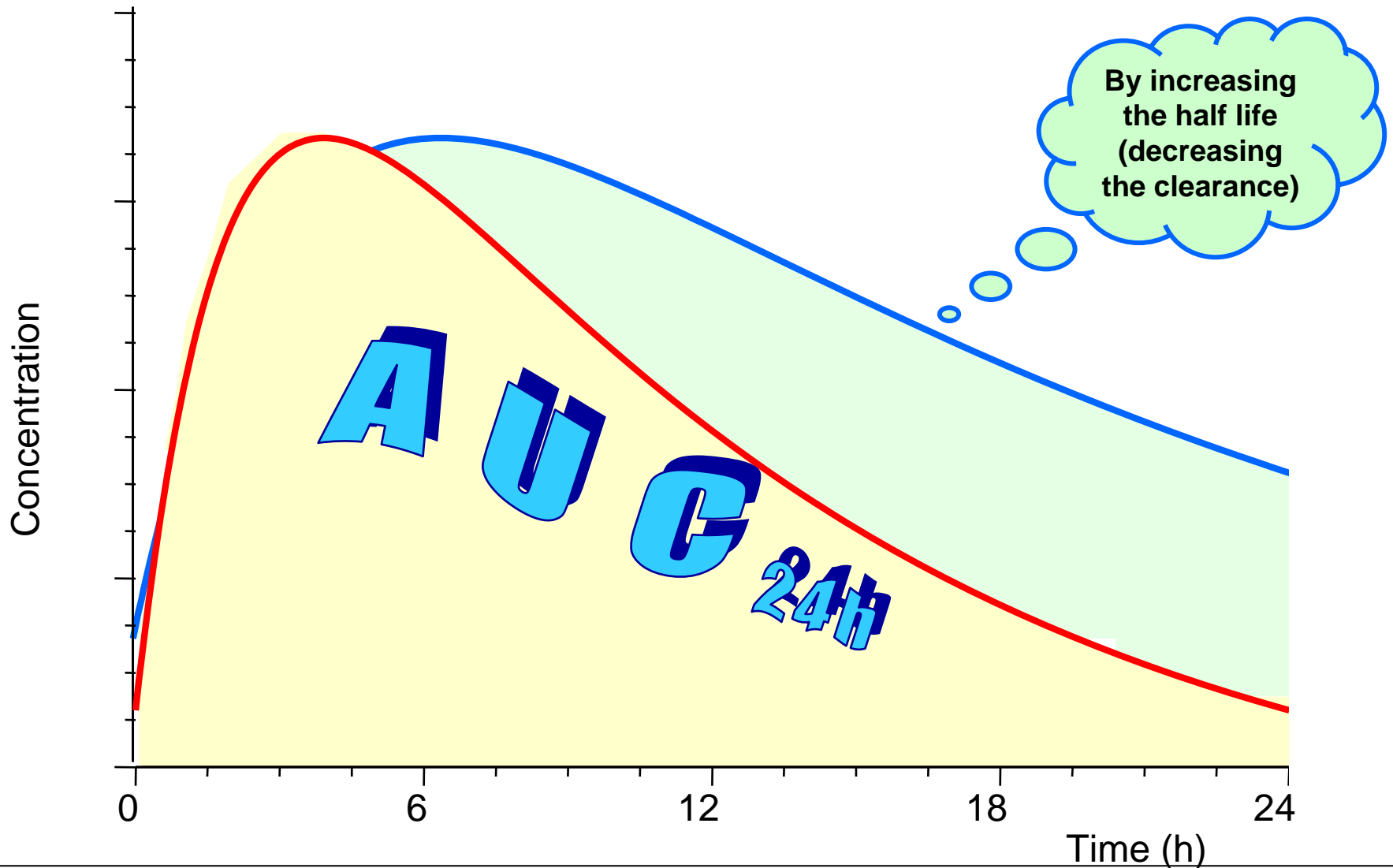
# How do I get a larger $AUC_{24h}$ ?

$$AUC_{24h} = \text{dose} / \text{clearance}$$



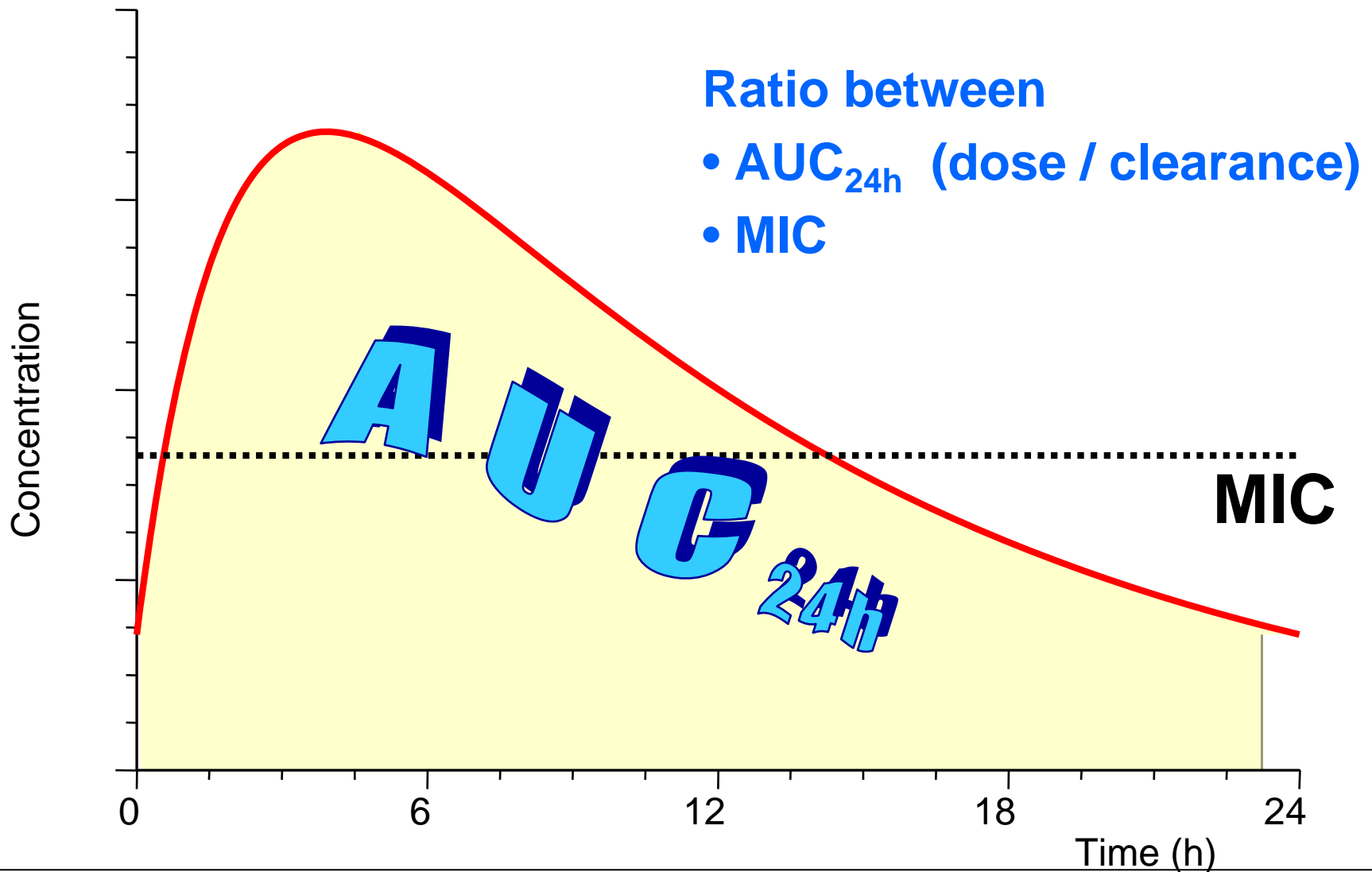
# How do I get a larger $AUC_{24h}$ ?

$$AUC_{24h} = \text{dose} / \text{clearance}$$

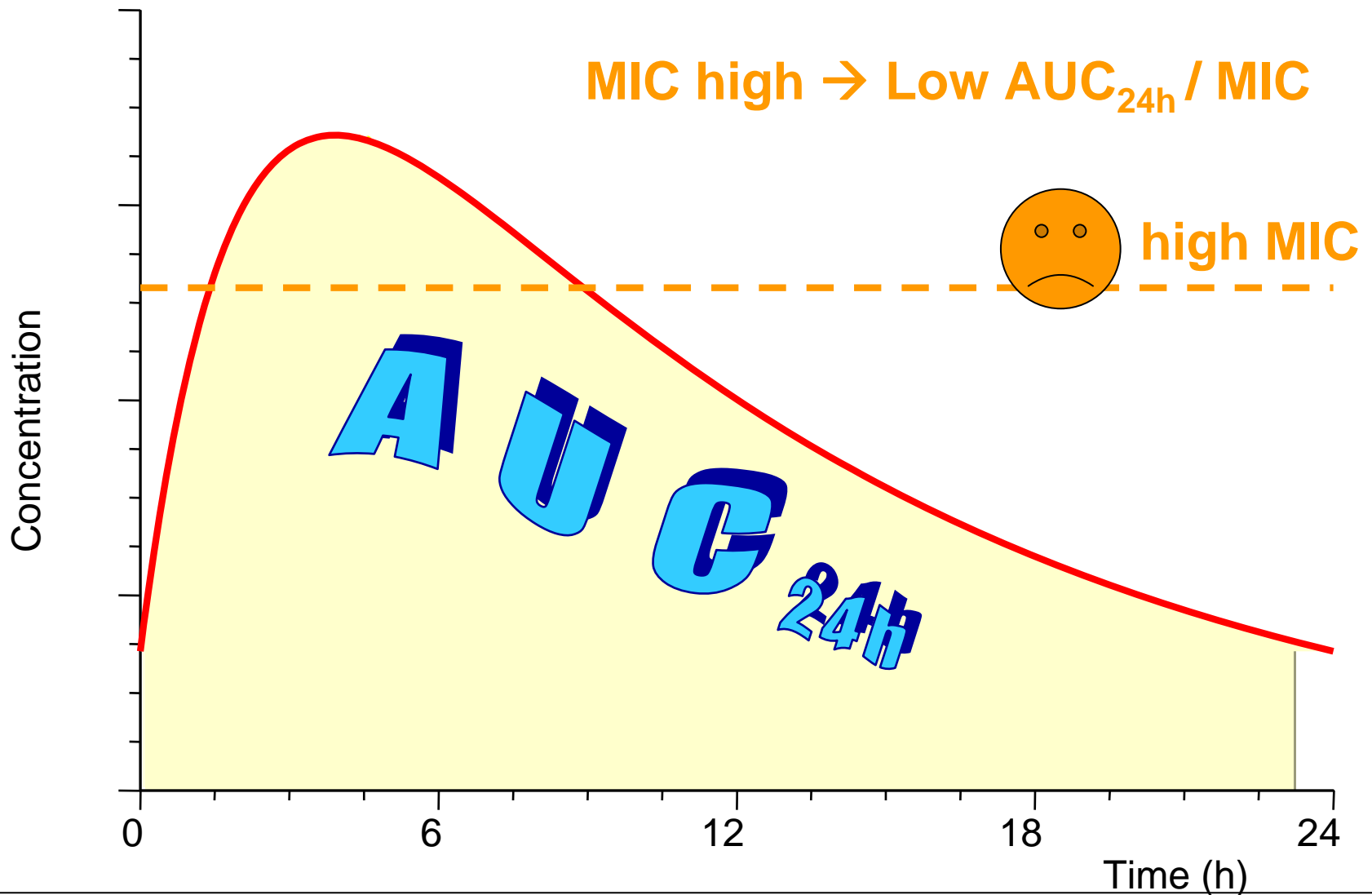




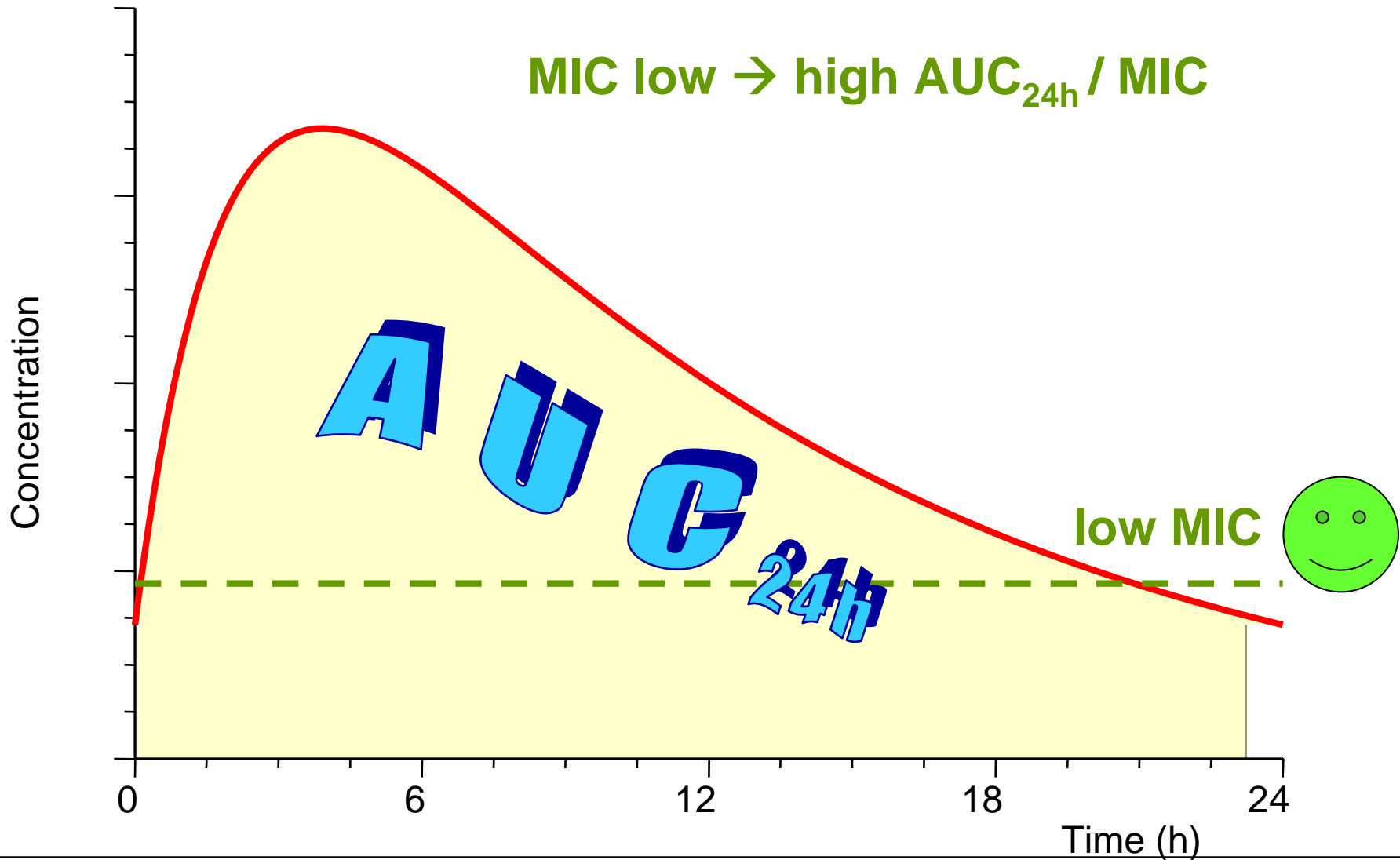
# What is an $AUC_{24h}$ / MIC ?



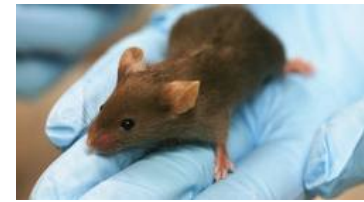
# What is an $AUC_{24h} / MIC$ ?



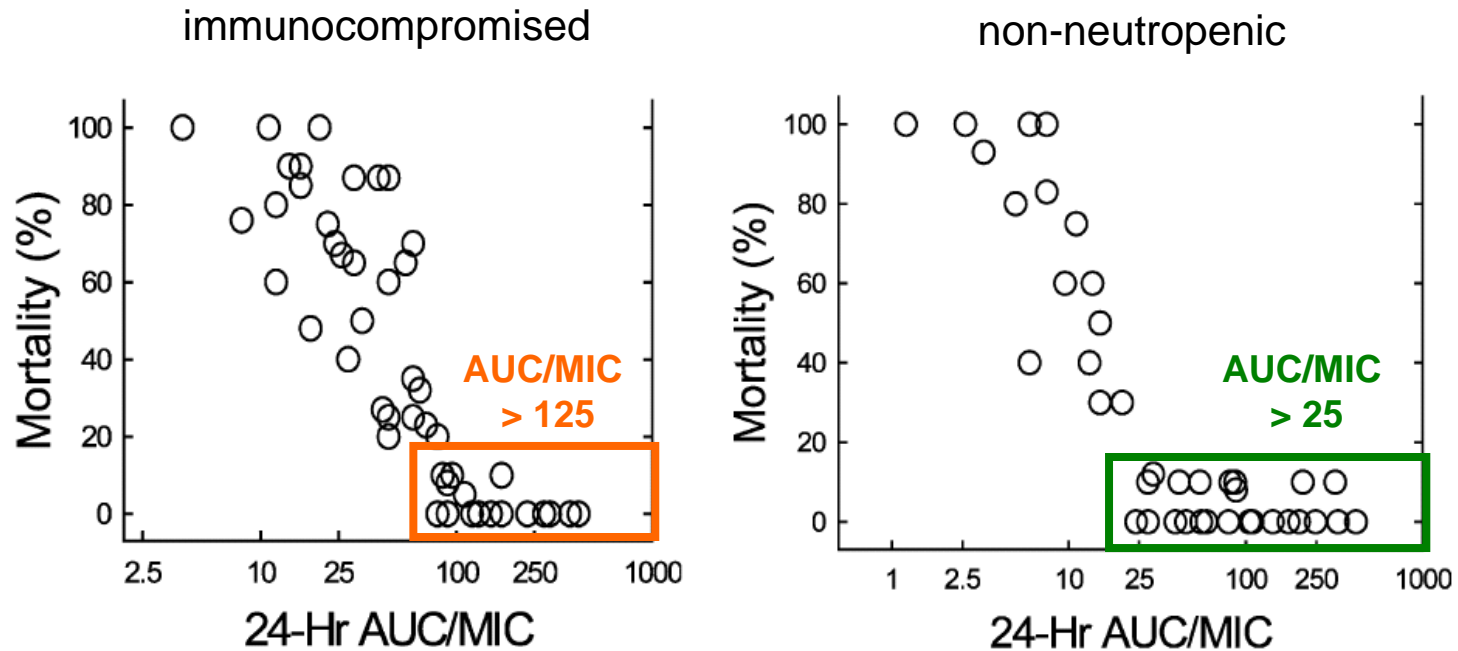
# What is an $AUC_{24h}$ ?



# PK/PD in animals

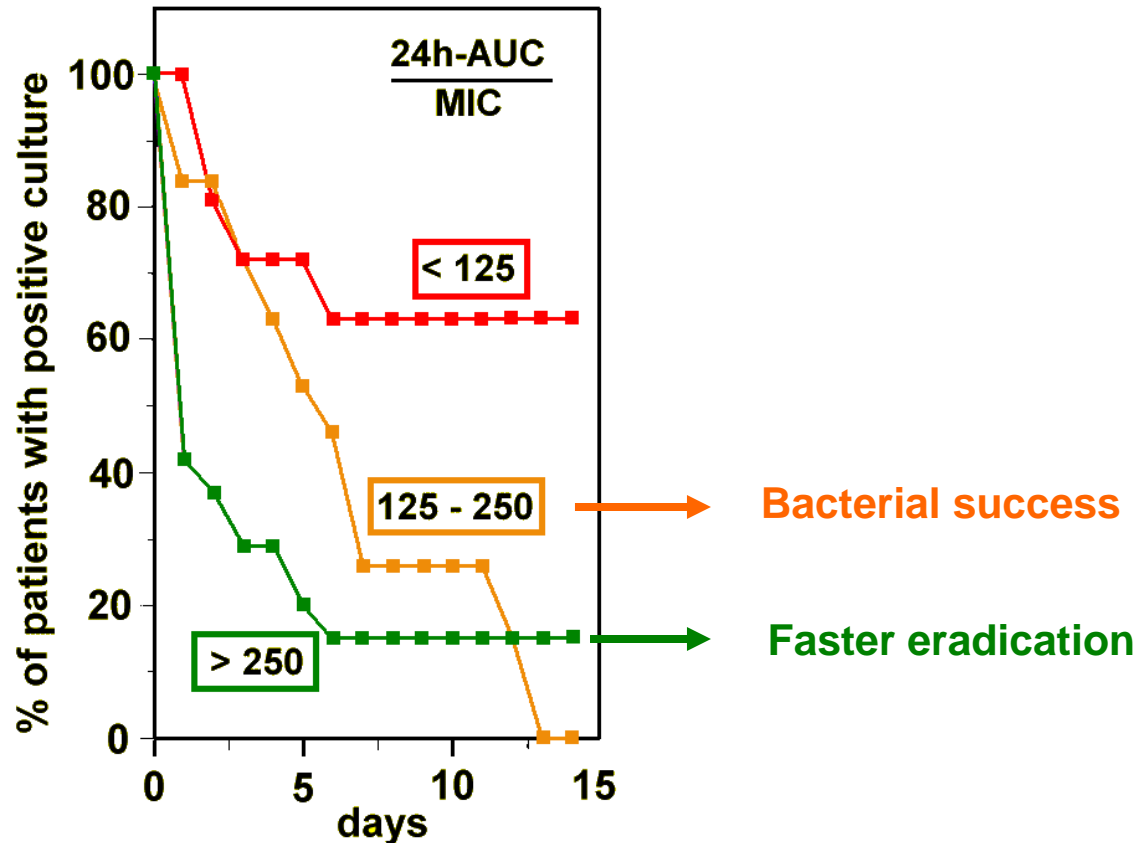


Immune status influences the magnitude of the PK/PD index required for efficacy



Relationships between mortality at the end of therapy and the 24 h AUC/MIC of fluoroquinolones with multiple pathogens (left panel) in different animal models (mostly immunocompromised) and with *S. pneumoniae* in non-neutropenic models (right panel).

# AUC<sub>24h</sub>/MIC in patients

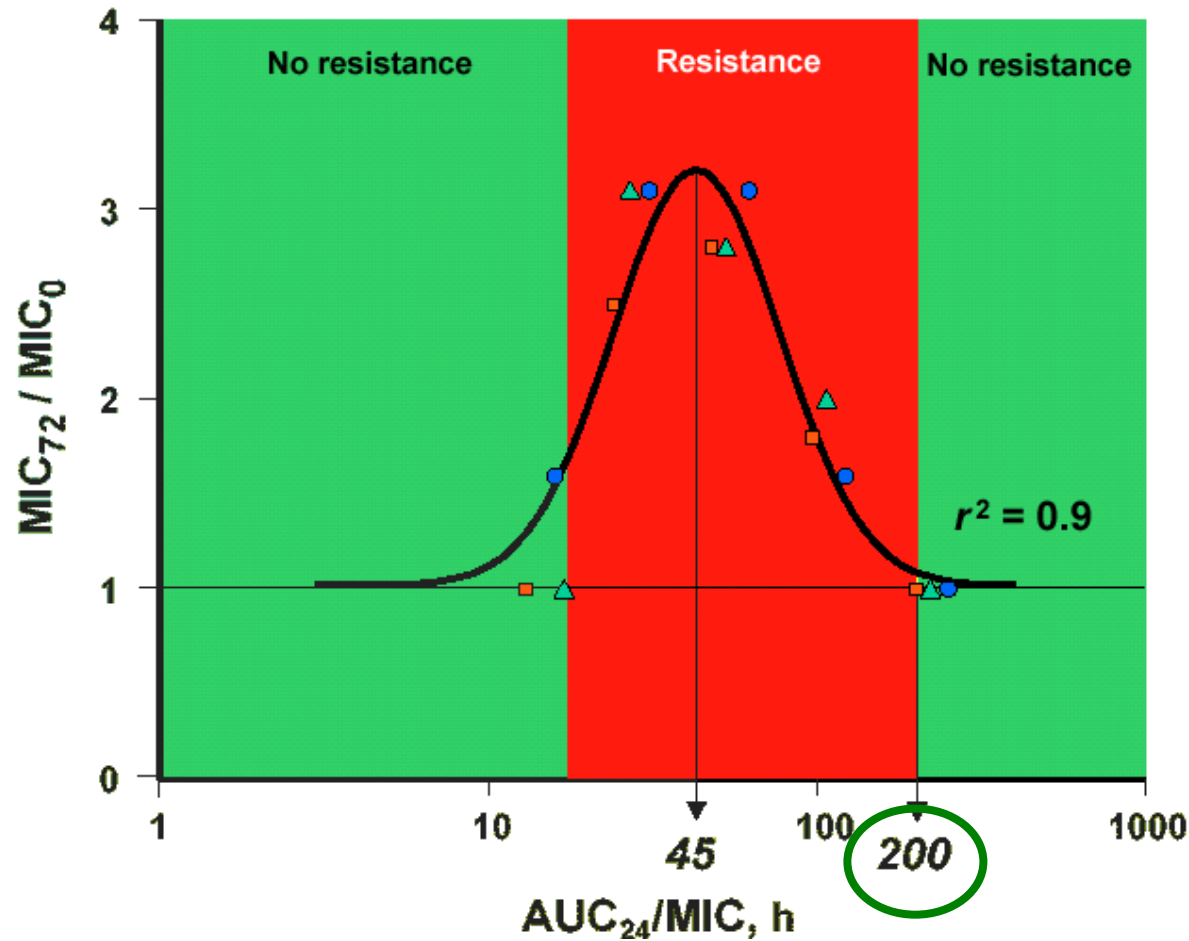


Time (days of therapy) to bacterial eradication versus AUC/MIC in severely ill patients treated with ciprofloxacin. The three groups differed significantly ( $P < 0.005$ ).

*Forrest et al AAC (1993) 37:1073-81*

# AUC<sub>24h</sub>/MIC and prevention of resistance

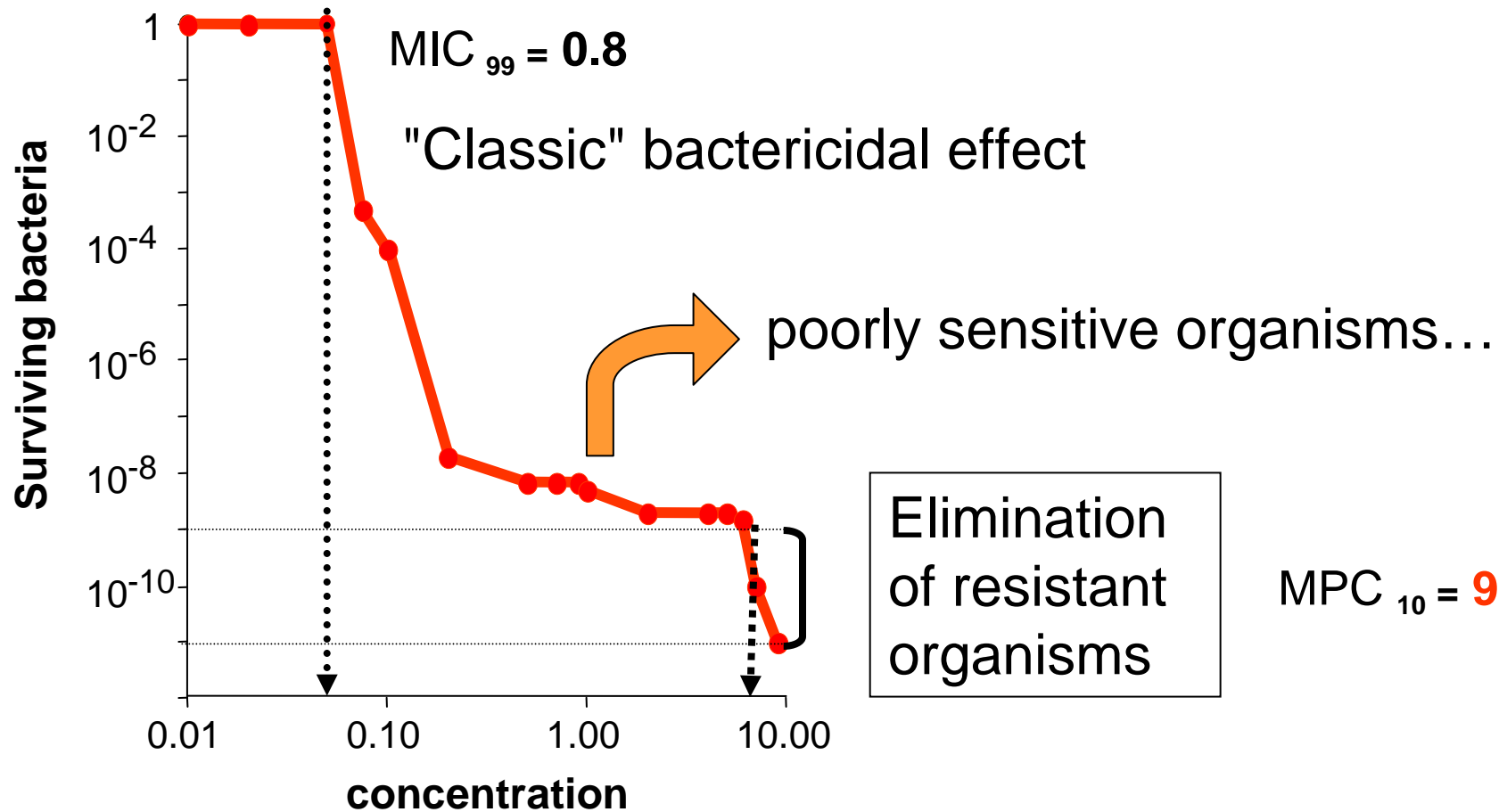
Change in susceptibility of *S. aureus* after exposure to fluoroquinolones



**AUC/MIC >> 125  
&  
Peak/MIC > 8  
to prevent  
resistance  
selection**

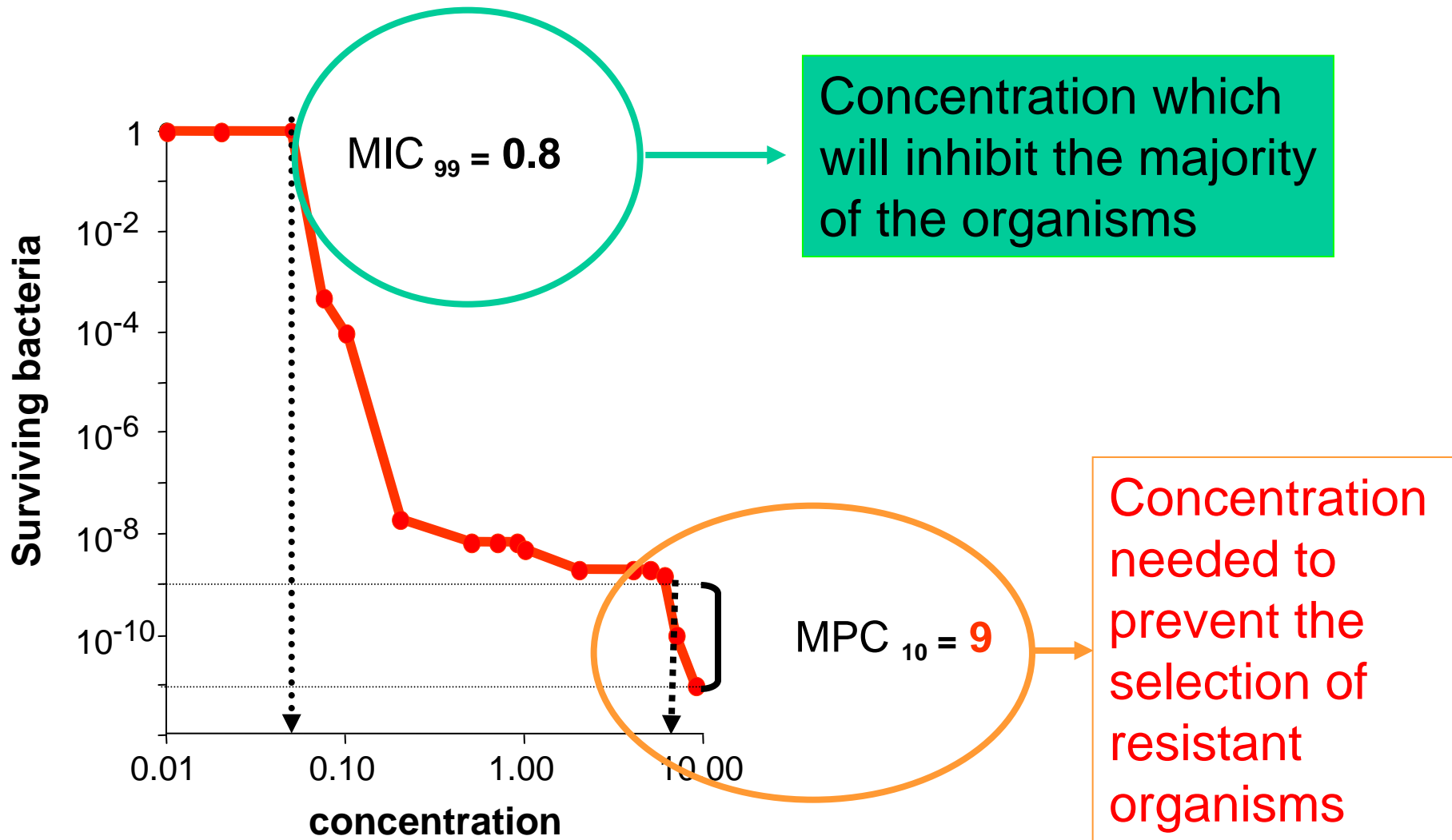
Firsov *et al.* In vitro pharmacodynamic evaluation of the mutant selection window hypothesis using four fluoroquinolones against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2003 May;47(5):1604-13.

# $C_{max}$ and the "Mutant Prevention Concentration" (MPC) ...



Dong *et al*: AAC 1999; 43:1756-1758

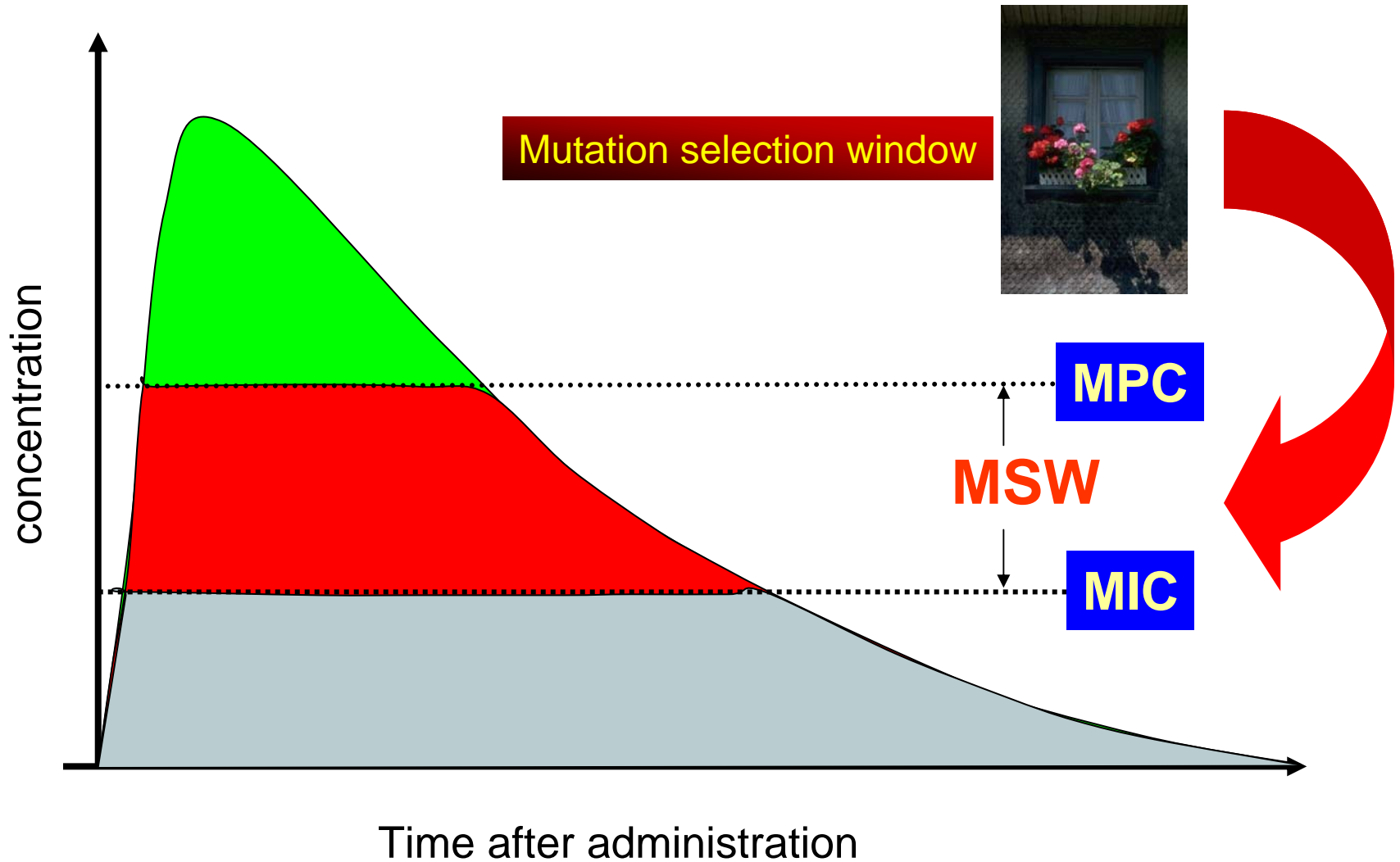
# "Mutant Prevention Concentration ..."



Dong *et al*; AAC 43:1756-1758



# "Window" where selection of mutants/resistants may take place ...



concept from Drlica & Zhao, Rev. Med. Microbiol. 2004, 15:73-80

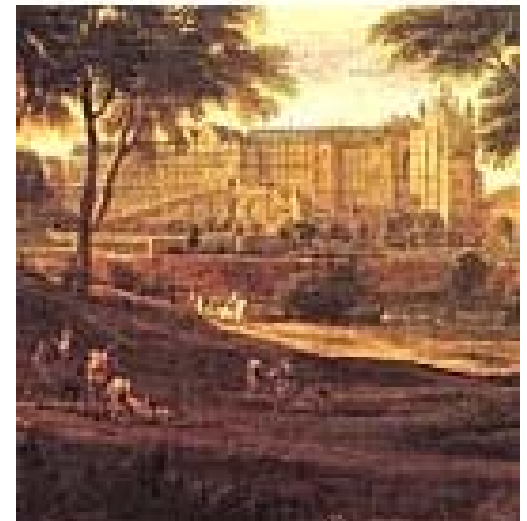
# Putting all together for fluoroquinolones

If you wish to get a faster eradication and reduce emergence of resistance

→  $\text{peak} / \text{MIC} > 10$

If you are interested in global effect ...

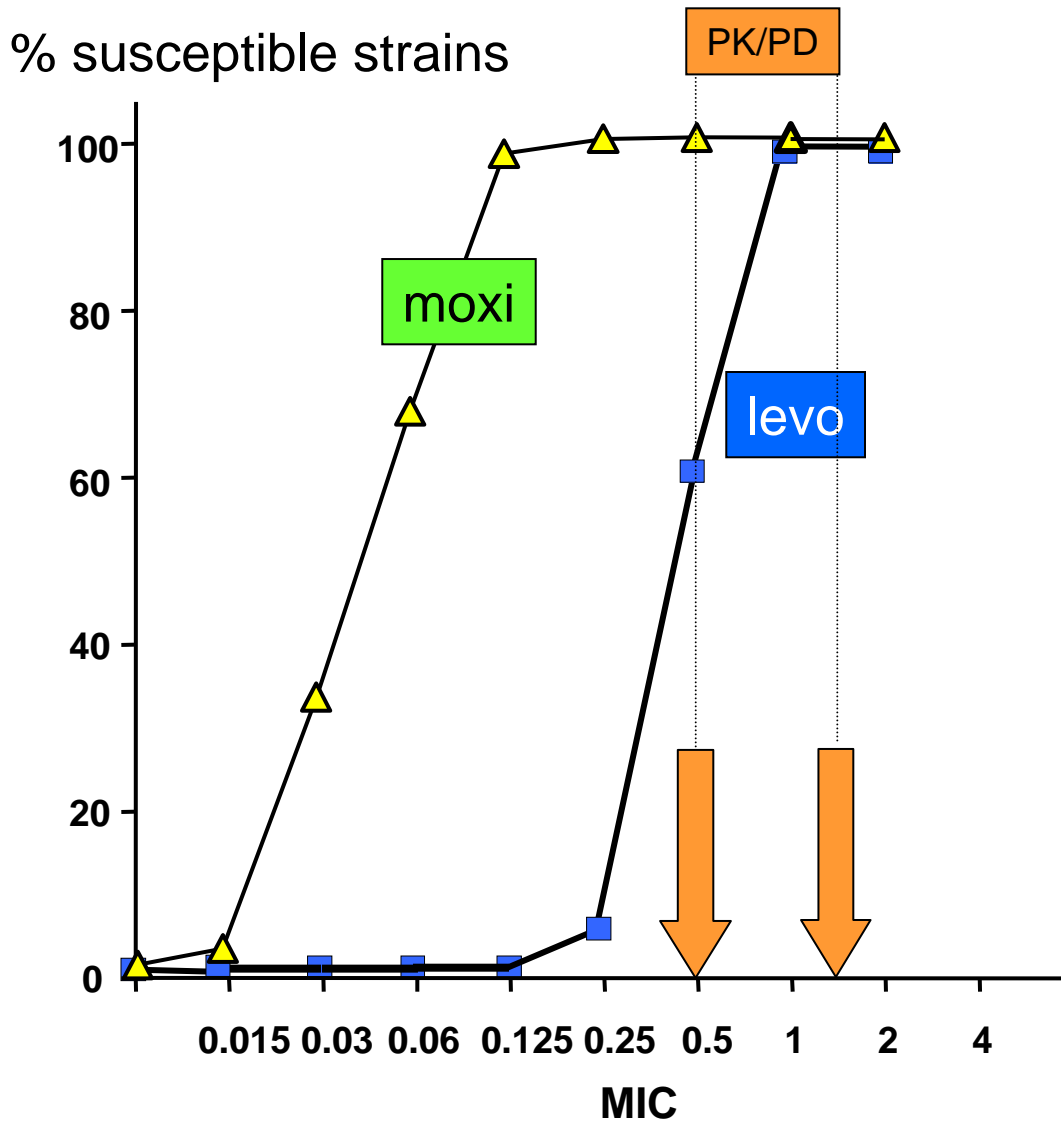
→  $\text{AUC}_{24\text{h}} / \text{MIC}: 30 \text{ to } 125$



# Be practical... a short exercise

- You have two Ixacins: L-xacin and M-xacin
- They have essentially the same pharmacokinetics and tolerance
- Which one will you recommend in YOUR set-up for CAP ?

# Application to pneumococci in Belgium



## Moxifloxacin 400 mg 1x/d

- AUC [(mg/l)xh]: 48
  - $MIC_{max}$ : 0.5-1.5
- peak [mg/l]: 4.5
  - $MIC_{max}$ : ~ 0.5

## Levofloxacin 500 mg 1x/d

- AUC [(mg/l)xh]: 47
  - $MIC_{max}$ : 0.5-1.5
- peak [mg/l]: 5
  - $MIC_{max}$ : ~ 0.5

MIC data: J. Verhaegen et al., ECCMID 2003  
Similar values in 2009 (Vanhoof, ECCMID 2009)

# The problem of the wrong breakpoints...

Drug	Typical daily dosage <sup>a</sup>	Typical PK values		Proposed PK/PD upper limit		Breakpoints (mg/L) <sup>d</sup>
		C <sub>max</sub> in mg/L total/free (dose)	AUC <sub>24 h</sub> (mg × h/L) total/free	Efficacy <sup>b</sup>	Prevention of resistance <sup>c</sup>	NCCLS (S/I/R)
Norfloxacin	800 mg	1.4/1.1 (400 mg PO)	14/11	0.1–0.4	0.1	≤4/8/>16 <sup>j</sup>
Ciprofloxacin	1000 mg	2.5/1.75 (500 mg PO)	24/18	0.2–0.8	0.2	≤1/2/>4 <sup>k</sup>
Ofloxacin	400 mg	4/3 (400 mg PO)	40/30	0.3–0.9	0.4	≤2/4/8 <sup>l</sup>
Levofloxacin	500 mg	4/2.8 (500 mg PO)	40/28	0.3–0.9	0.3	≤2/4/8 <sup>l</sup>
Moxifloxacin	400 mg	3.1/1.8 (400 mg PO)	35/21	0.2–0.7	0.2	≤1/2/4 <sup>m</sup>

NCCLS, National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute)

Van Bambeke F, Michot JM, Van Eldere J, Tulkens PM.  
Quinolones in 2005: an update. Clin Microbiol Infect. 2005 Apr;11(4):256-80. PMID: 15760423

# The EUCAST breakpoints for fluoroquinolones

Drug	Typical daily dosage <sup>a</sup>	Typical PK values		Proposed PK/PD upper limit of sensitivity (µg/ml) for	
		C <sub>max</sub> in mg/L total/free (dose)	AUC <sub>24 h</sub> (mg × h/L) total/free	Efficacy <sup>1</sup>	
Norfloxacin	800 mg	1.4/1.1 (400 mg PO)	14/11	0.1–0.4	0.5-1
Ciprofloxacin	1000 mg	2.5/1.75 (500 mg PO)	24/18	0.2–0.8	0.5-1
Ofloxacin	400 mg	4/3 (400 mg PO)	40/30	0.3–0.9	0.5-1
Levofloxacin	500 mg	4/2.8 (500 mg PO)	40/28	0.3–0.9	1-2
Moxifloxacin	400 mg	3.1/1.8 (400 mg PO)	35/21	0.2–0.7	0.5-1

**EUCAST  
breakpoints**

Van Bambeke F, Michot JM, Van Eldere J, Tulkens PM. Quinolones in 2005: an update. Clin Microbiol Infect. 2005 Apr;11(4):256-80. PMID: 15760423

## *S. pneumoniae*

Fluoroquinolones	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)		Disk content (µg)	Zone diameter breakpoint (mm)	
	S ≤	R >		S ≥	R <
Ciprofloxacin <sup>1</sup>	0.12	2	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	16 <sup>A</sup>
Levofloxacin <sup>2</sup>	2	2	5	17 <sup>A</sup>	17 <sup>A</sup>
<b>Moxifloxacin</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	5	22 <sup>A</sup>	22 <sup>A</sup>
Nalidixic acid (screen)	NA <sup>o</sup>	NA		NA	NA
Norfloxacin (screen)	NA <sup>o</sup>	NA	10	12 <sup>B</sup>	Note <sup>B</sup>
Ofloxacin <sup>3</sup>	0.12	4 <sup>o</sup>	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	13 <sup>A</sup>

*This is close to PK/PD breakpoints*

These (and more) data are available at no cost from EUCAST and can be accessed freely on EUCAST website [www.eucast.org](http://www.eucast.org).  
Note: EUCAST recommendations are frequently updated but the latest versions is always available on EUCAST web site.

## *S. pneumoniae*

Fluoroquinolones	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)		Disk content (µg)	Zone diameter breakpoint (mm)	
	S ≤	R >		S ≥	R <
Ciprofloxacin <sup>1</sup>	0.12	2	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	16 <sup>A</sup>
Levofloxacin <sup>2</sup>	2	2	5	17 <sup>A</sup>	17 <sup>A</sup>
Moxifloxacin	0.5	0.5	5	22 <sup>A</sup>	22 <sup>A</sup>
Nalidixic acid (screen)	NA	NA		NA	NA
Norfloxacin (screen)	NA	NA	10	12 <sup>B</sup>	Note <sup>B</sup>
Ofloxacin <sup>3</sup>	0.12	4	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	13 <sup>A</sup>

1. Wild type *S. pneumoniae* are not considered susceptible to ciprofloxacin and are therefore categorised as intermediate.  
 A. The norfloxacin disk diffusion test can be used to screen for fluoroquinolone resistance. **See Note B.**

These (and more) data are available at no cost from EUCAST and can be accessed freely on EUCAST website [www.eucast.org](http://www.eucast.org).  
 Note: EUCAST recommendations are frequently updated but the latest versions is always available on EUCAST web site.



## *S. pneumoniae*

Fluoroquinolones	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)		Disk content (µg)	Zone diameter breakpoint (mm)	
	S ≤	R >		S ≥	R <
Ciprofloxacin <sup>1</sup>	0.12	2	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	16 <sup>A</sup>
<b>Levofloxacin<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	5	17 <sup>A</sup>	17 <sup>A</sup>
Moxifloxacin	0.5	0.5	5	22 <sup>A</sup>	22 <sup>A</sup>
Nalidixic acid (screen)	NA	NA		NA	NA
Norfloxacin (screen)	NA	NA	10	12 <sup>B</sup>	Note <sup>B</sup>
Ofloxacin <sup>3</sup>	0.12	4	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	13 <sup>A</sup>

2. The breakpoints for levofloxacin relate to high dose therapy.

These (and more) data are available at no cost from EUCAST and can be accessed freely on EUCAST website [www.eucast.org](http://www.eucast.org).  
Note: EUCAST recommendations are frequently updated but the latest versions is always available on EUCAST web site.

## *S. pneumoniae*

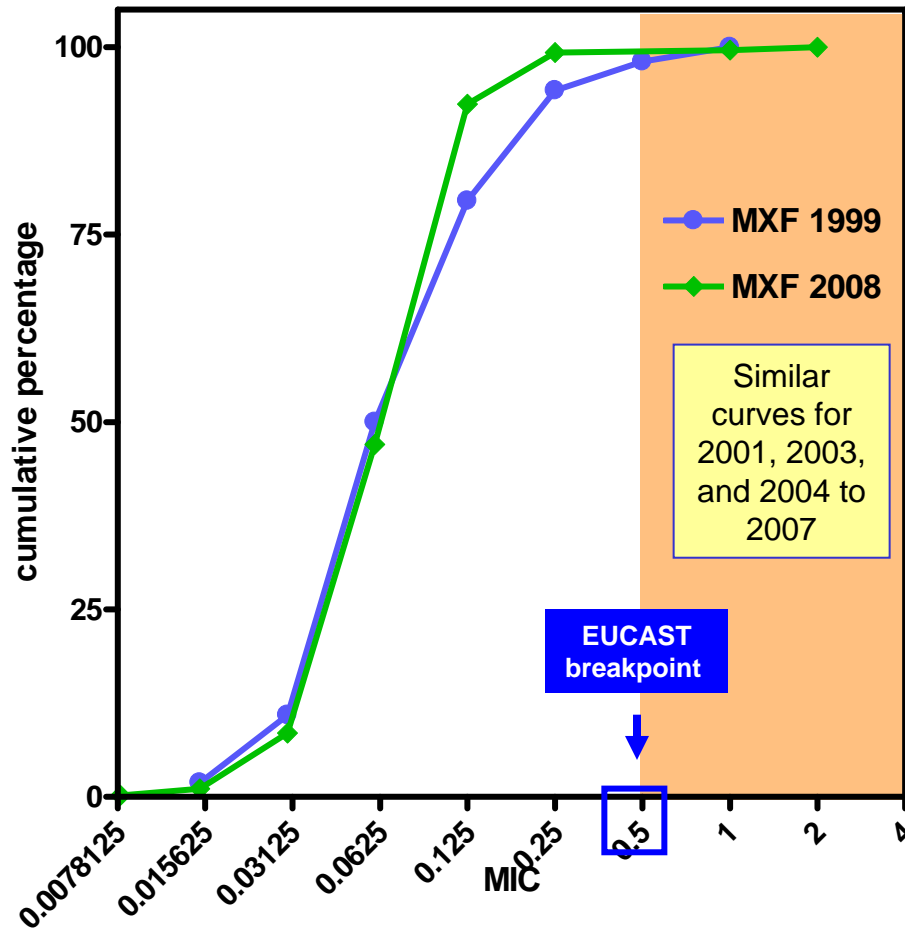
Fluoroquinolones	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)		Disk content (µg)	Zone diameter breakpoint (mm)	
	S ≤	R >		S ≥	R <
Ciprofloxacin <sup>1</sup>	0.12	2	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	16 <sup>A</sup>
Levofloxacin <sup>2</sup>	2	2	5	17 <sup>A</sup>	17 <sup>A</sup>
Moxifloxacin	0.5	0.5	5	22 <sup>A</sup>	22 <sup>A</sup>
Nalidixic acid (screen)	NA	NA		NA	NA
Norfloxacin (screen)	NA	NA	10	12 <sup>B</sup>	Note <sup>B</sup>
<b>Ofloxacin<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>4</b>	5	50 <sup>A</sup>	13 <sup>A</sup>

3. Wild type *S. pneumoniae* are not considered susceptible to ofloxacin and are therefore categorised as intermediate.

These (and more) data are available at no cost from EUCAST and can be accessed freely on EUCAST website [www.eucast.org](http://www.eucast.org).  
 Note: EUCAST recommendations are frequently updated but the latest versions is always available on EUCAST web site.

# Use of PK/PD protects against resistance of *S. pneumoniae* to moxifloxacin: experience in the community in Belgium

## *S. pneumoniae* susceptibility to moxifloxacin in Belgium



### From data of a national collection

- Non invasive respiratory tract infections
- similar results in 2008 for a collection of *S.pneumoniae* from clinically-confirmed CAP)

- Surveys from the Belgian Scientific Institute for Public Health for *S. pneumoniae* from community isolates (n=156 in 1999 and 448 in 2008)
- Data available yearly for 1999 through 2008
- <http://www.iph.fgov.be>

Vanhoof RLM, et al. 19th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. May, 16-19 2009, Helsinki.  
Lismond et al. Antimicrobial susceptibility of Streptococcus pneumoniae isolates from vaccinated and non-vaccinated patients with a clinically confirmed diagnosis of community-acquired pneumonia in Belgium. Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2012; ;39:208-16.

# But you can (and must) use your own data...

C. Zhao et al. / *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease* 73 (2012) 174–181



**Table 1**  
Susceptibility to 18 antimicrobial agents of clinical Gram-positive isolates in China, 2005–2010.

Organisms	Antimicrobial agents	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
		%S <sup>a</sup>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S <sup>a</sup>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S <sup>a</sup>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S <sup>a</sup>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S <sup>a</sup>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S <sup>a</sup>	MIC <sub>90</sub>
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		n = 95		n = 100		n = 152		n = 225		n = 227		n = 232	
	Levofloxacin	89.9	2	97	1	98.7	1	97.8	1	93.8	2	98.6	1
	<u>Moxifloxacin</u>	93.3	<b>0.38</b>	98	<b>0.125</b>	100	<b>0.25</b>	98.2	<b>0.125</b>	95.2	<b>0.5</b>	98.6	<b>0.25</b>

Youning Liu et al.

*BMC Infectious Diseases* 2009, 9:31 doi:10.1186/1471-2334-9-31



**Table 4: Antimicrobial susceptibility of 63 *S. pneumoniae* isolates obtained in the study**

Antimicrobial agent	% of isolates			MIC (µg/ml)		
	Susceptible	Intermediate	Resistant	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	Range
Levofloxacin	93.7	0.0	6.3	1	2	0.5–16
Gatifloxacin	93.7	0.0	6.3	0.25	0.5	0.125–4
<u>Moxifloxacin</u>	95.2	3.2	1.6	0.125	<b>0.25</b>	0.064–4

# I was not alone...



not too long ago ...

G. Drusano

W.A. Craig

J.J. Schentag



1998



EMA

1999



and to clinical practice

since 1999  
... and again this year

# Questions ?



There are  
**NO STUPID QUESTIONS**  
or stupid answers.