

# Not All Fluoroquinolones Are Equal ...



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*Université catholique de Louvain*  
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**Singapore**



*With approval of the Belgian Common Ethical Health Platform – visa no. 17/V1/7383/093066*

# Disclosures

## Financial support from

- Non-profit Institutions:
  - the Belgian *Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique* for basic research on pharmacology antibiotics and related topics
  - The European Union for applied research on optimisation of  $\beta$ -lactams treatments through on-line monitoring of free serum levels
  - *Université catholique de Louvain* for past personal support
- Industry:
  - AstraZeneca, GSK, Sanofi-Aventis, Bayer, Cempra Pharmaceuticals, The Medicines Company, Northern Antibiotics, RibX, Cubist, Galapagos, ...

## Other past and present relationships in relation to this talk

- Belgian Antibiotic Policy Coordination Committee (BAPCOC)
- European Committee for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)
- Drive-AB (a EU programme for a new economical framework for antibiotics)

Slides: <http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be> → Lectures

# The programme...

- **A very short view of Belgium and of where I work...**
- **Differentiating fluoroquinolones in their origin and intrinsic nature**
- **Differentiating fluoroquinolones in PK/PD and the concept of MPC (prevention of resistance)**
- **How would moxifloxacin fit into an antibiotic stewardship program**
- **Questions, objections, suggestions ...**

# Belgium



# The *Catholic University of Louvain* in brief

- Created in 1425, it was one of the major University of the so-called "Low Countries" in the 1500 – 1800 period, with famous scholars and discoverers (Vesalius for anatomy, Erasmus for philosophy, ...). Teaching was in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew (College of the 3 languages...)



The University in the 1500's



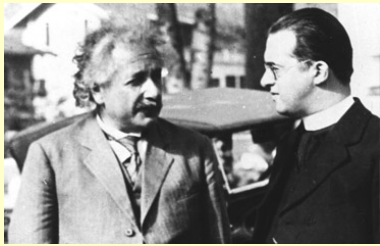
Erasmus



Vesalius

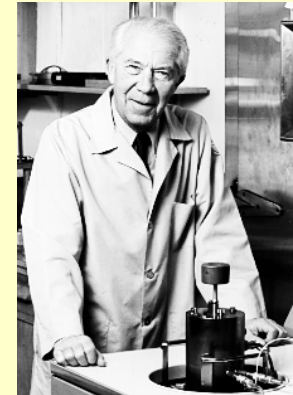
# The *Catholic University of Louvain* in brief

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, teaching was in French but in the early 1900's, a Flemish-speaking section was opened. Courses were given in both languages, attracting many students and celebrities...



**Prof. G. Lemaitre**, professor of Physics and Mathematics at the University who, in the 1930's, made the first suggestion of the continuous expansion of the Universe ("*Big Bang*")  
(here in conversation with A. Einstein)

**Professor C. de Duve**, professor of Biochemistry at the University, who obtained the Nobel Prize (Physiology and Medicine) in 1974 for his work on intracellular organelles (lysosomes, peroxisomes...)



(here in front of a centrifuge)

- in 1968, the University was divided into
  - a French-speaking ***Université catholique de Louvain***
  - a Flemish-speaking ***Katholieke Universiteit Leuven...***

# The *Catholic University of Louvain* in brief (4 of 4)

- The Flemish-speaking *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven* has remained in Louvain (Leuven) and is named in English "**Catholic University Leuven**".
- The French-speaking *Université catholique de Louvain* has moved about 25 km South in a place called "Louvain-la-Neuve, with the "Health Sciences Sector" located in Brussels (Woluwé).



- Together, the two sister Universities have about **60,000 students**

# What do we do ?

- Teaching of pharmacology and pharmacotherapy
- Post-graduate training on Drug Development
- Launching of Clinical Pharmacy in Europe
- Web-based courses on anti-infective pharmacology
- 30 graduating students, doctoral fellows and post-graduate fellows working on anti-infective therapy (laboratory and clinical applications)

- Activity and toxicity of aminoglycosides and fluoroquinolones
- novel antibiotics
  - beta-lactams (ceftaroline...)
  - fluoroquinolones (delafloxacin \*...)
  - Fab inhibitors (Debio1462 \* ...)
  - oxazolidinones (tedizolid ...)
- \* in development
- re-assessment of older antibiotics

[www.facm.ucl.ac.be](http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be)

- Editorial board of AAC and IJAA
- Member of the General Committee of EUCAST (for ISC) and of its Steering committee (2008-10)
- Member of the Belgian Antibiotic Policy Coordination Committee
- Founder and Past President of the International Society of Antiinfective Pharmacology (ISAP)



A partial view of our University Clinic (900 beds) and the Education and Research buildings (5,000 students), with the Institute (framed), located in then the outskirts of Brussels, Belgium

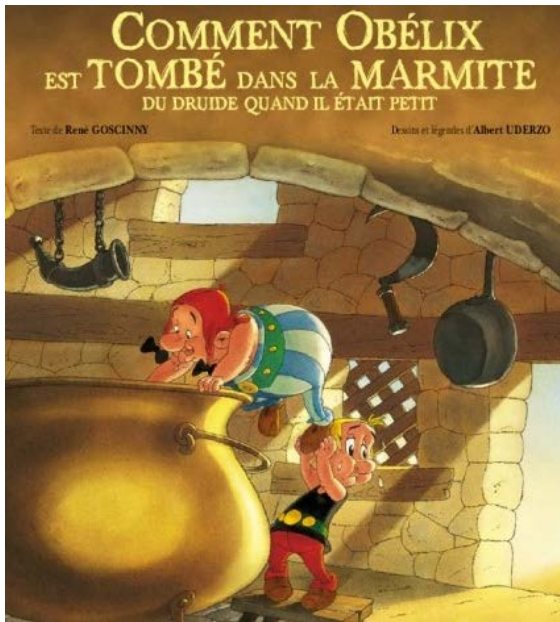


[www.isap.org](http://www.isap.org)

# Why do I have an interest in fluoroquinolones ?



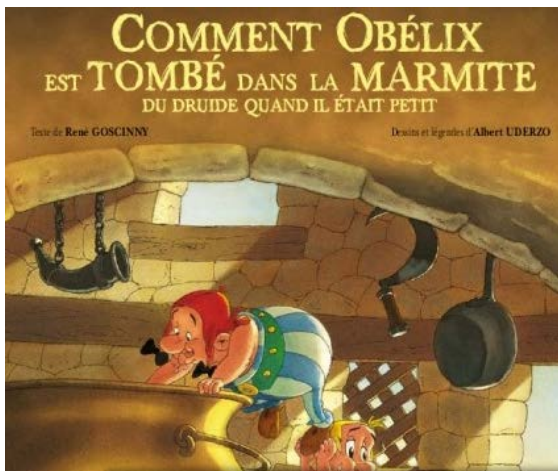
Because, like  
Obélix,  
I fell into when I  
was young ...



# Why do I have an interest in fluoroquinolones ?



Because, like  
Obélix,  
I fell into when I  
was young ...



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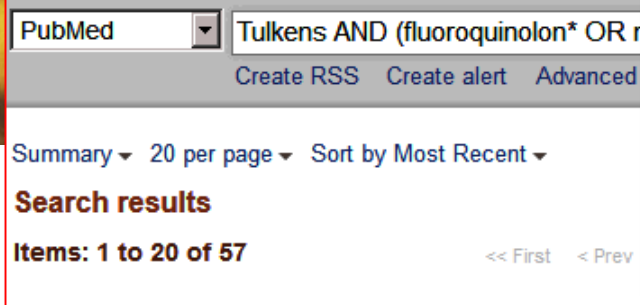
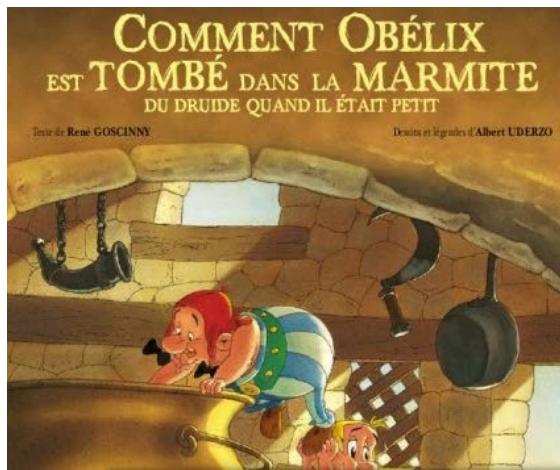
**Search results** All (57)

Items: 1 to 20 of 57 << First < Prev Page 1 of 3 Next > Last >> [Free Full Text \(41\)](#)

# Why do I have an interest in fluoroquinolones ?



Because, like  
Obélix,  
I fell into when I  
was young ...



1990

*Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* (1990) **26**, Suppl. B, 27–39

## Cellular uptake, localization and activity of fluoroquinolones in uninfected and infected macrophages

Marie-Béatrice Carlier<sup>a</sup>, Bernard Scoreneaux<sup>a</sup>, Andrée Zenebergh<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jean-François Desnottes<sup>b</sup> and Paul M. Tulkens<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Laboratoire de Chimie Physiologique, and International Institute of Cellular and Molecular Pathology, Université Catholique de Louvain, Avenue Hippocrate 75, Bte 75.49, B-1200 Bruxelles, Belgium; <sup>b</sup>Rhône-Poulenc Santé, Centre de Recherches de Vitry/Alfortville, 13, Quai Jules Guesde, B.P. 14, F-94403 Vitry s/Seine, France

## REVIEW ARTICLE

10.1111/j.1469-0691.2005.01131.x

2005

## Quinolones in 2005: an update

F. Van Bambeke<sup>1</sup>, J.-M. Michot<sup>1</sup>, J. Van Eldere<sup>2</sup> and P. M. Tulkens<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Unit of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, Catholic University of Louvain, Brussels and

<sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Rega Institute and Centre for Molecular Diagnostics, University Hospital, Catholic University of Leuven, Louvain, Belgium

*Clin Microbiol Infect* 2005; 11: 256–280

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Drugs R D 2012; 12 (2): 71–100  
1179-6901/12/0002-0071

2012

## Moxifloxacin Safety An Analysis of 14 Years of Clinical Data

Paul M. Tulkens,<sup>1</sup> Pierre Arvis<sup>2</sup> and Frank Kruesmann<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire & Centre de Pharmacie clinique, Louvain Drug Research Institute, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

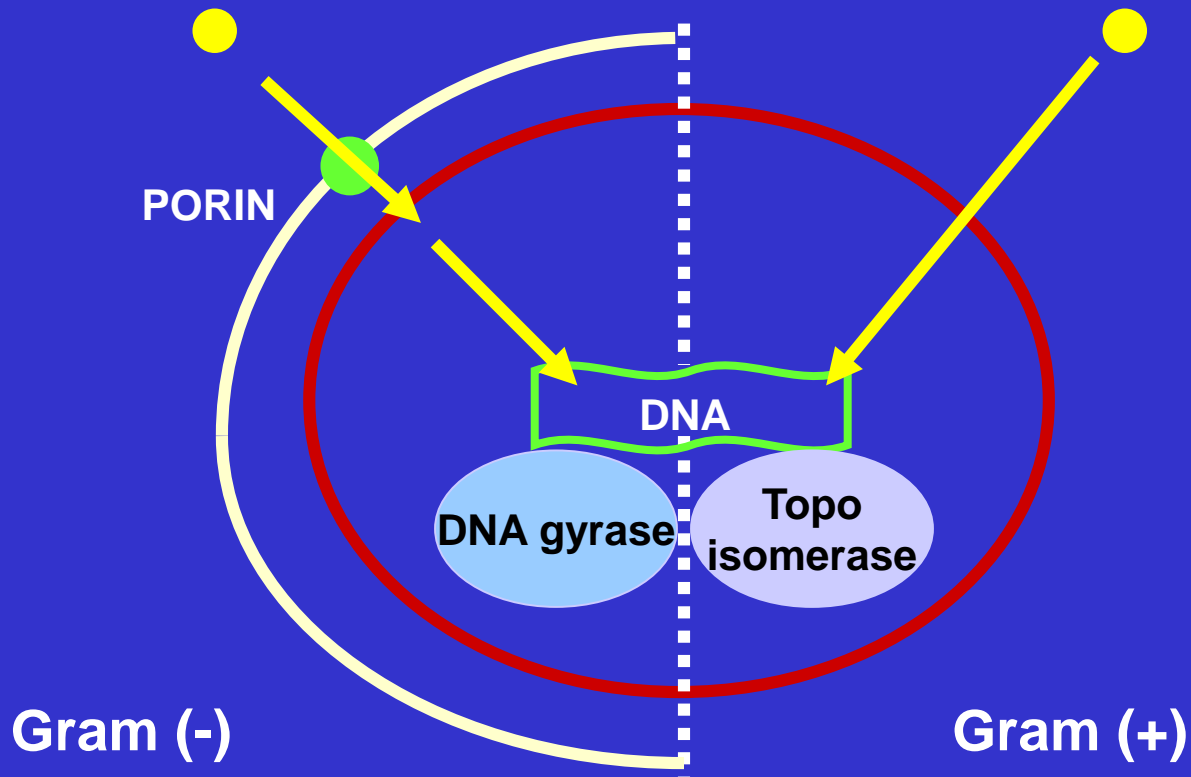
<sup>2</sup> Bayer Santé SAS, Loos, France

<sup>3</sup> Bayer Pharma AG, Wuppertal, Germany

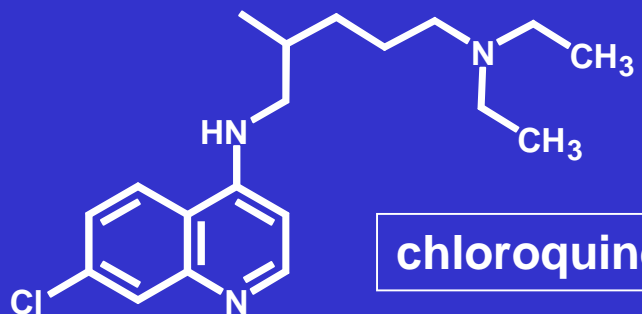
# The programme...

- A very short view of Belgium and of where I work...
- **Differentiating fluoroquinolones in their origin and intrinsic nature**
- Differentiating fluoroquinolones in PK/PD and the concept of MPC (prevention of resistance)
- How would moxifloxacin fit into an antibiotic stewardship program
- Questions, objections, suggestions ...

# Mechanism of action of fluoroquinolones: the basics...



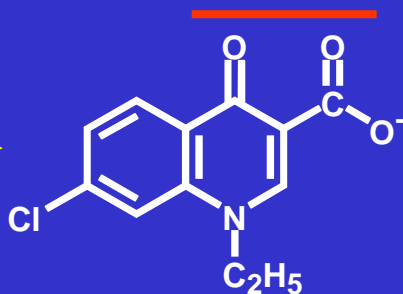
# A bit of history: from chloroquine to nalidixic acid...



chloroquine

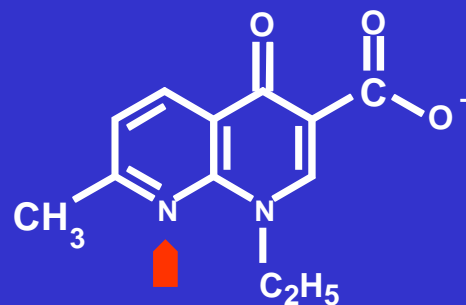
1939

1958



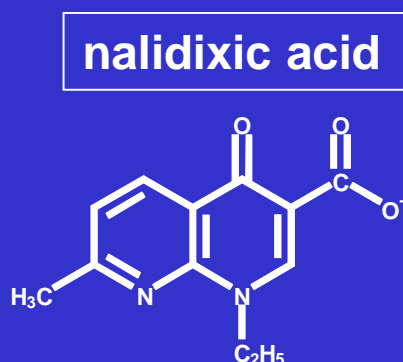
7-chloroquinoline  
(synthesis intermediate  
found to display  
antibacterial activity)

nalidixic acid



1962

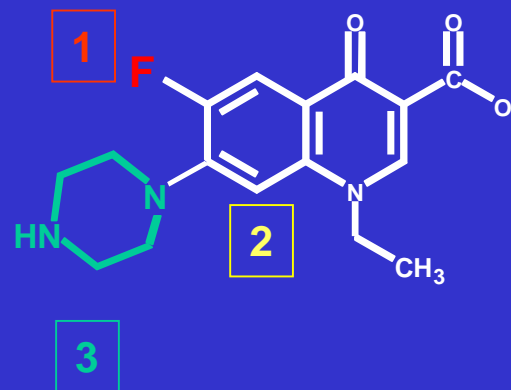
# From nalidixic acid to the 1st **fluoroquinolone**



3 key  
modifications \* ...

1978

norfloxacin \*



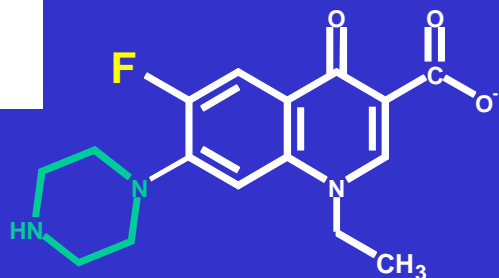
1. broader Gram(-) activity
2. less protein binding (50%)
3. longer half-life (3-4h)

\* Belgian patent 863,429, 1978 to Kyorin

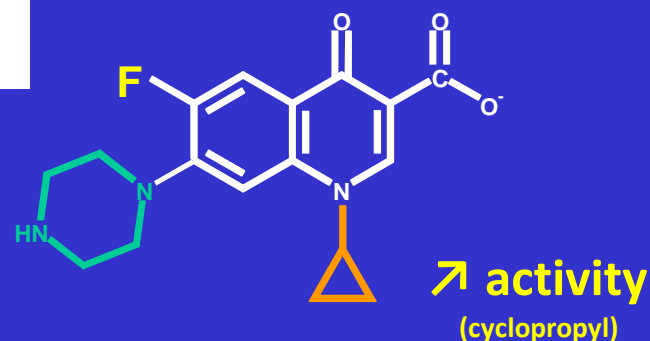
\* 6-fluoro-7-pyrimidino-quinoleine

# From norfloxacin to ciprofloxacin and ofloxacin

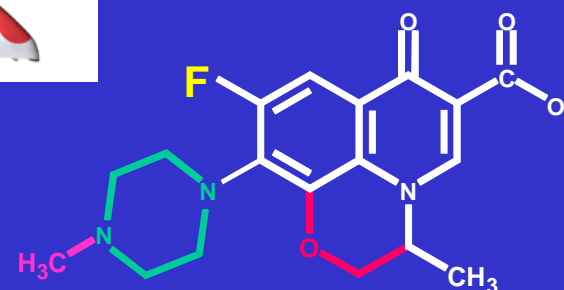
norfloxacin



Ciprofloxacin \*



Ofloxacin \*\*



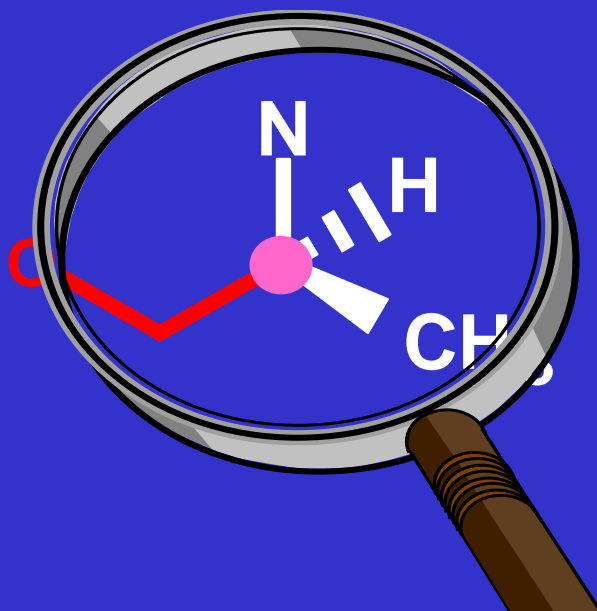
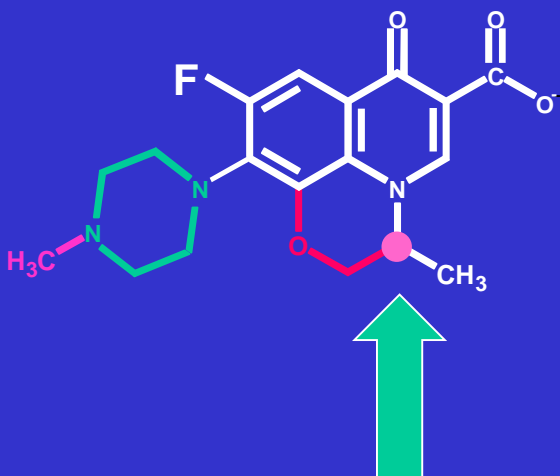
↑ half-life  
(methyl)

\* Ger. pat. 3,142,854 to Bayer AG, 1983

\*\* Eur. pat. Appl. 47,005 to Daiichi, 1982

# Levofloxacin is the active isomer of ofloxacin

Ofloxacin is a racemic mixture  
50/50



Levofloxacin is the  
pure (-) S isomer of  
ofloxacin \*

The active form of ofloxacin is the (-) S isomer  
The (+) R isomer is inactive but toxic

\* Eur. pat. 206,283 to Daiichi, 1987

# How to improve the chemotherapeutic usefulness of the "first generation" fluoroquinolones

1. Maintain broad Gram(-) activity ?

"2d generation"

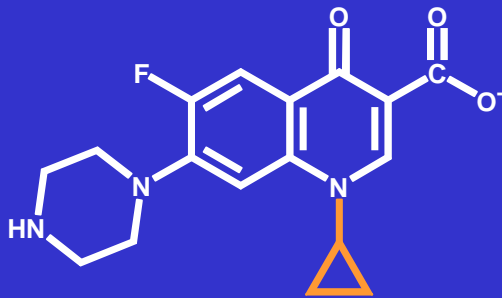
2. Further Improve Gram(+) activity ?

3. Acquire activity against anaerobes ?

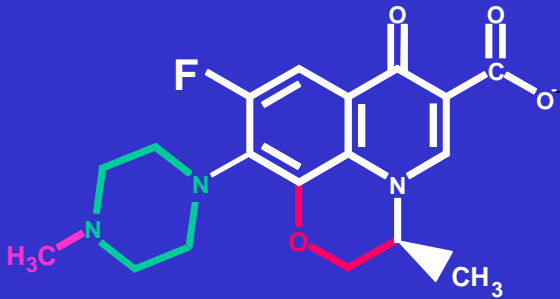
"3d generation"

# Activity against *S. pneumoniae*

I



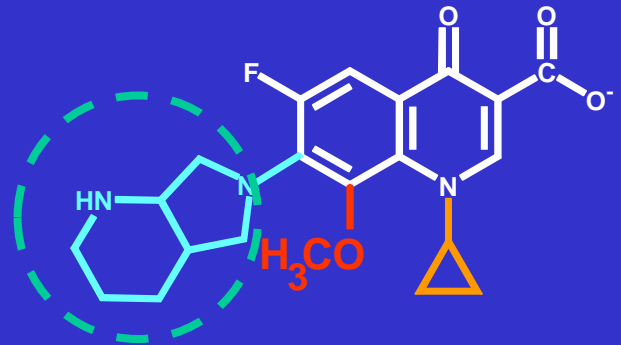
**ciprofloxacin**  
**MIC = 0.5 - 2**



**levofloxacin**  
**MIC = 0.5 - 2**

II

III / IV



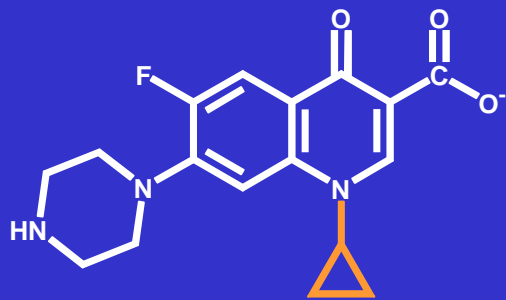
**moxifloxacin**  
**MIC = 0.01 - 0.5**

**Hint #1 :**  
lower MICs = a more potent antibiotic !

**Hint #2 :**  
Levofloxacin has the same MICs than ciprofloxacin and > than moxifloxacin !

## Activity against *B. fragilis* (anaerobe)

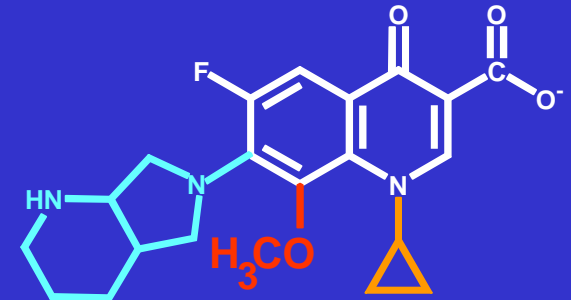
I



ciprofloxacin  
MIC = 2-128

II

III / IV



moxifloxacin  
MIC = 0.125-8

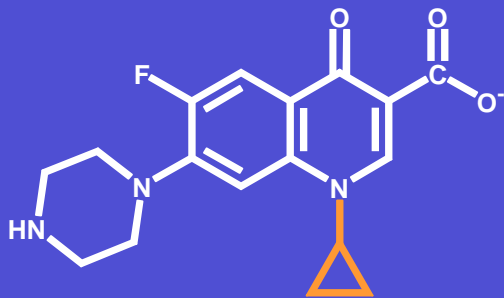


# At this point ...

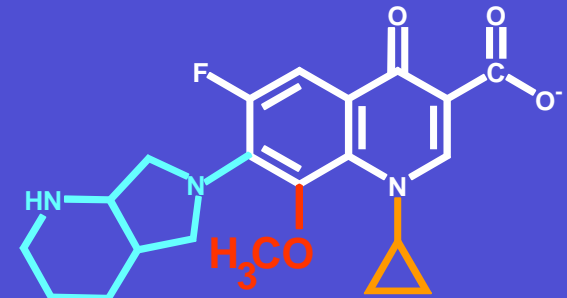
Gram (-)

Gram (+)

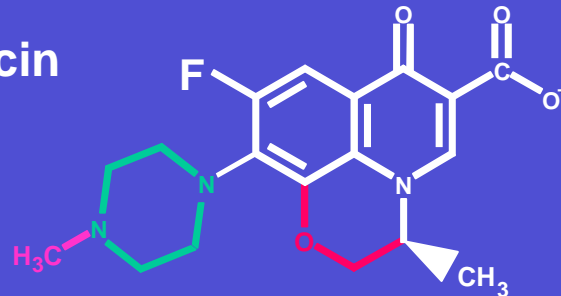
anaerobes



ciprofloxacin



moxifloxacin

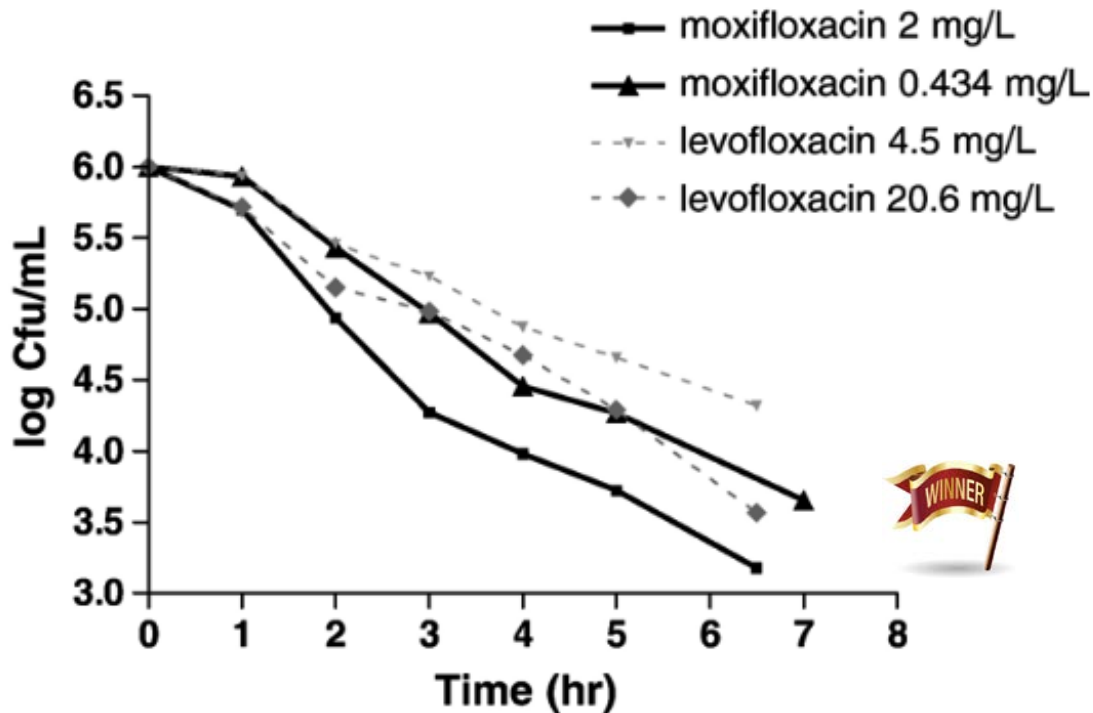


levofloxacin

This is by design !

# Killing abilities of fluoroquinolones: Are they all equal against susceptible strains ?

*in vitro* kill curves: observations with *S. pneumoniae*



Same effect but  
at different  
concentrations...

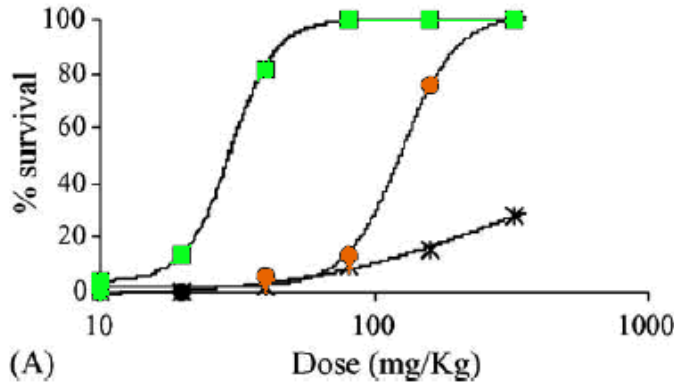
Fig. 1. Time kill curves of moxifloxacin versus levofloxacin against *S. pneumoniae* 7362 (average of 2 models).

Schafer *et al.* Diag Microb Infect Dis 2008; 60:155–161

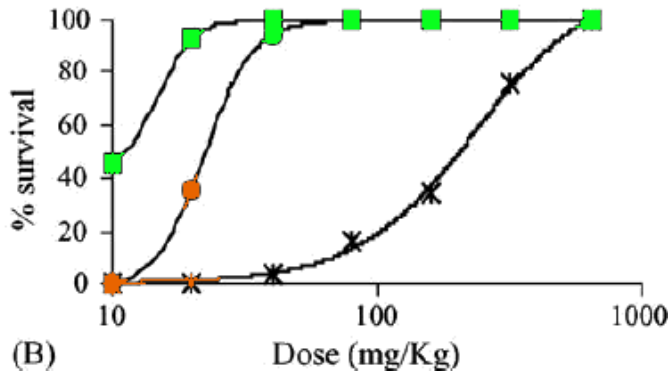
# Killing abilities of fluoroquinolones: Are they all equal against less susceptible strains ?

## Animal survival experiments (*S. pneumonia* i.p. inoculations)

Levofloxacin  
(LVX)



Moxifloxacin  
(MXF)



strain	MIC (mg/L)	
	MXF	LVX
AR33118 (■)	0.12	1
FL2812 (●)	0.25	2
FL5629 (★)	4	32

**Hint: lower dose (more to the left)  
→ more potent antibiotic !**

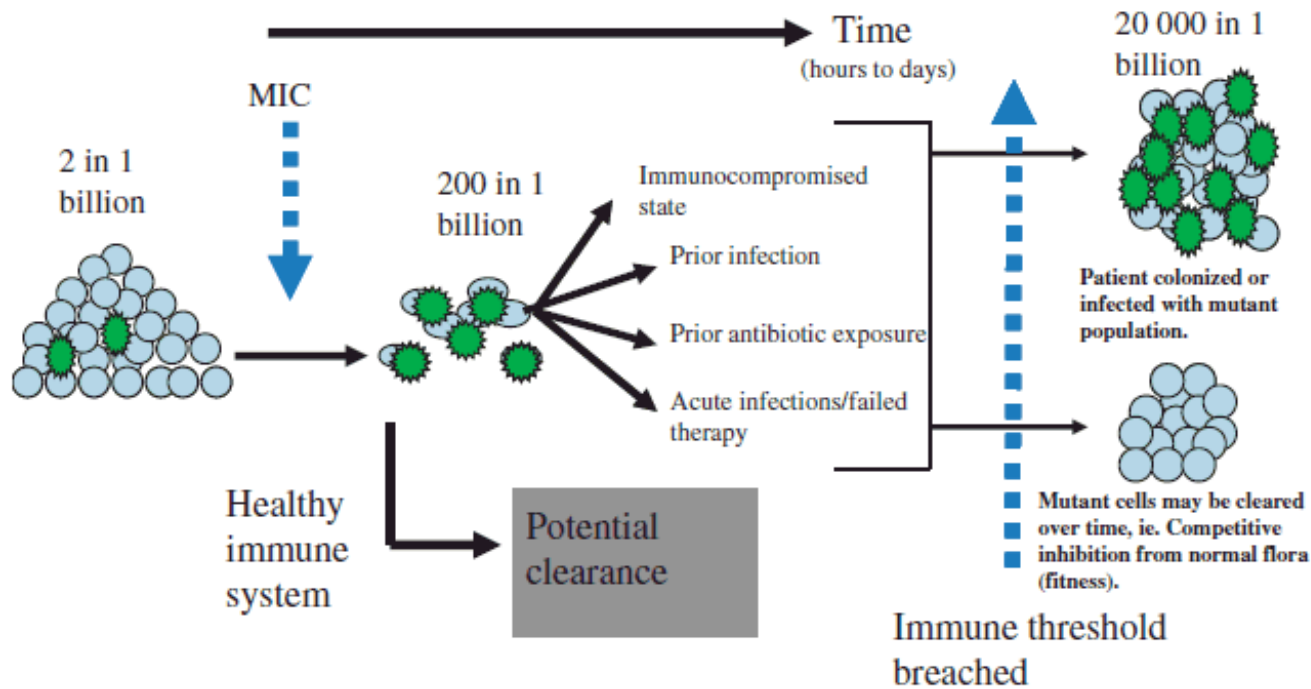
Huelves et al. Int J Antimicrob Agents 2006; 27:294–299

# The programme...

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- How would moxifloxacin fit into an antibiotic stewardship program
- Questions, objections, suggestions ...

# Let us begin with the concept of MPC...

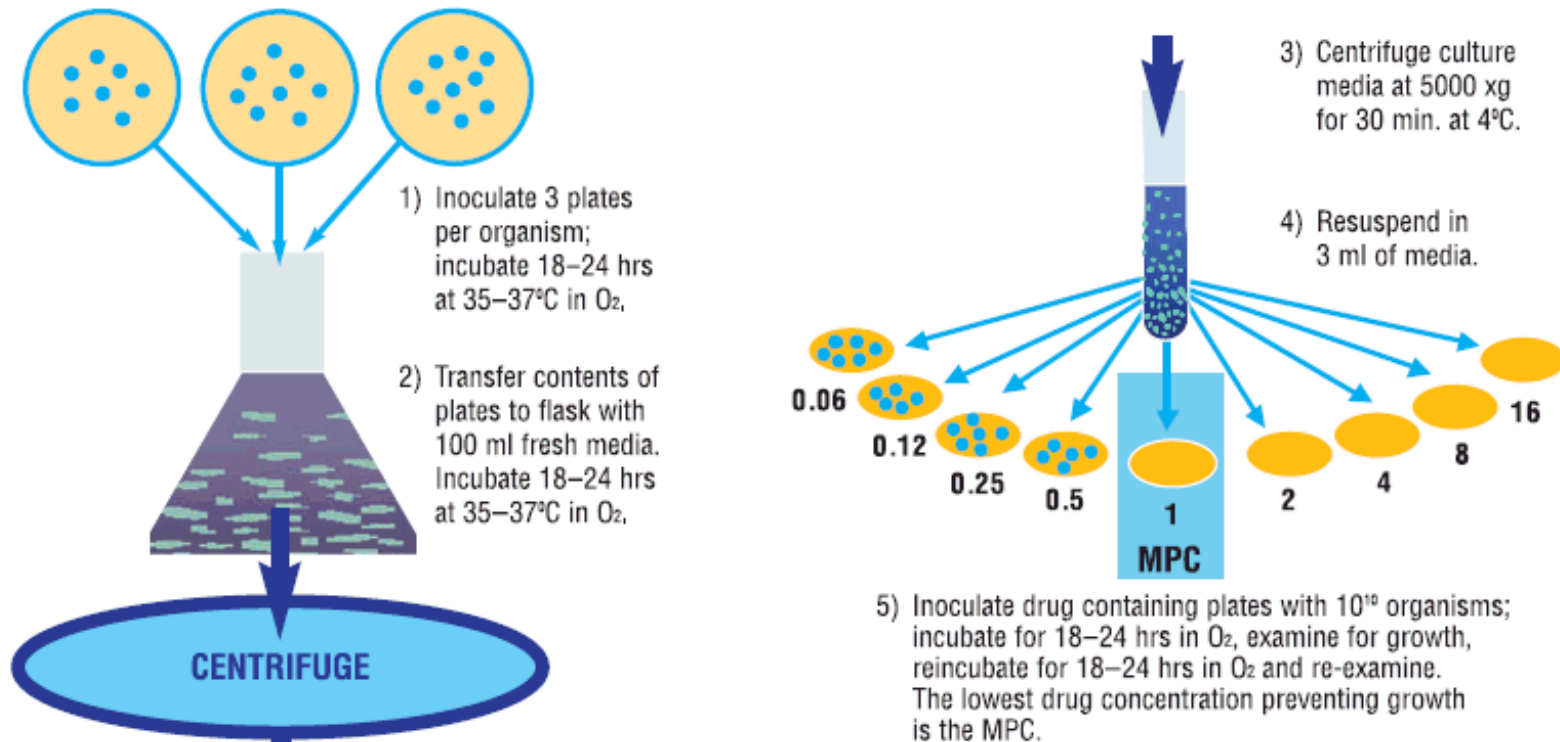
## 1. Why does an MIC leave resistant subpopulations unaffected ?



**Figure 2.** Schematic representation of resistance selection based on MIC drug concentrations.

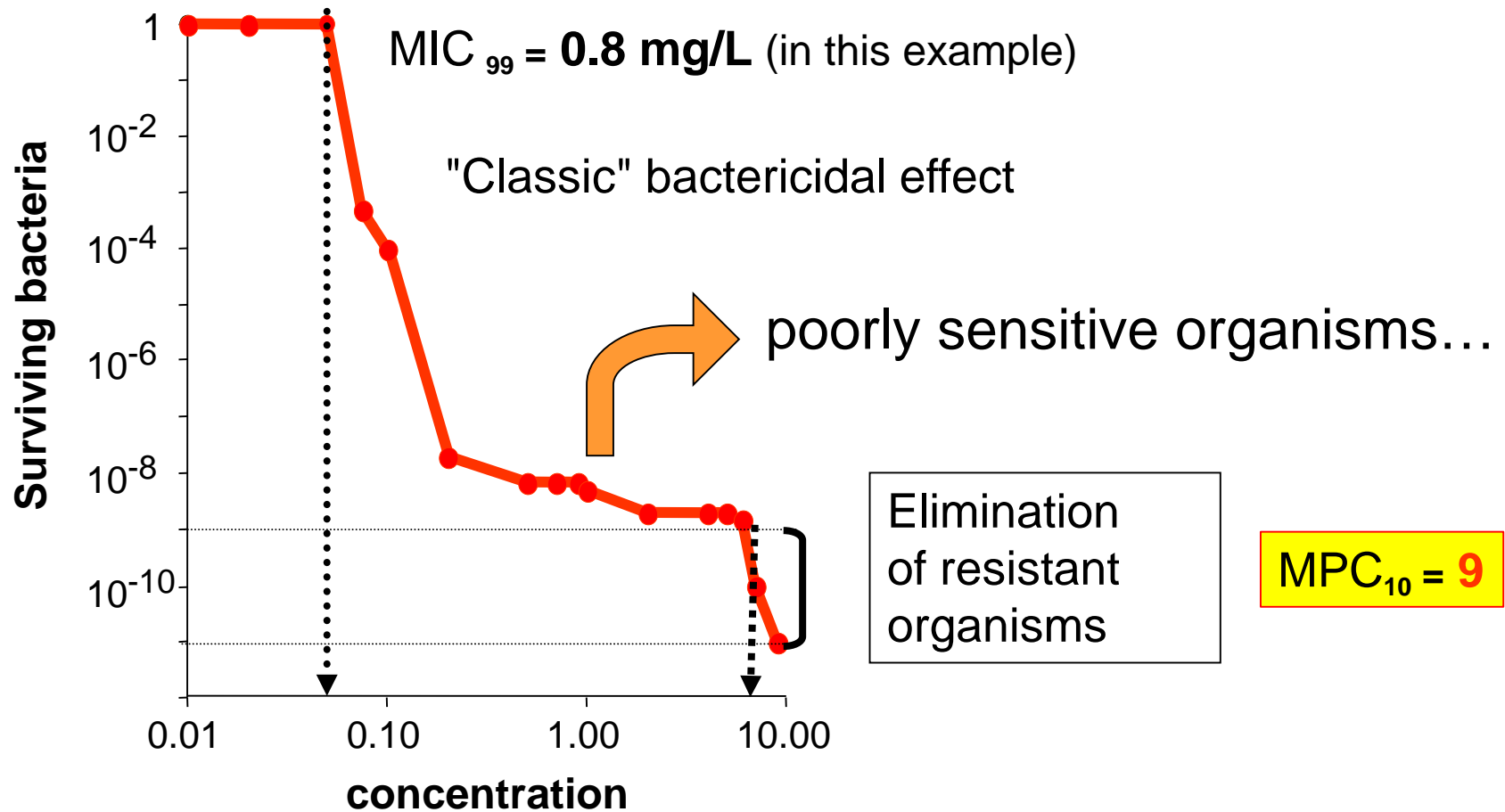
# Let us begin with the concept of MPC...

## 2. How do you find these resistant subpopulations ?



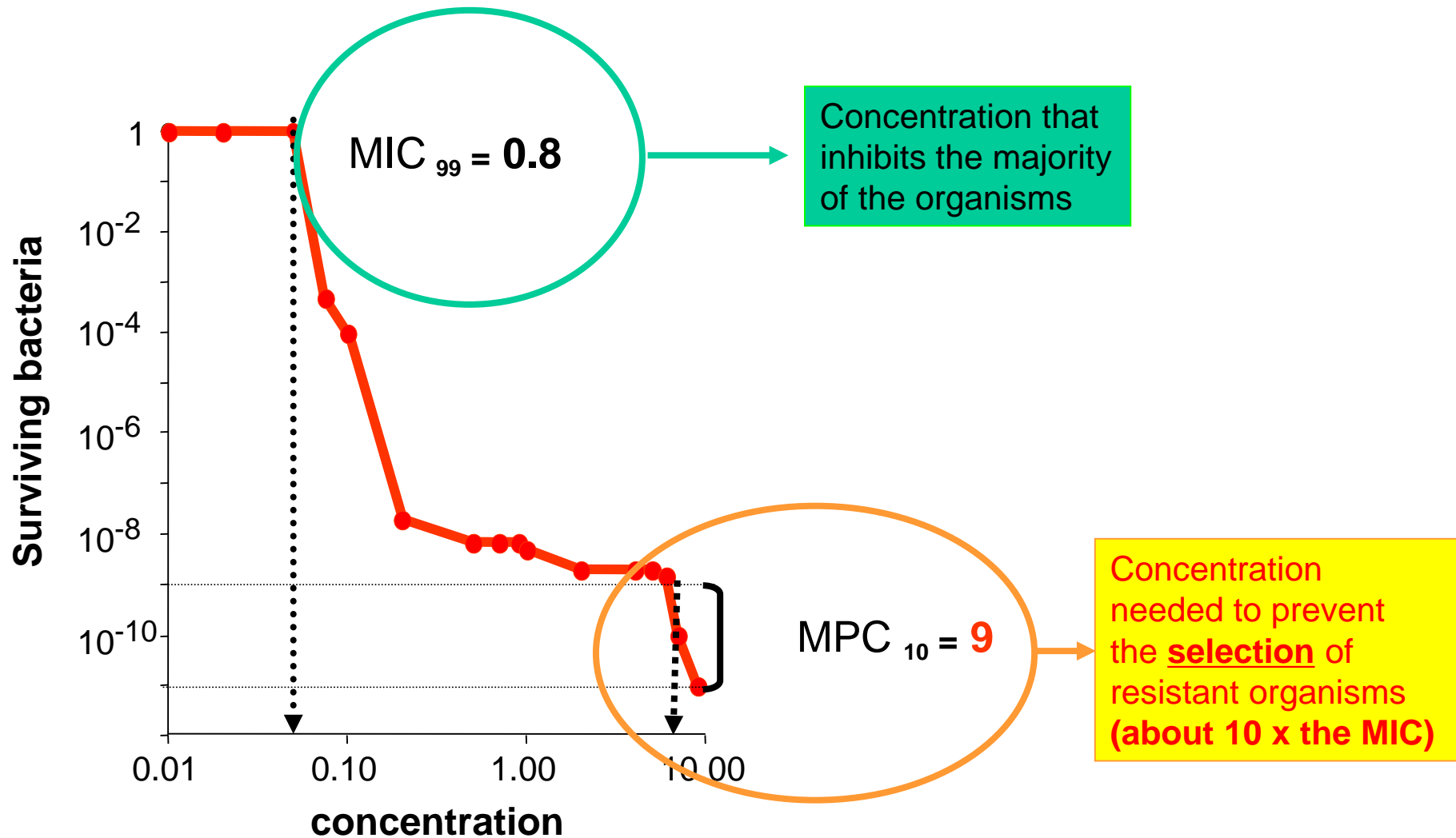
**Figure 1.** Schematic method of MPC testing.

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



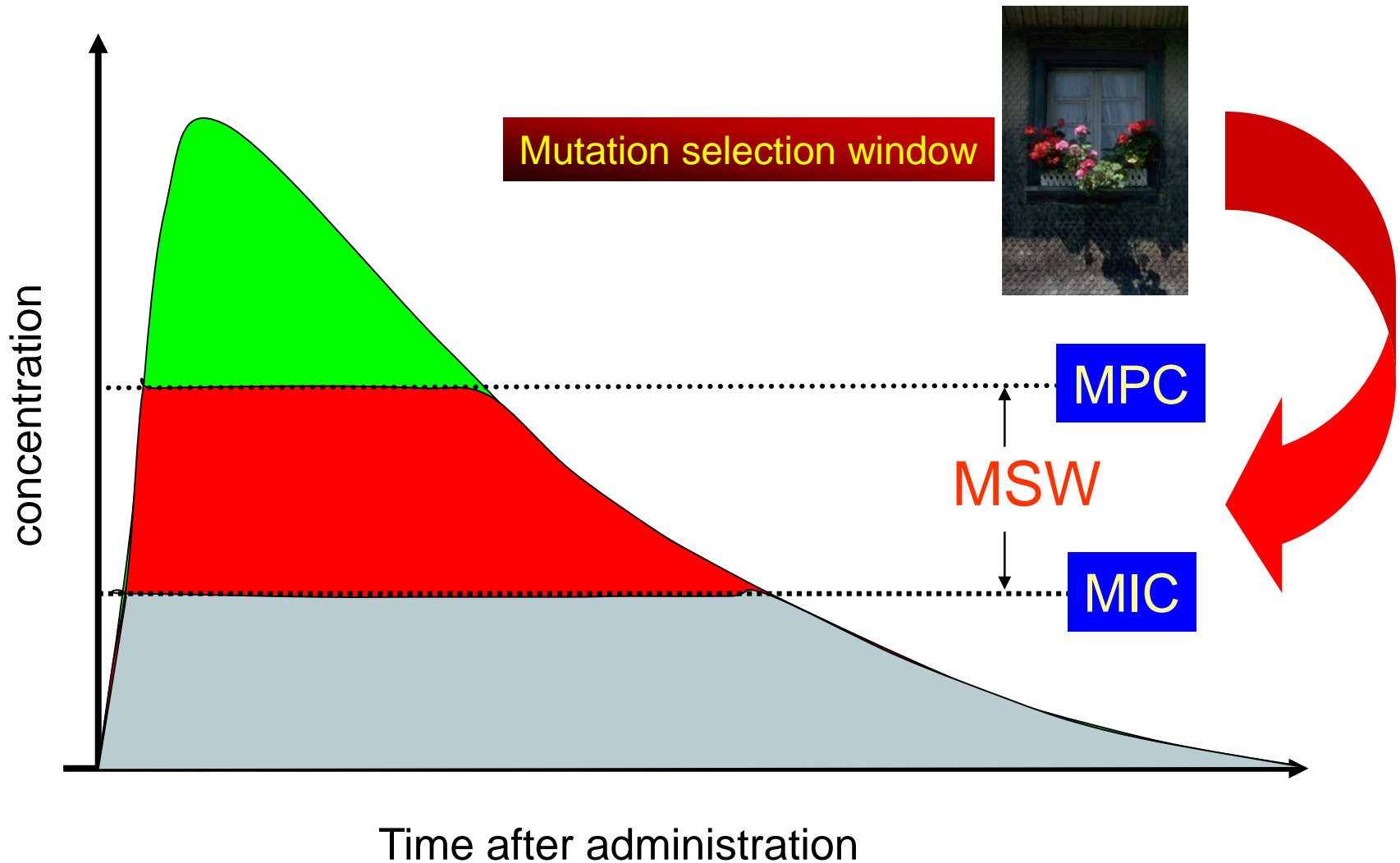
Dong et al: AAC 1999; 43:1756-1758

# "Mutant Prevention Concentration ..."



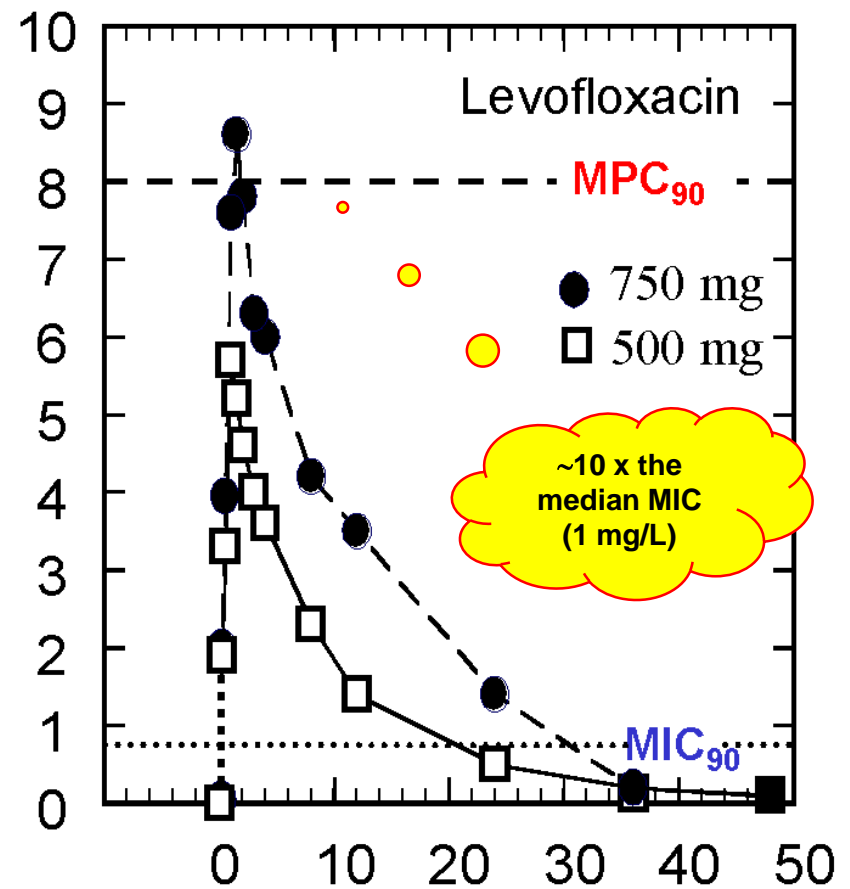
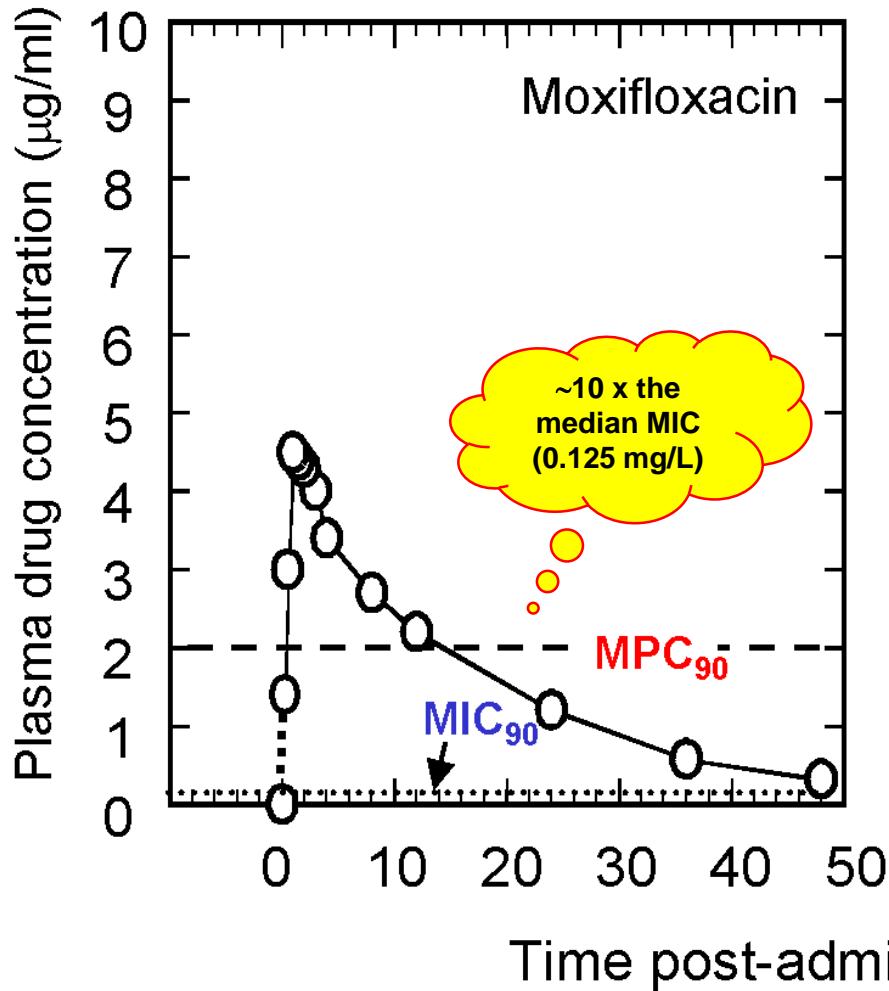
Dong et al; AAC 43:1756-1758

# The risk for resistance to fluoroquinolones is to be “within the mutation selection window” ...



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

## MPC: moxifloxacin vs levofloxacin



# So, what should you do with a fluoroquinolone to avoid emergence of resistance

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

→  $\text{peak} / \text{MIC} > 10$

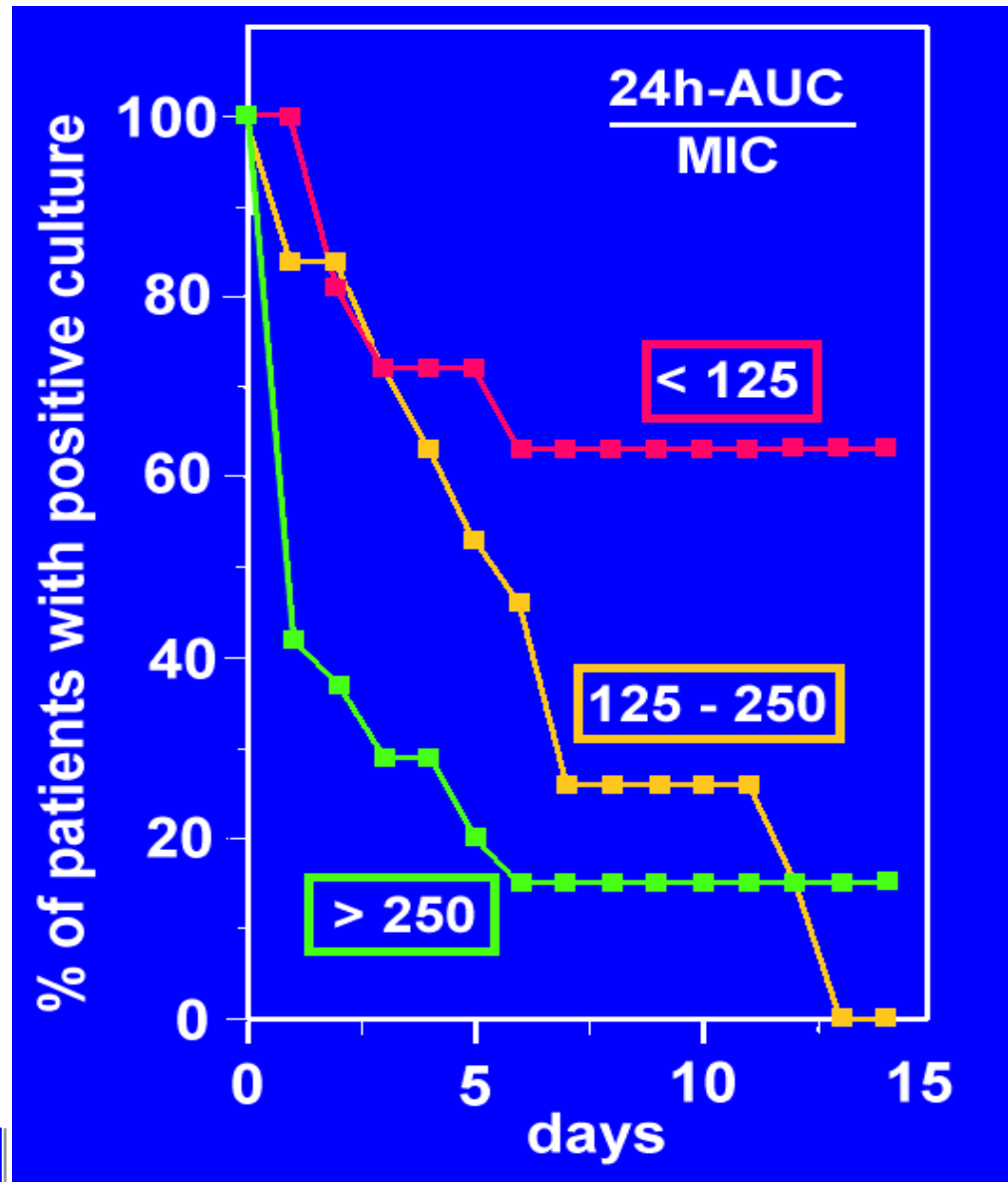


# Let us now move to the AUC / MIC as predictor of activity

AUC / MIC <sup>1</sup>  
is  
predictor of activity  
for Gram (-) ...

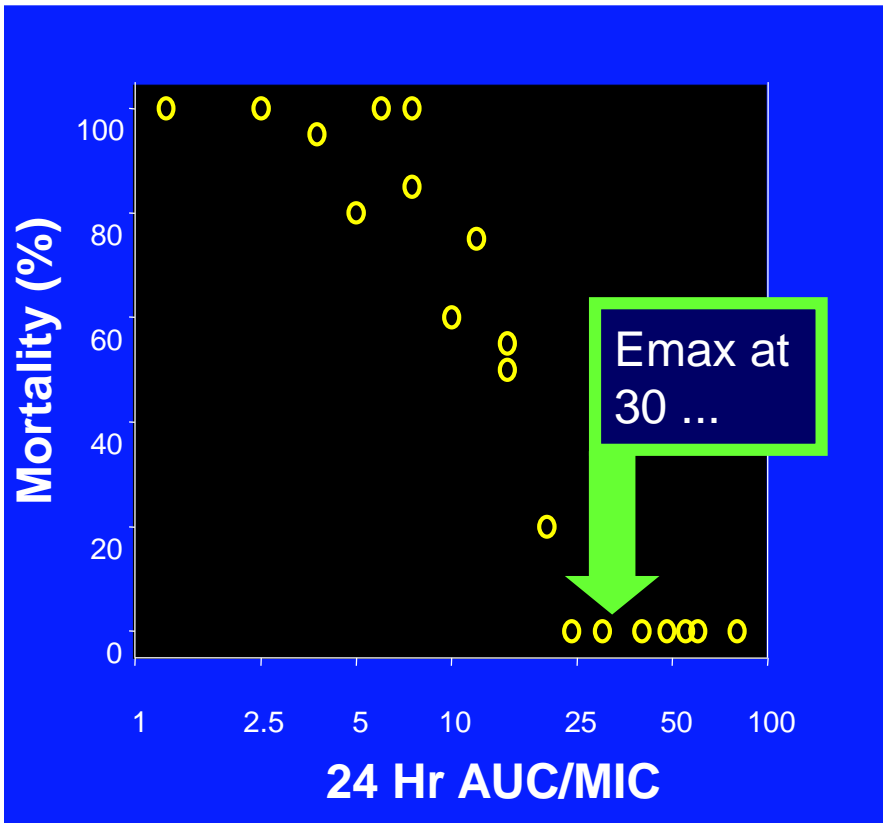
1 The impact of the C<sub>max</sub> could not  
be tested in this study

Forrest et al., AAC, 1993

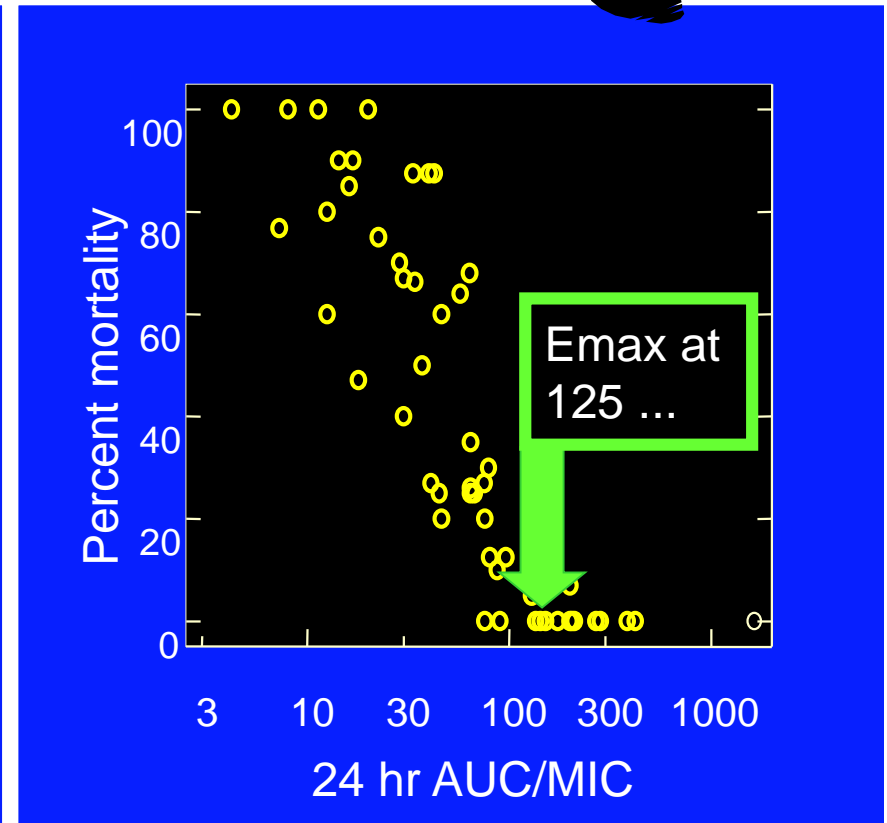


# Is 125 good for all ??

The saga of *S. pneumoniae* ...



non-neutropenic mice



neutropenic mice

# Conditions That Predispose to Pneumococcal Infection

## Defective antibody formation

Primary Congenital agammaglobulinemia

## Common variable (acquired) hypogammaglobulinemia

Selective IgG subclass deficiency

Secondary Multiple myeloma

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia Lymphoma

HIV infection

## Defective complement (primary or secondary)

Decreased or absent C1, C2, C3, C4

## Insufficient numbers of PMNs

Primary Cyclic neutropenia

## Secondary Drug-induced neutropenia

Aplastic anemia

## Poorly functioning PMNs

Alcoholism

Cirrhosis of the liver

So, an AUC/MIC = 125  
may be good  
even for *S. pneumoniae*



Browse Mandell, Douglas, and  
Bennett's Principles and Practice  
of Infectious Diseases

# AUC/MIC: modelling the clinical use

*Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* (2006) 58, 960–965

doi:10.1093/jac/dkl356

Advance Access publication 26 August 2006

JAC

**Pharmacodynamics of moxifloxacin and levofloxacin against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli*: simulation of human plasma concentrations after intravenous dosage in an *in vitro* kinetic model**

Inga Odenholt<sup>1,2\*</sup> and Otto Cars<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Infectious Diseases Research Unit, Department of Clinical Sciences Malmö, Lunds University, S-20502 Malmö, Sweden;* <sup>2</sup>*Antibiotic Research Unit, Department of Medical Sciences, Section of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden*

Odenholt & Cars J Antimicrob Chemother. 2006;58:960-5 - PMID: 16936293.

# AUC/MIC: modelling the clinical use

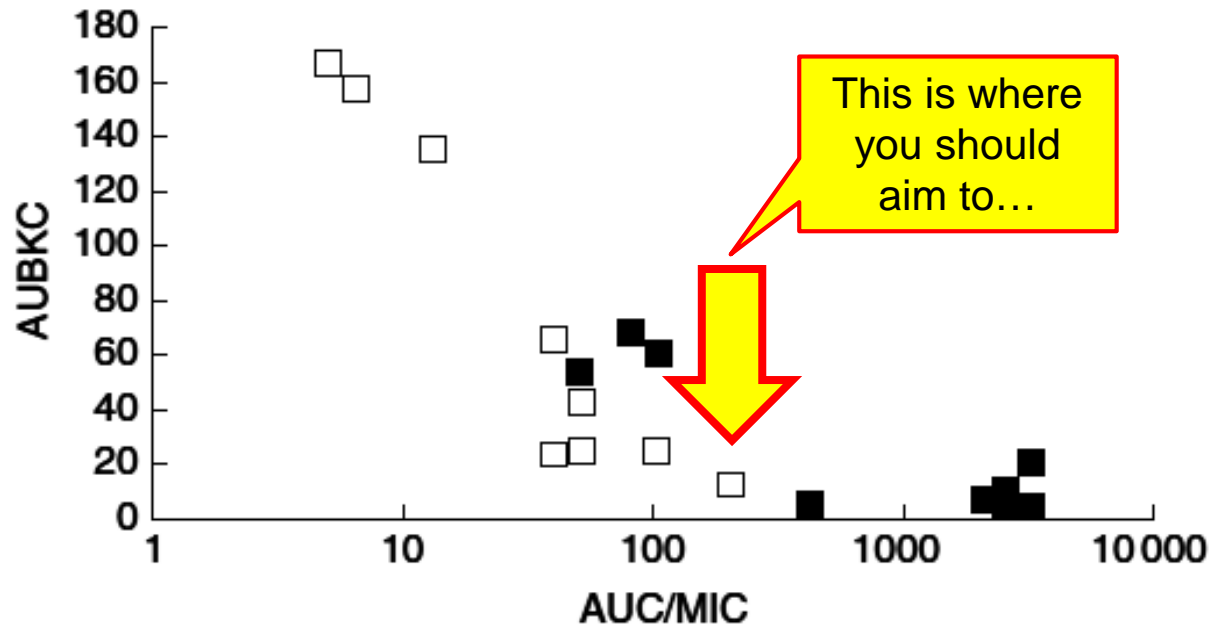
*Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* (2006) 58, 960–965  
doi:10.1093/jac/dkl356  
Advance Access publication 26 August 2006

Pharmacodynamic  
*Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *E. coli*  
concentrations after i.v. infusion

<sup>1</sup>Infectious Diseases Research  
S-20502 Malmö, Sweden  
Section of Infectious Diseases

**AUBKC: area under  
bacterial killing curve  
(~ log CFU)**

JAC



**Figure 5.**  
relationship between AUBKC and AUC/MIC for *S. pneumoniae* (open squares) and Gram-negative strains (filled squares).

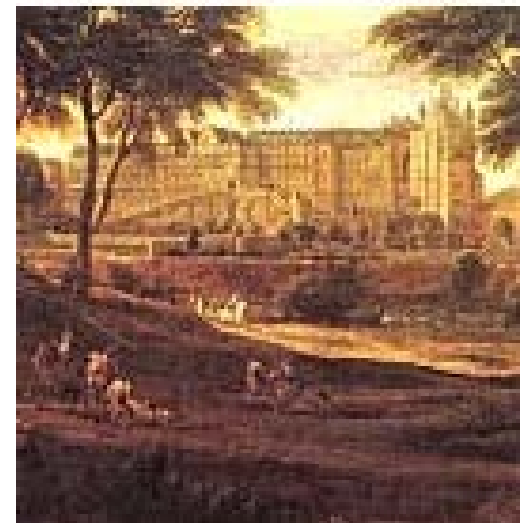
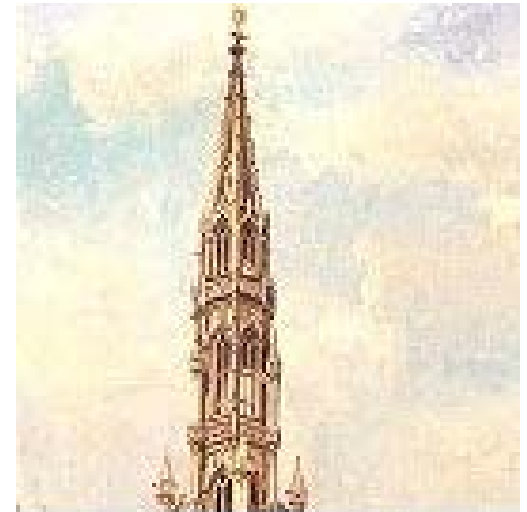
# So, what should you do with a fluoroquinolone to avoid emergence of resistance and be optimal for activity ...

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

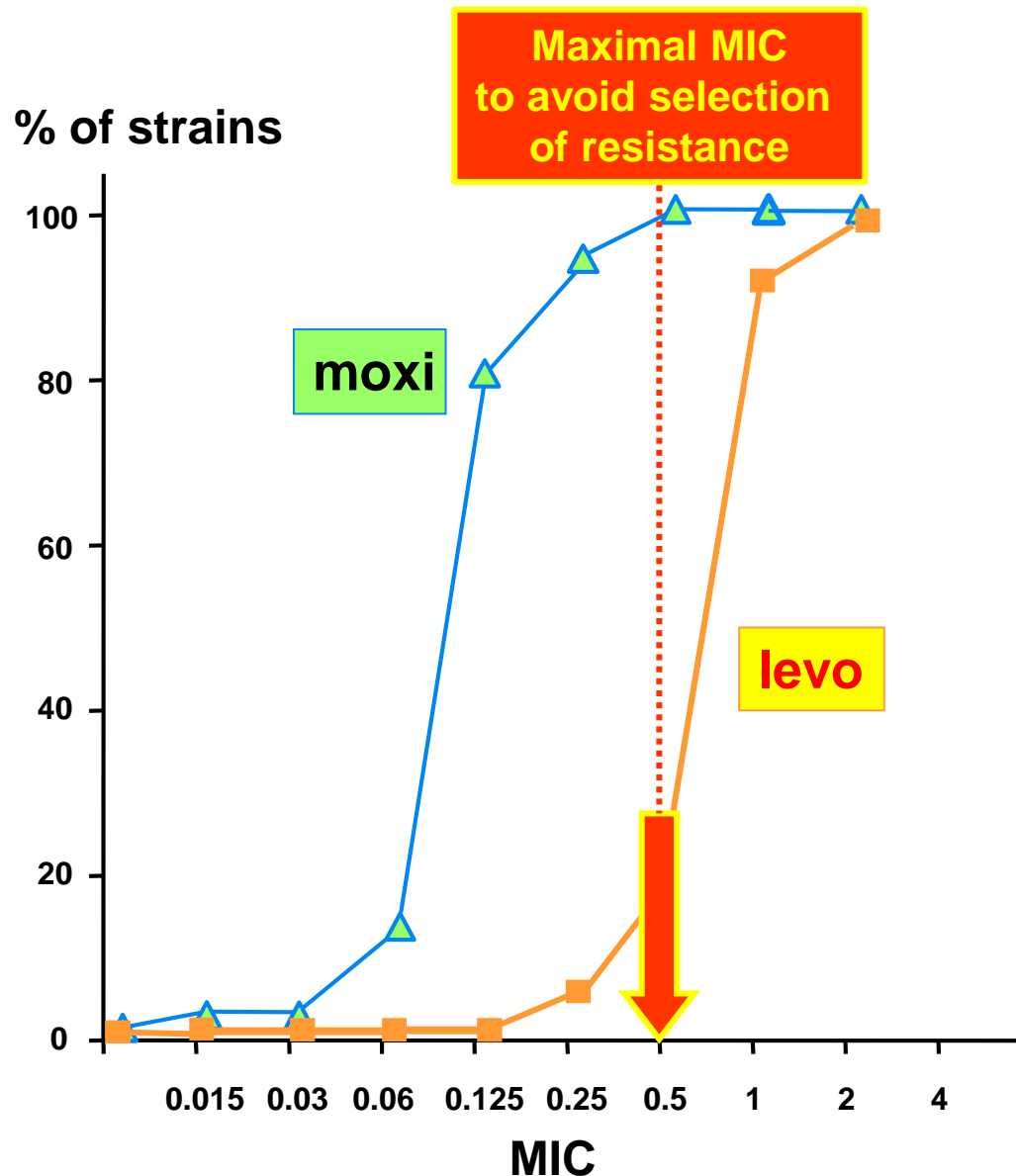
→  $\text{peak} / \text{MIC} > 10$

If you are interested in global effect ...

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



# Pharmacokinetics and “resistance” breakpoint vs. MIC



## resistance breakpoint

- $AUC/MIC = 100$
- $peak/MIC = 10$

### Levofloxacin 500 mg 1X / day

- $AUC [(mg/l) \cdot h]$  47
- $peak [mg/l]$  5
- ➔  $MIC_{max} \sim 0.5$

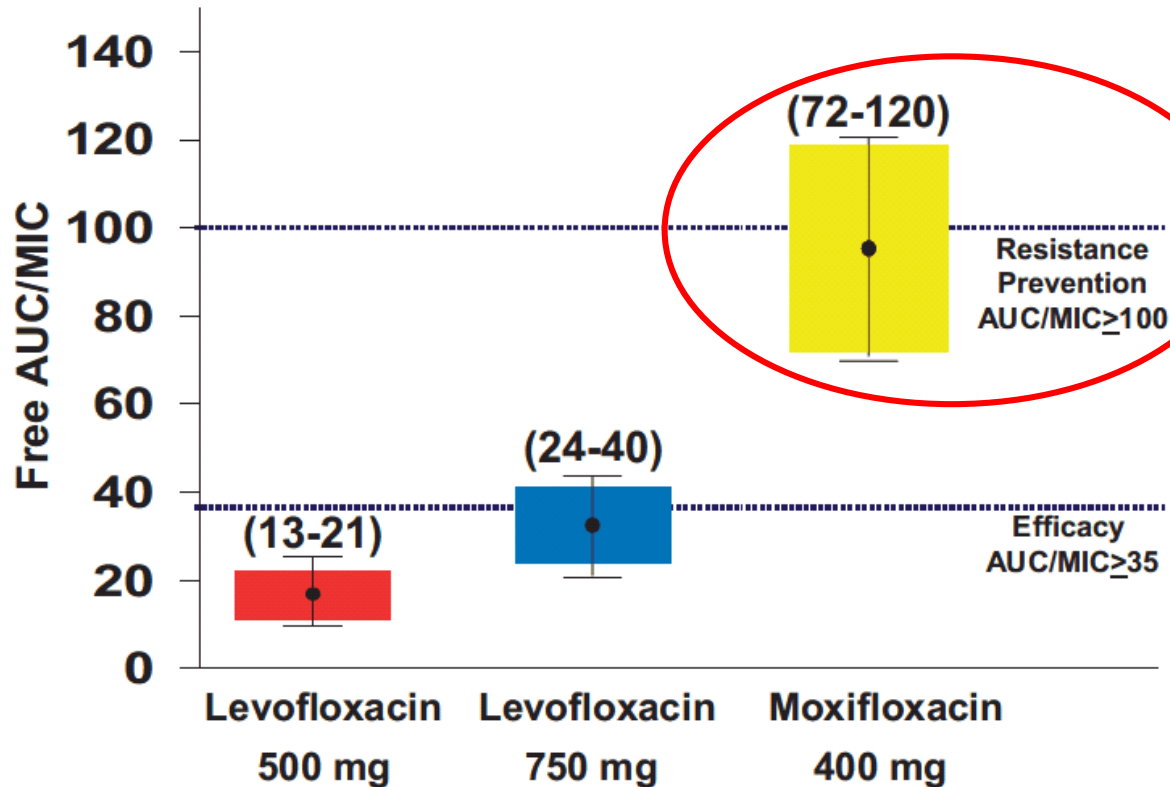
### Moxifloxacin 400 mg 1X / day

- $AUC [(mg/l) \cdot h]$  48
- $peak [mg/l]$  4.5
- ➔  $MIC_{max} \sim 0.5$

MIC data: EUCAST MIC distributions (wild type)  
PK data: US and EU labelling (typical values)

# What differentiates fluoroquinolones ?

## Results with *S. pneumoniae*

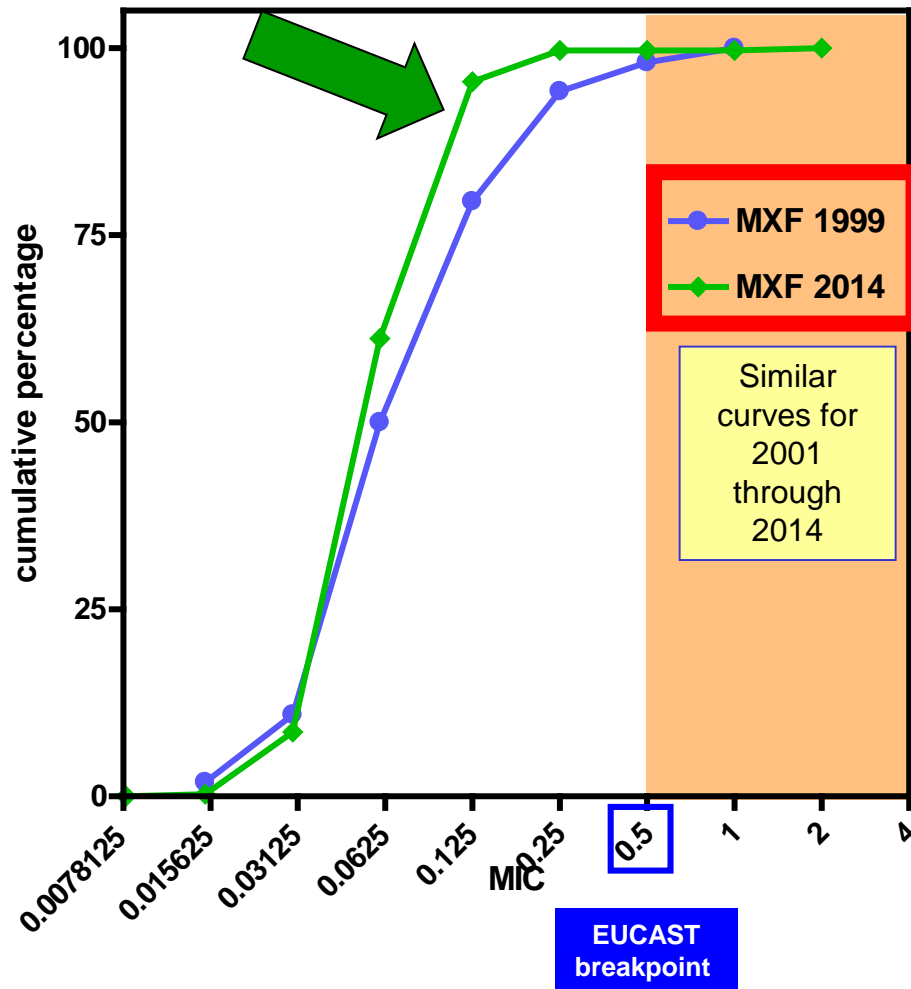


Would this cause less emergence of resistance ?

Fluoroquinolone AUC/MIC ratios  
for *S. Pneumoniae*

# Has resistance to moxifloxacin materialized: evidence for *S. pneumoniae* in Belgium from 1999 to 2014 \*

*S. pneumoniae* susceptibility to  
moxifloxacin in Belgium



\* Moxifloxacin was introduced in Belgium in 2001 and became the almost only fluoroquinolone used for RTI since 2004

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 (n=132)
- Surveys from the Belgian Scientific Institute for Public Health for *S. pneumoniae* from community isolates (n=156 in 1999 and 312 in 2014)
- Data available yearly for 1999 through 2014 at <http://www.iph.fgov.be>

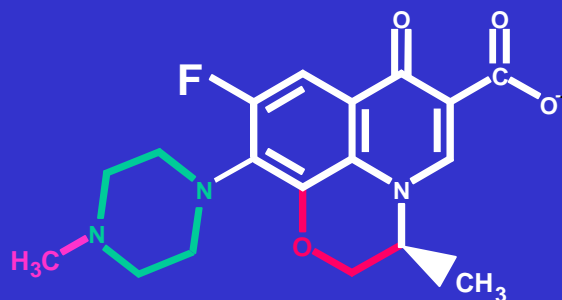
Vanhoof *et al.* 19th ECCMID, Helsinki, 2009

Ceyssens *et al.* 35<sup>th</sup> RICA, Paris, 2015

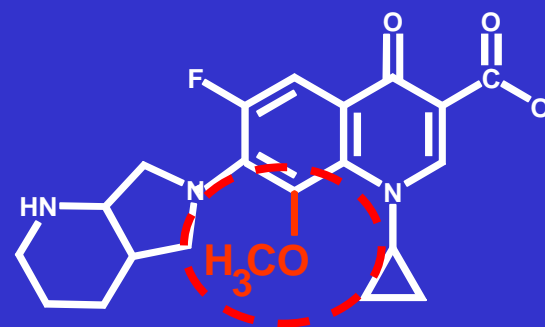
Ceyssens *et al.* PLoS One 2016;11:e0154816 (17 pages) - PMID 27227336

# Is there a molecular basis for a lesser emergence of resistance with moxifloxacin ?

A **C8-methoxy group** lowers the MPC for an N-1-cyclopropyl-f luoroquinolone"



levofloxacin



moxifloxacin



## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

The bactericidal action of moxifloxacin results from inhibition of the topoisomerase II (DNA gyrase) and topoisomerase IV required for bacterial DNA replication, transcription, repair, and recombination. It appears that the C8-methoxy moiety contributes to enhanced activity and lower selection of resistant mutants of Gram-positive bacteria compared to the C8-H moiety. The presence of the bulky bicycloamine substituent at the C-7 position prevents active efflux, associated with the *NorA* or *pmrA* genes seen in certain Gram-positive bacteria.

[https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi\\_circulars/a/avelox/avelox\\_pi.pdf](https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/a/avelox/avelox_pi.pdf)  
Last accessed: 8/2/2015

# Head to head comparison...

Clinical Infectious Diseases 2006;42:73-81.

MAJOR ARTICLE

## Community-Acquired Pneumonia Recovery in the Elderly (CAPRIE): Efficacy and Safety of Moxifloxacin Therapy versus that of Levofloxacin Therapy

**Antonio Anzueto,<sup>1,2</sup> Michael S. Niederman,<sup>3</sup> James Pearle,<sup>4</sup> Marcos I. Restrepo,<sup>1,2</sup> Albrecht Heyder,<sup>5</sup> and Shurjeel H. Choudhri,<sup>6</sup> for the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Recovery in the Elderly Study Group\***

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center, and <sup>2</sup>Veterans Evidence Based Research Dissemination and Implementation Center, Department of Medicine, South Texas Veterans Healthcare System, San Antonio, Texas; <sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, Winthrop-University Hospital, Mineola, New York; <sup>4</sup>California Research Medical Group, Fullerton, California; <sup>5</sup>Carolina Research Specialists, Elizabeth City, North Carolina; and <sup>6</sup>Bayer Pharmaceuticals, West Haven, Connecticut

# Head to head comparison...

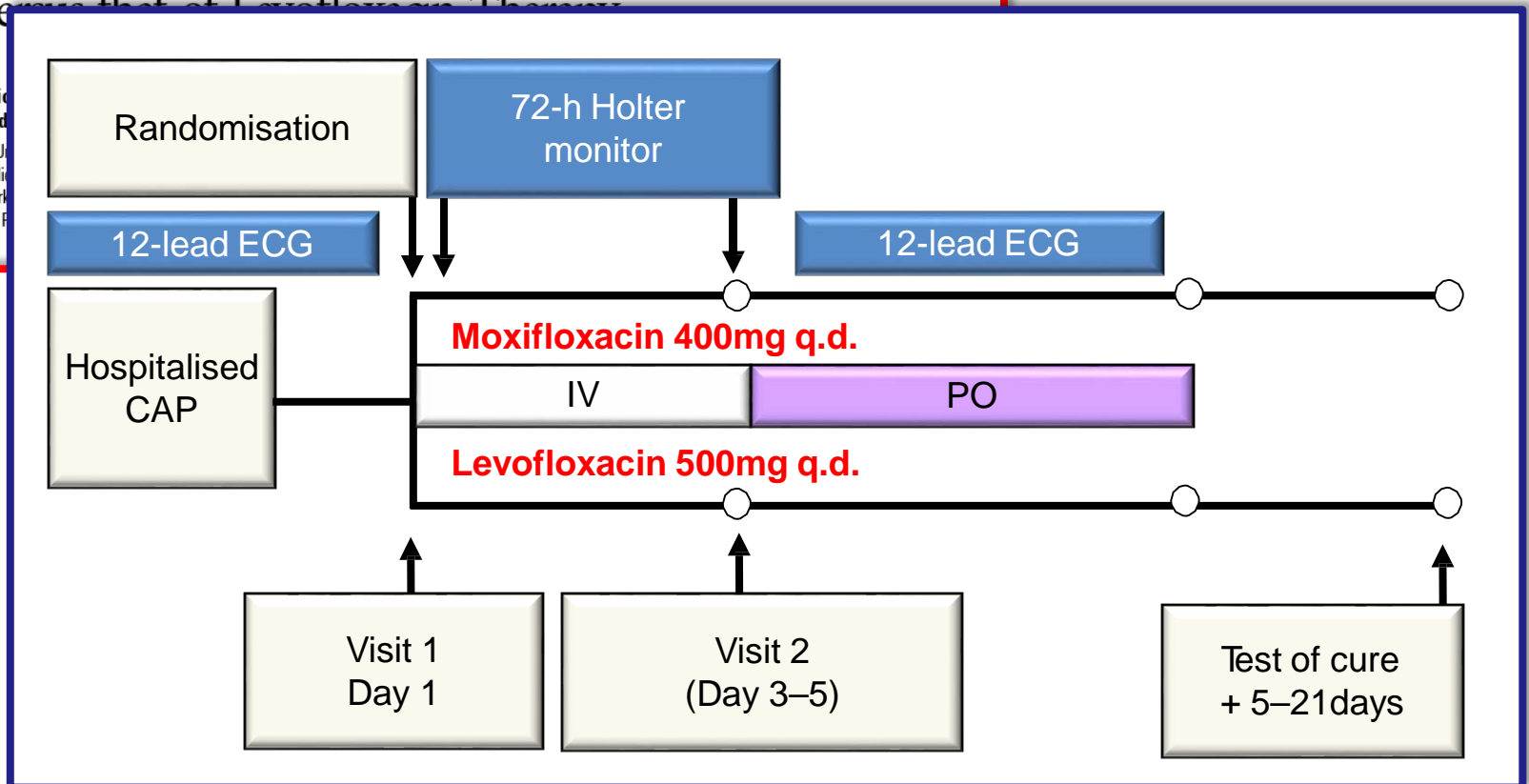
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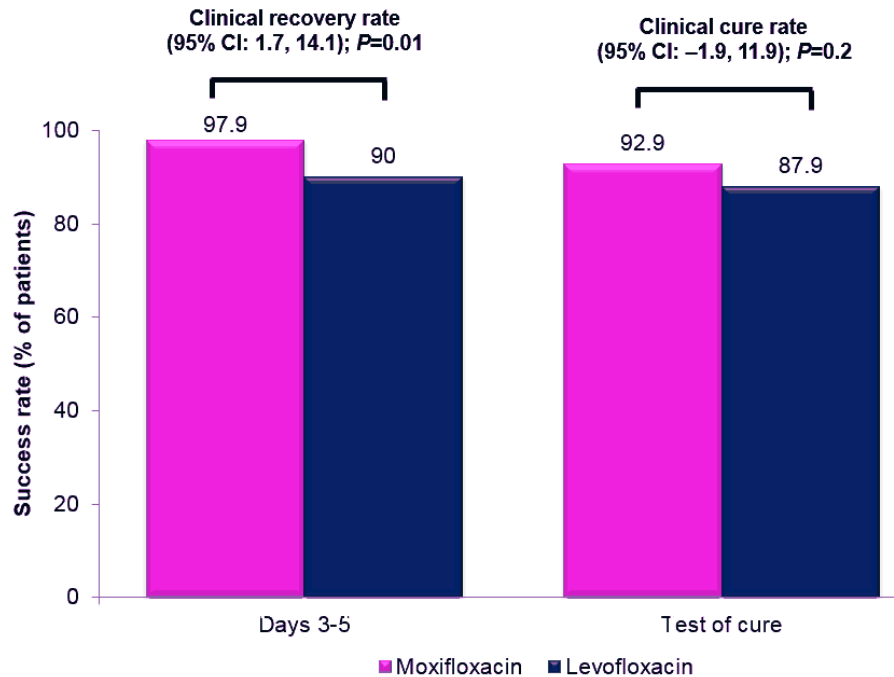
Antonio Anzueto,<sup>1,2</sup> Michael  
and Shurjeel H. Choudhury

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, University of  
Center, Department of Medicine, University of  
Hospital, Mineola, New York; and <sup>2</sup>Bayer  
North Carolina; and <sup>3</sup>Bayer

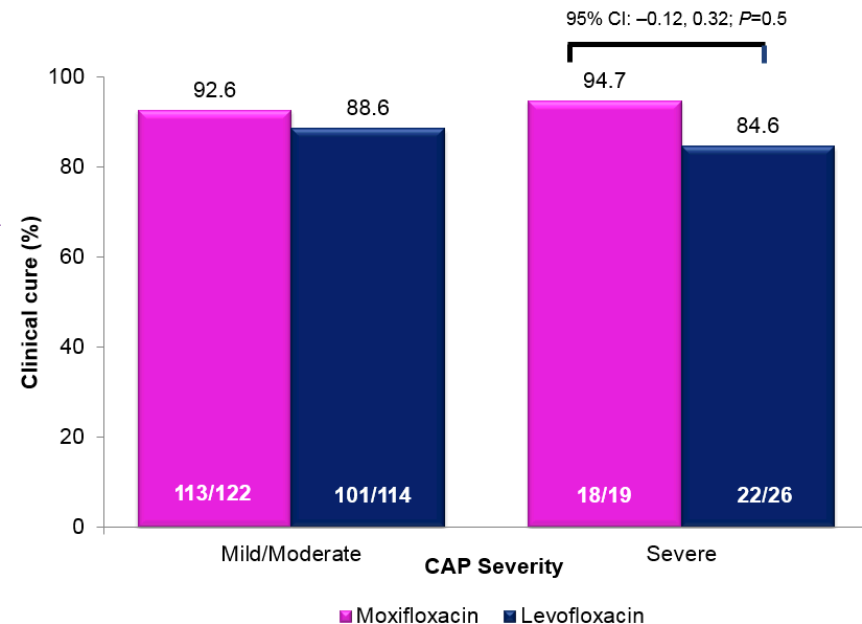


# and results in a snapshot...

## Clinical outcomes



## Clinical cure rate according to severity of CAP



# Current official recommendations for pneumonia ...



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

- Levofloxacin: 750 mg q24h <sup>1</sup> or 2 x 500 mg/day <sup>2</sup>
- Moxifloxacin: 400 mg q24h <sup>3</sup> ...

these differences in  
dosing are translating  
the differences in  
PK.PD properties ...

<sup>1</sup> US Prescription Information (Levaquin®) updated February 2017

<http://www.janssenlabels.com/package-insert/product-monograph/prescribing-information/LEVAQUIN-pi.pdf> (last accessed: 14 Nov 2017)

<sup>2</sup> European Levofloxacin Prescription Information (in English: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/24624> [revised: 2 Nov 2012; last accessed: 14 Nov 2017])  
See also the recommendations of EUCAST for breakpoint setting (use of "high dose"; [http://www.eucast.org/clinical\\_breakpoints/](http://www.eucast.org/clinical_breakpoints/) [version 2017])

<sup>3</sup> US and European Prescription information for moxifloxacin

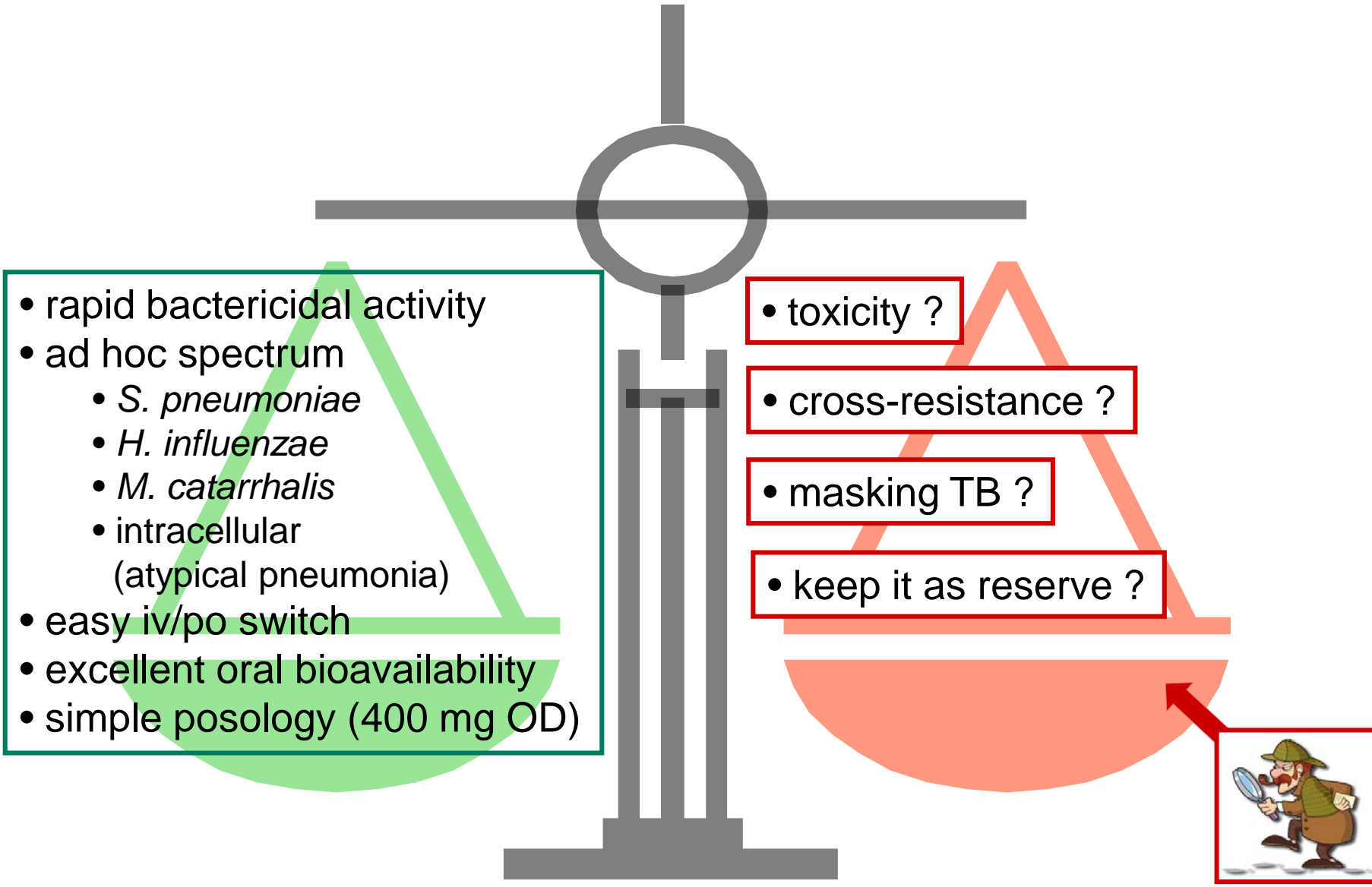
US: [https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi\\_circulars/a/avelox/avelox\\_pi.pdf](https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/a/avelox/avelox_pi.pdf) (updated: July 2016; last accessed: 14 Nov 2016)

EU (in English): <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/11841/SPC/Avelox+400+mg+film-coated+tablets> (revised: 31 Aug 2017; last accessed: 14 Nov 2017)

# The programme...

- A very short view of Belgium and of where I work...
- Differentiating fluoroquinolones in their origin and intrinsic nature
- Differentiating fluoroquinolones in PK/PD and the concept of MPC (prevention of resistance)
- **How would moxifloxacin fit into an antibiotic stewardship program**
- Questions, objections, suggestions ...

# A reasonable equilibrium for moxifloxacin ?

- 
- rapid bactericidal activity
  - ad hoc spectrum
    - *S. pneumoniae*
    - *H. influenzae*
    - *M. catarrhalis*
    - intracellular (atypical pneumonia)
  - easy iv/po switch
  - excellent oral bioavailability
  - simple posology (400 mg OD)

• toxicity ?








• cross-resistance ?

• masking TB ?

• keep it as reserve ?



# All antimicrobials have associated risks \*

Class	Drugs	Frequent or serious side effects
fluoroquinolones	levofloxacin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaphylactic reactions and allergic skin reactions</li> <li><i>Clostridium difficile</i>-associated colitis</li> <li>Hematologic toxicity</li> <li><b>Hepatotoxicity (ALT-AST elevation [common])</b> </li> <li>Central nervous system effects: headache, insomnia, dizziness, convulsions</li> <li><b>Musculoskeletal: tendinopathies</b> </li> <li>Peripheral neuropathy</li> <li>Prolongation of the QTc interval (cardiac disorders [rare])</li> <li><b>Hypoglycaemia (rare)</b> </li> <li><b>Digestive tract: nausea, diarrhoea</b> </li> </ul>
	moxifloxacin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaphylactic reactions and allergic skin reactions</li> <li><i>Clostridium difficile</i>-associated colitis</li> <li><b>Hepatotoxicity (ALT-AST elevation [common])</b> </li> <li><b>Musculoskeletal: Tendinopathies</b> </li> <li>Peripheral neuropathy</li> <li>Prolongation of the QT interval (cardiac disorders [rare])</li> <li>Central nervous system effects: headache, insomnia, dizziness, convulsions</li> <li><b>Digestive tract: nausea, diarrhoea</b> </li> </ul>

\* based on an analysis of the current respective labelling (European SmPC)

- common: 1/10 to 1/100

- rare: 1/1000-1/10000

Note: the current EU SmPCs of levofloxacin (TAVANIC®) and of moxifloxacin state:

- For [community-acquired pneumonia], TAVANICc should be used only when it is considered inappropriate to use antibacterial agents that are commonly recommended for the initial treatment of these infections.
- Moxifloxacin should be used only when it is considered inappropriate to use antibacterial agents that are commonly recommended for the initial treatment of these infections.

# Side effects of moxifloxacin (clinical trials database)



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Drugs R D 2012; 12 (2): 71-100  
1179-6901/12/0002-0071

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## Moxifloxacin Safety

### An Analysis of 14 Years of Clinical Data

*Paul M. Tulkens,<sup>1</sup> Pierre Arvis<sup>2</sup> and Frank Kruesmann<sup>3</sup>*

- 1 Pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire & Centre de Pharmacie clinique, Louvain Drug Research Institute, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium
- 2 Bayer Santé SAS, Loos, France
- 3 Bayer Pharma AG, Wuppertal, Germany

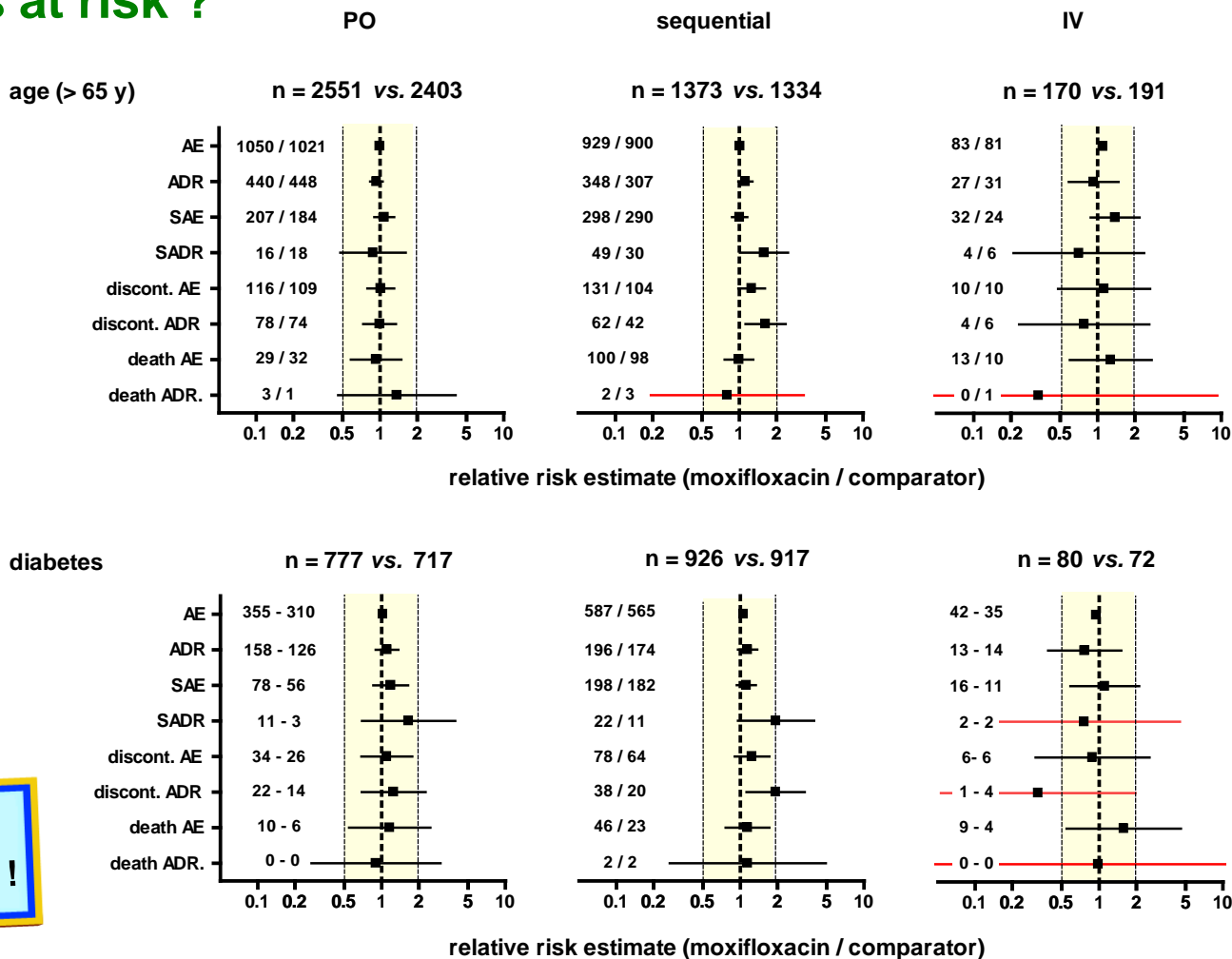
Based on the analysis of  
14,681 patients treated  
with moxifloxacin vs.  
15,023 patients treated  
with comparators



# Side effects of moxifloxacin (clinical trials database)



## Patients at risk ?



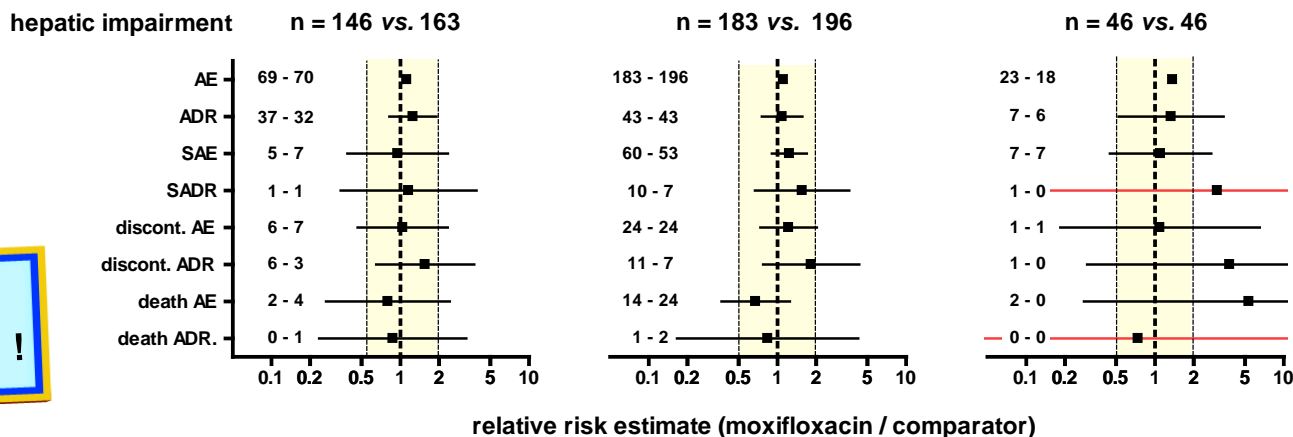
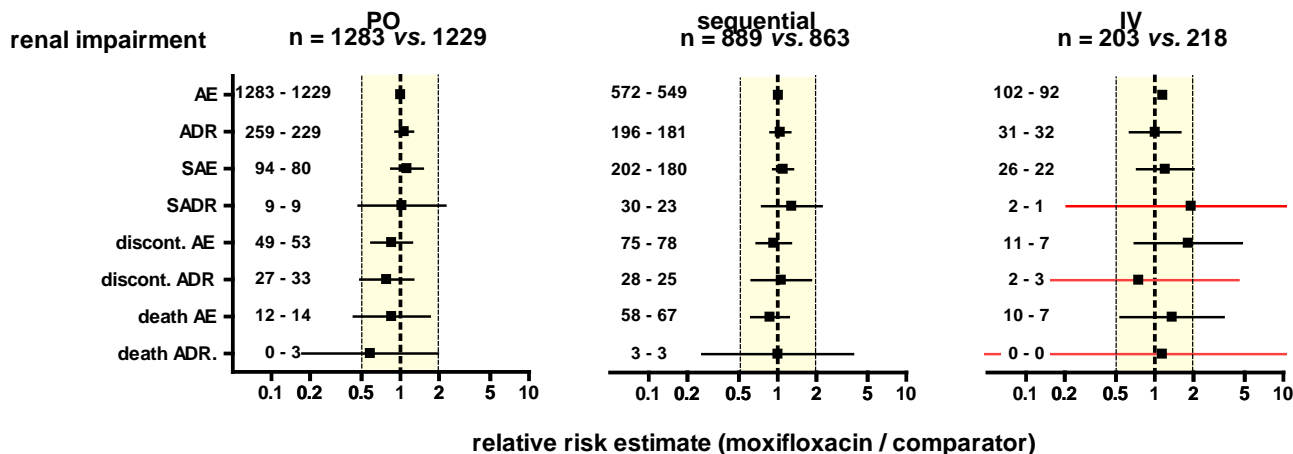
Tulkens et al., *Drugs R D* (2012) 12: 71-100



# Side effects of moxifloxacin (clinical trials database)



## Patients at risk ?



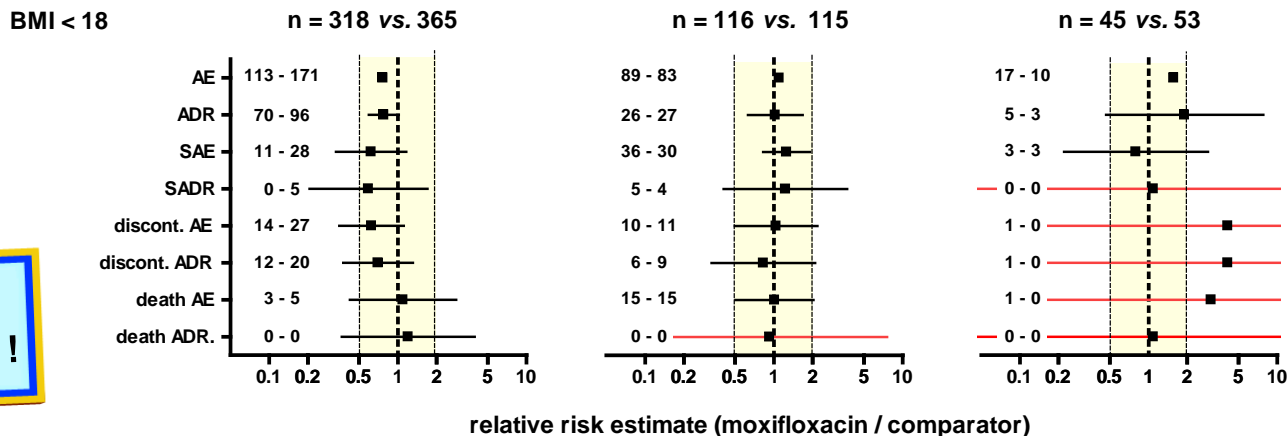
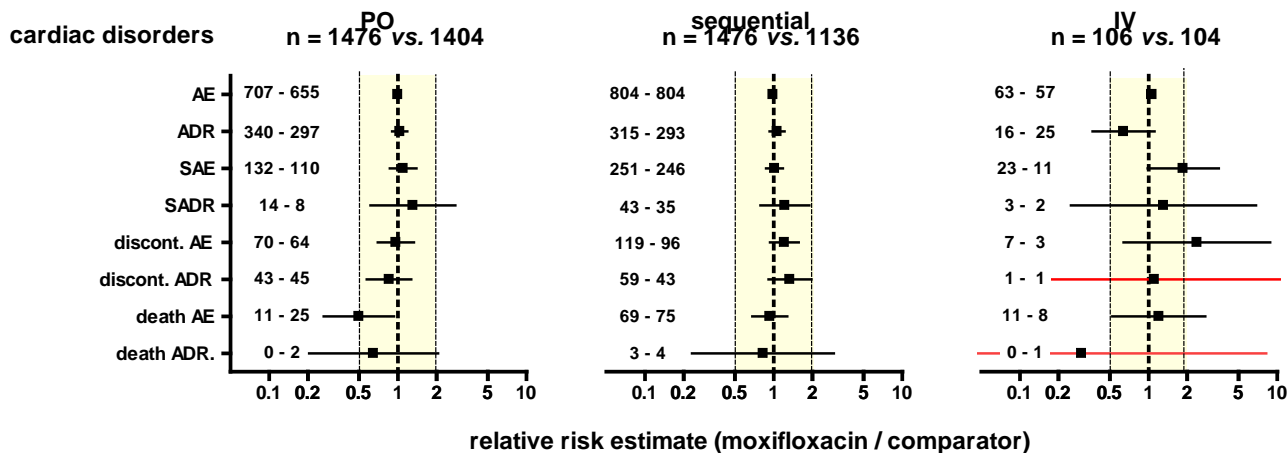
Tulkens et al., *Drugs R D* (2012) 12: 71-100



# Side effects of moxifloxacin (clinical trials database)



## Patients at risk ?



Tulkens et al., *Drugs R D* (2012) 12: 71-100

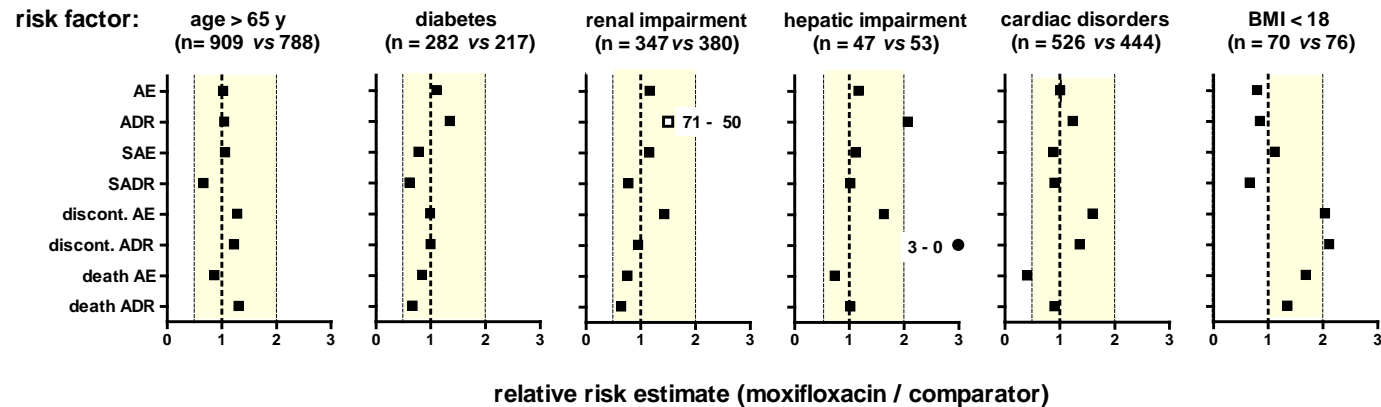
# Side effects of moxifloxacin (clinical trials database)



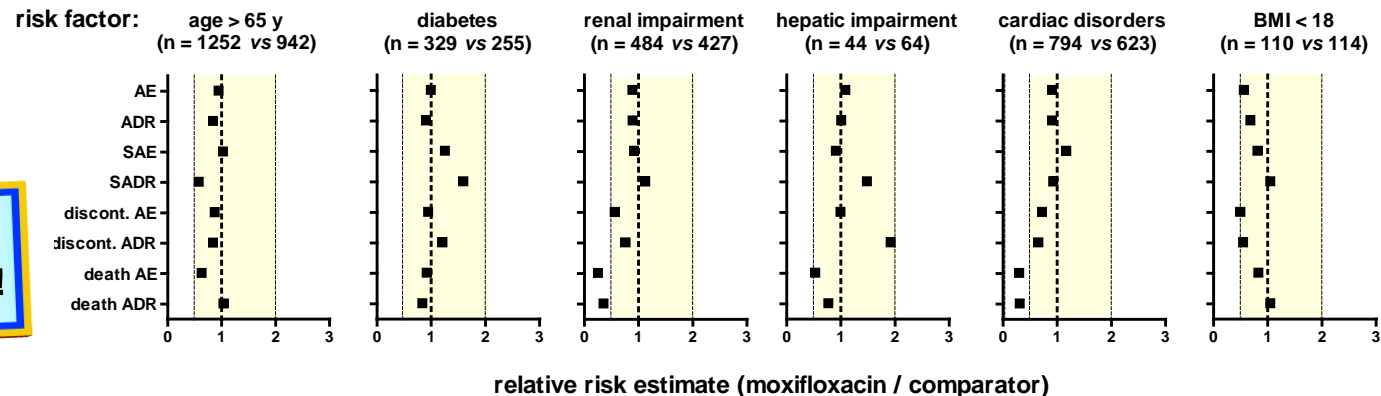
## Comparison with other drugs ?

### A. oral therapy

#### 1. moxifloxacin vs $\beta$ -lactams



#### 2. moxifloxacin vs macrolides



Tulkens et al., *Drugs R D* (2012) 12: 71-100

# Hepatotoxicity in large populations

## Crude incidence rates of acute liver injury caused by antibiotics

Antibiotic	population	Incidence rate (CI)		endpoint	Ref.
		per 100,000 users	per 100,000 prescriptions		
<b>fluoroquinolones</b> (w/o moxifloxacin)	Outpatient clinic, Sweden (1995-2005)	0.7 (0.5-1.1)		International consensus	[1]
<b>moxifloxacin</b>	Outpatient clinic, Sweden (1995-2005)	0.08 (0.0-0.5)		International consensus	[1]
<b>cotrimoxazole</b>	Saskatchewan Health Plan, Canada (1982-1986)	1.0 (0.2-5.7)	4.9 (0.9-27.6)	International consensus, hospitalisation	[2]
<b>erythromycin</b>	Saskatchewan Health Plan, Canada (1982-1986)	2.0 (0.7-5.9)	14.0 (4.8-41.2)	International consensus, hospitalisation	[2]
<b>amoxicillin- clavulanic acid</b>	General practice research database, United Kingdom (1991-1992)	22.5 (14.7-34.4)	17.4 (11.4-26.5)	International consensus	[3]

1. De Valle et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2006 Oct 15; 24(8): 1187-95

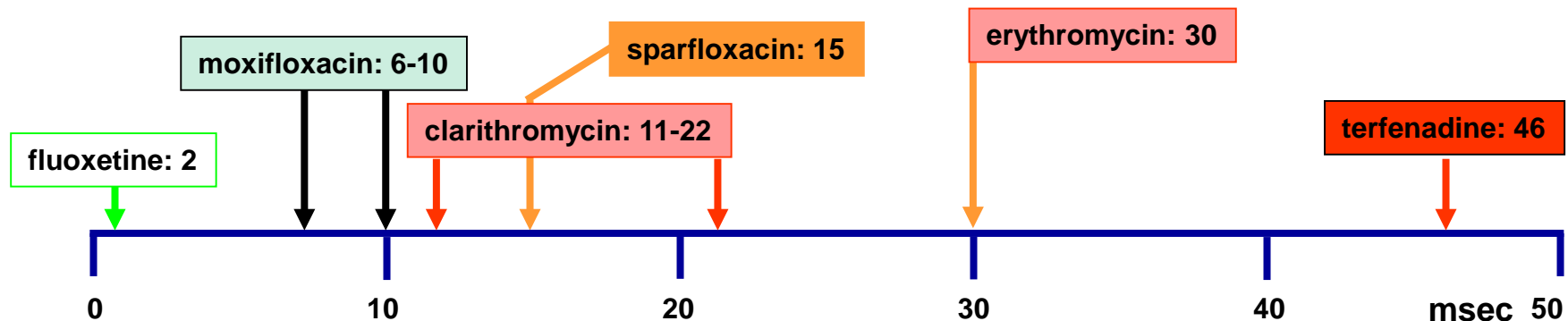
2. Perez et al. Epidemiology 1993 Nov; 4(6): 496-501

3. Garcia-Rodriguez et al. Arch Intern Med 1996 Jun 24; 156(12): 1327-32

*Van Bambeke & Tulkens, Drug Safety (2009) 32:359-78*

... the risk of arrhythmias appears to increase with the extent of QT/QTc prolongation.

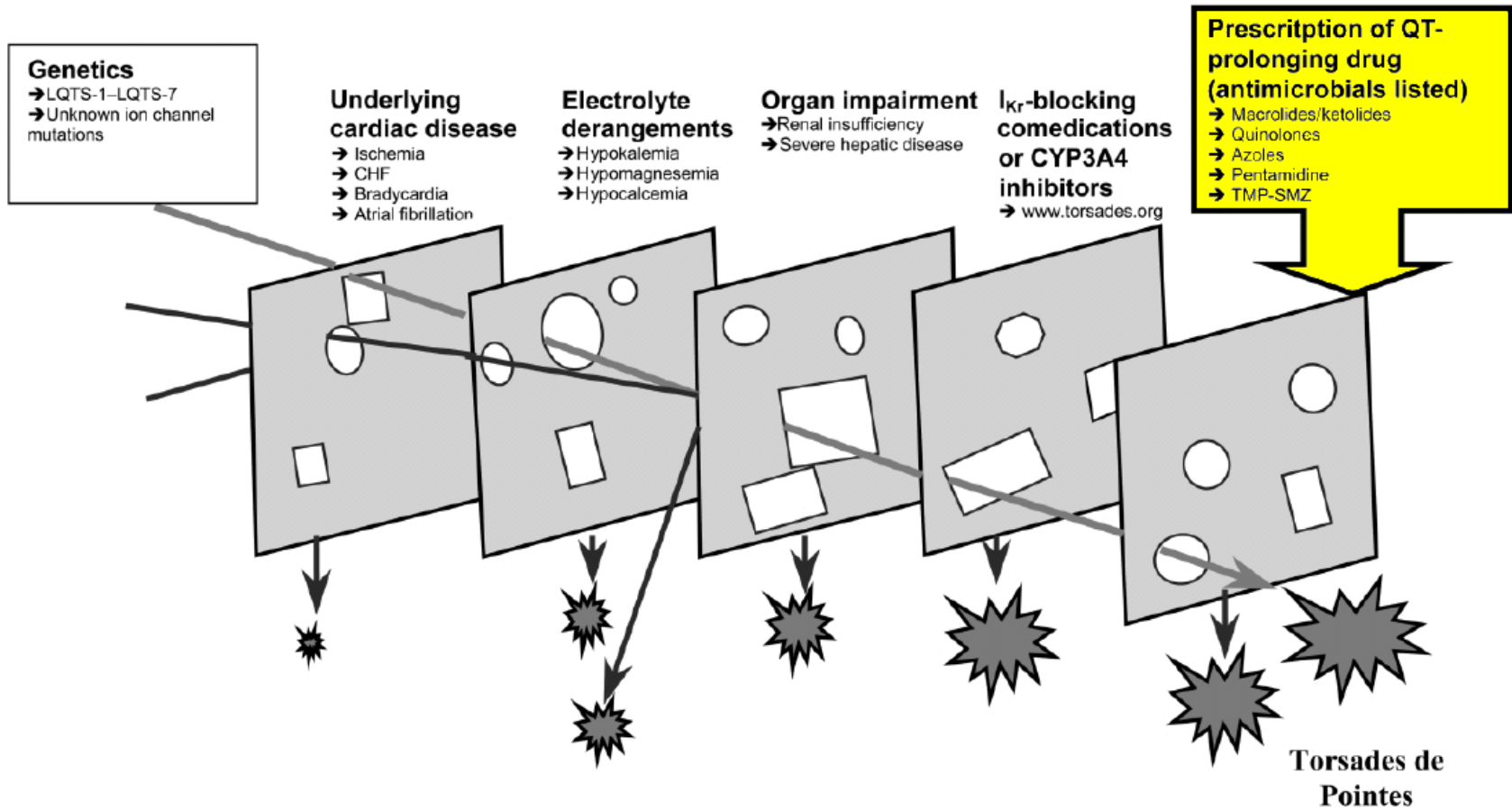
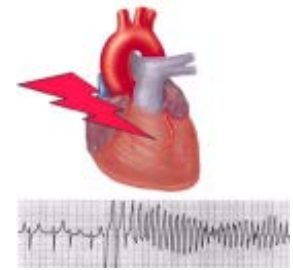
- Drugs [with] QT/QTc interval by around 5 ms or less do not appear to cause TdP.
- ...data on drugs [with] QT/QTc interval by... 5 to < 20 ms are inconclusive, but some of these compounds have been associated with proarrhythmic risk.\*



... decisions about [drug] development and approval will depend upon the **morbidity and mortality associated with the untreated disease** or disorder and the **demonstrated clinical benefits of the drug**, especially as they compare with available therapeutic modalities.

\* this includes erythromycin and clarithromycin (Balardinelli *et al*, TIPS (2003) 24:619-625)

# QTc prolongation



Owens & Ambrose CID (2005) 41:S144-157

# *Torsade de pointe*: comparison of risk

## reporting rate of *Torsades de pointe* induced by antibiotics

drug	No. of U.S. Cases Reported to the FDA	No. of Estimated Total U.S. Prescriptions (millions)	No. of Cases /10 Millions Prescriptions (95% CI)	
moxifloxacin	0	1.4	0 (0-26)	used as positive control in phase I studies
ciprofloxacin	2	66	0.3 (0.0-1.1)	
ofloxacin	2	9.5	2.1 (0.3-7.6)	
levofloxacin	13	24	5.4 (2.9-9.3)	
gatifloxacin	8	3	27 (12-53)	
erythromycin	11 –17	151	0.7 -1.1	
clarithromycin	16 –31	90	1.8 -3.4	FDA warning March 12,2013
azithromycin	7 –10	124	0.6–1	
cefuroxime	1 -1	42	0.2 –1	

Van Bambeke & Tulkens, *Drug Safety* (2009) 32:359-78

# Tendinopathies...

- In 2005, all fluoroquinolones marketed in the US have received a black box label about tendinopathies

**WARNING:**  
Fluoroquinolones, including AVELOX®, are associated with an increased risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture in all ages. This risk is further increased in older patients usually over 60 years of age, in patients taking corticosteroid drugs, and in patients with kidney or lung transplants. [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]  
Fluoroquinolones, including AVELOX, may exacerbate muscle weakness in persons with myasthenia gravis. Avoid AVELOX in patients with known history of myasthenia gravis [see Warnings and Precautions (5.2).]

## Noroxin® (NORFLOXACIN) TABLETS

### WARNING:

Fluoroquinolones, including Noroxin, are associated with an increased risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture in all ages. This risk is further increased in older patients usually over 60 years of age, in patients taking corticosteroid drugs, and in patients with kidney, heart or lung transplants (see [WARNINGS](#)).



Fluoroquinolones, including Noroxin, may exacerbate muscle weakness in persons with myasthenia gravis. Avoid Noroxin in patients with known history of myasthenia gravis (see [WARNINGS](#)).

**WARNING:**  
Fluoroquinolones, including LEVAQUIN®, are associated with an increased risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture in all ages. This risk is further increased in older patients usually over 60 years of age, in patients taking corticosteroid drugs, and in patients with kidney, heart or lung transplants [See Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].

# Tendinopathies...

- But this is what we found for moxifloxacin in our survey of the whole clinical trial database

**Table VII.** Incidence of selected treatment-emergent adverse events presented by Standard MedDRA Queries/ Bayer MedDRA Queries and preferred terms in patients valid for the safety analysis, treated with moxifloxacin or a comparator and stratified by route of administration (oral only; intravenous followed by oral [sequential]; intravenous only).

SMQ/BMQ and preferred term	Treatment route [n (%)]					
	PO		IV/PO		IV	
	MXF [n= 10 613]	COMP [n= 10 685]	MXF [n=3431]	COMP [n= 3415]	MXF [n=937]	COMP [n=923]
Tendinopathies	11 (0.1)	10 (<0.1)	3 (<0.1)	2 (<0.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
 very rare and no difference						 no case

PO= oral  
 IV = intravenous  
 MXF: moxifloxacin  
 COMP = comparator

*Tulkens et al., Drugs R D (2012) 12: 71-100*

# Tendinopathies: incidences (revisited)...



Institute for Safe Medication Practices  
A Nonprofit Organization Educating the Healthcare Community and Consumers  
About Safe Medication Practices



## QuarterWatch: 2010 Quarter 2

### Monitoring MedWatch Reports

January 27, 2011

### Signals for Varenicline, Levofloxacin and Fentanyl

<http://www.ismp.org/quarterwatch/2010Q2.pdf>

Last accessed: 20/02/2015



## Levofloxacin (LEVAQUIN) Cases Lead Antibiotics

While antibiotics rank among the safest drugs we monitor, levofloxacin (LEVAQUIN) was suspect in more reports of serious injury than any other antibiotic. Most cases involved tendon rupture and other muscle, tendon and ligament injuries. Case reports of this problem substantially outnumbered those for two chemically similar drugs—ciprofloxacin (CIPRO), with greater volume of prescriptions, and moxifloxacin (AVELOX), with somewhat less frequent medical use.

# Tendinopathies: incidences (revisited)...



Institute for Safe Medication Practices  
A Nonprofit Organization Educating the Healthcare Community and Consumers  
About Safe Medication Practices



in  
2011

## QuarterWatch: 2010 Quarter 2

**Table 2. Tendon disorders for fluoroquinolone antibiotics 2010q2.**

	Levofloxacin	Ciprofloxacin	Moxifloxacin
Total Rx (millions)*	2.1	5.3	1.5
Case Reports	246	105	93
% Direct to FDA	52%	71%	42%
% Health Professionals	53%	59%	76%
Tendon Disorders (HLT)	93	29	10
All Musculoskeletal	156	62	20

\*IMS Health National Prescription Audit <sup>TM</sup> 2010

(AVELOX), with somewhat less frequent medical use.

# Moxifloxacin safety: a conclusion...

LEADING ARTICLE

Drug Safety 2009; 32 (5): 359-378  
0114-5916/09/0005-0359/\$49.95/0

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## Safety Profile of the Respiratory Fluoroquinolone Moxifloxacin

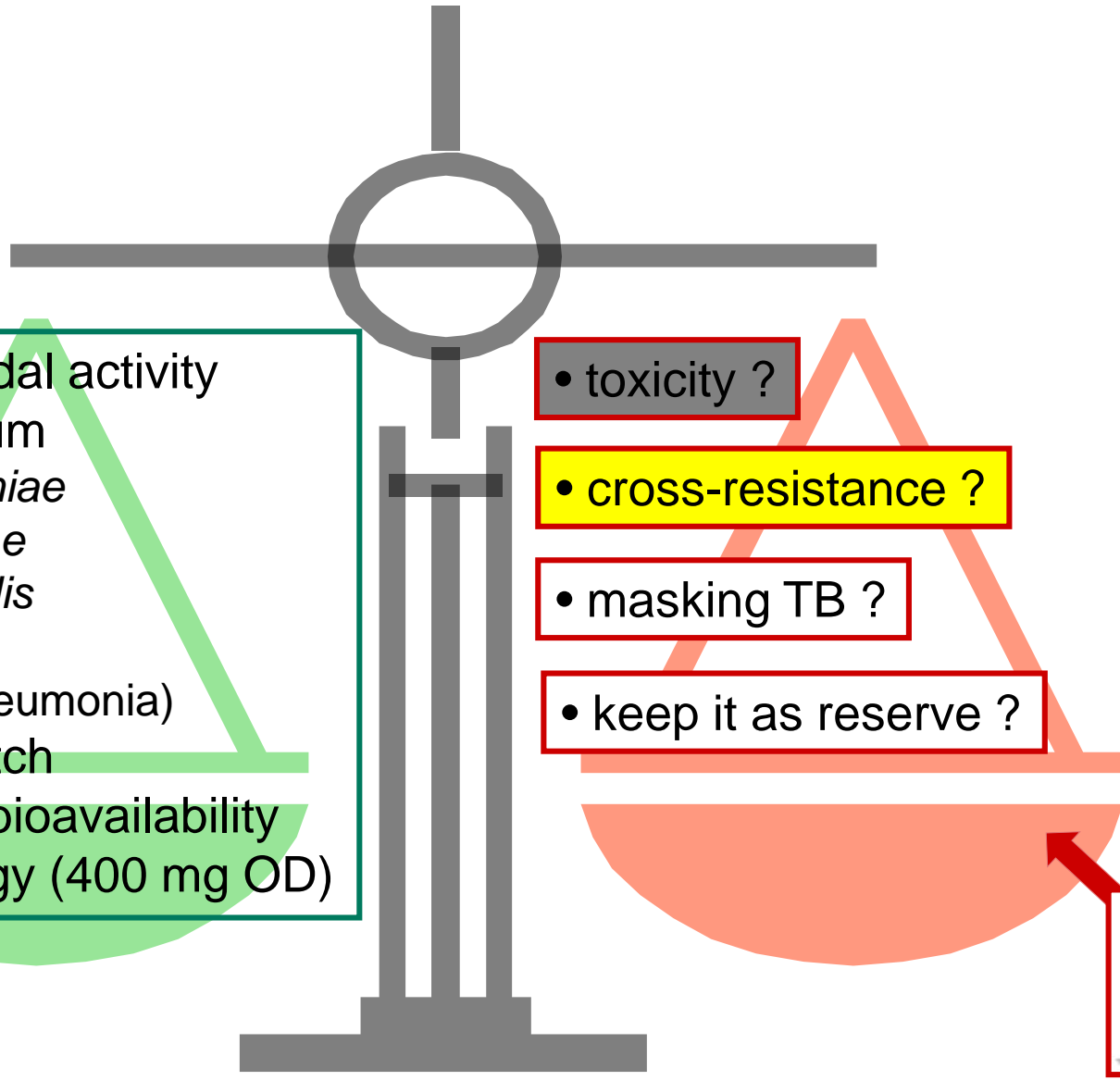
### Comparison with Other Fluoroquinolones and Other Antibacterial Classes

*Françoise Van Bambeke and Paul M. Tulkens*

Unité de pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire & Centre de Pharmacie Clinique, Louvain Drug Research Institute, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

The data show that using moxifloxacin, in its accepted indications and following the corresponding guidelines, should not be associated with an excessive incidence of drug-related adverse reactions, provided the clinician takes care in identifying patients with known risk factors and pays due attention to the contraindications and warnings mentioned in the labelling.

# A reasonable equilibrium for moxifloxacin ?

- 
- rapid bactericidal activity
  - ad hoc spectrum
    - *S. pneumoniae*
    - *H. influenzae*
    - *M. catarrhalis*
    - intracellular (atypical pneumonia)
  - easy iv/po switch
  - excellent oral bioavailability
  - simple posology (400 mg OD)

• toxicity ?

• cross-resistance ?

• masking TB ?

• keep it as reserve ?



# Cross-resistance with what ?

- Gram-negative
  - *K. pneumoniae*
  - *E. coli*
  - *P. aeruginosa*
- Gram-positive
  - *C. difficile*
  - *Enterococci*
  - *Staphylococci*

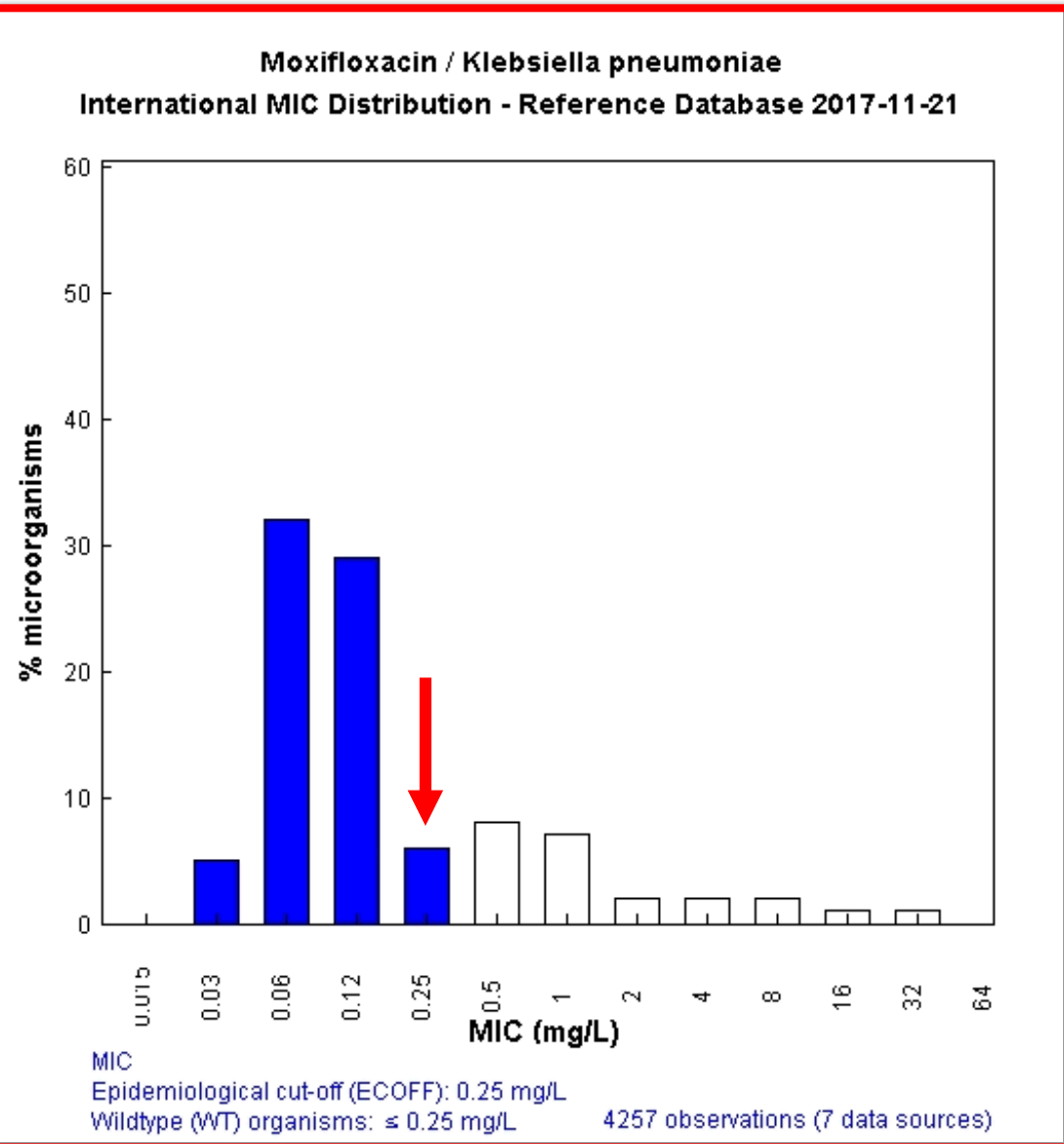
**all these show  
variable levels  
of resistance to  
moxifloxacin  
(i.e. MICs > the  
EUCAST  
ECOFF \*)**

\* <https://mic.eucast.org/Eucast2/> (EUCAST MIC distributions help to establish the ECOFF but should not be used to determine resistance levels)

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  - *Enterococci*
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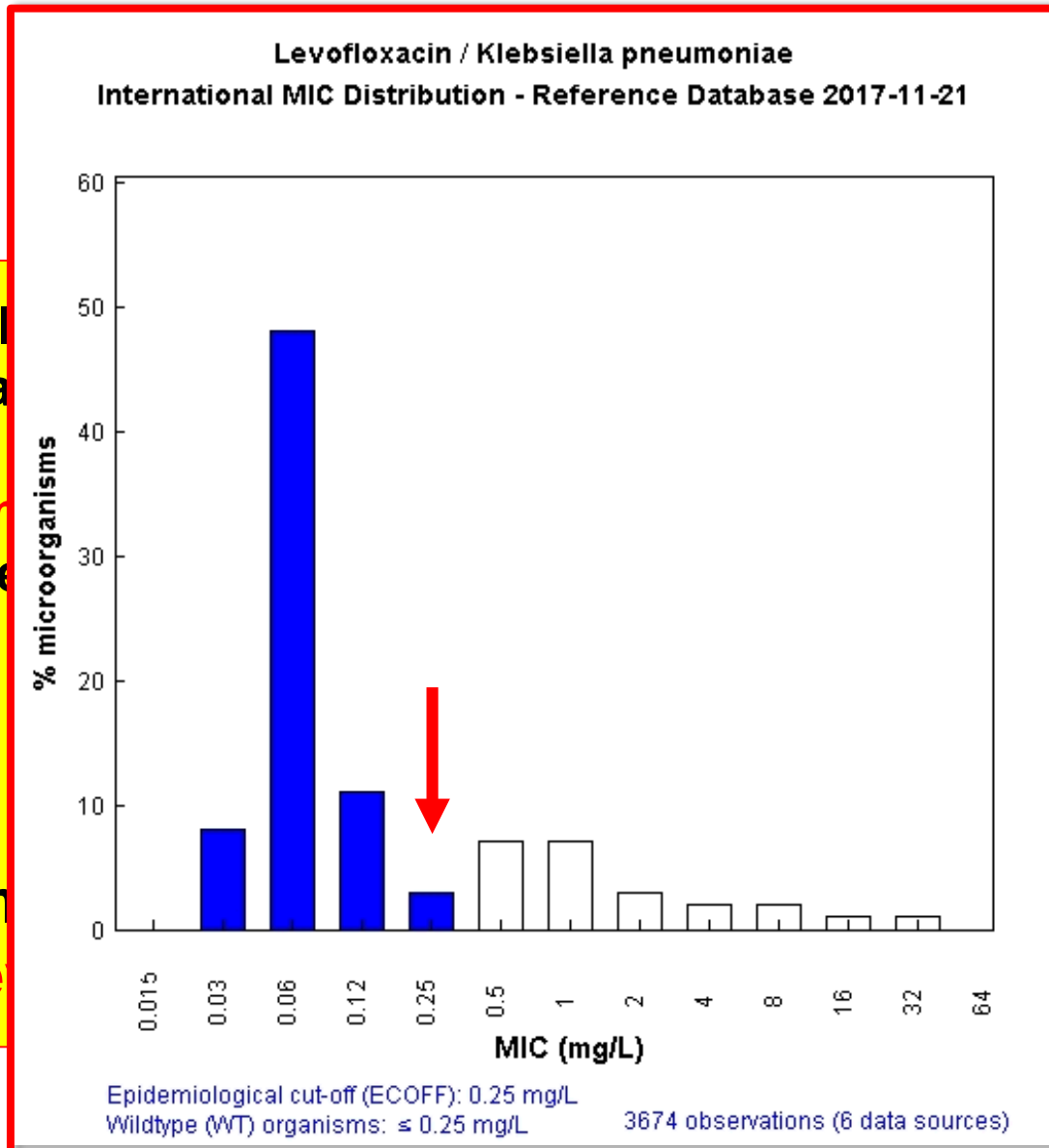
**BUT not  
more than  
levofloxacin**

\* <https://mic.eucast.org/Eucast2/> (EUCAST MIC distributions help to establish the ECOFF but should not be used to determine resistance levels)

# Cross-resistance with what ?

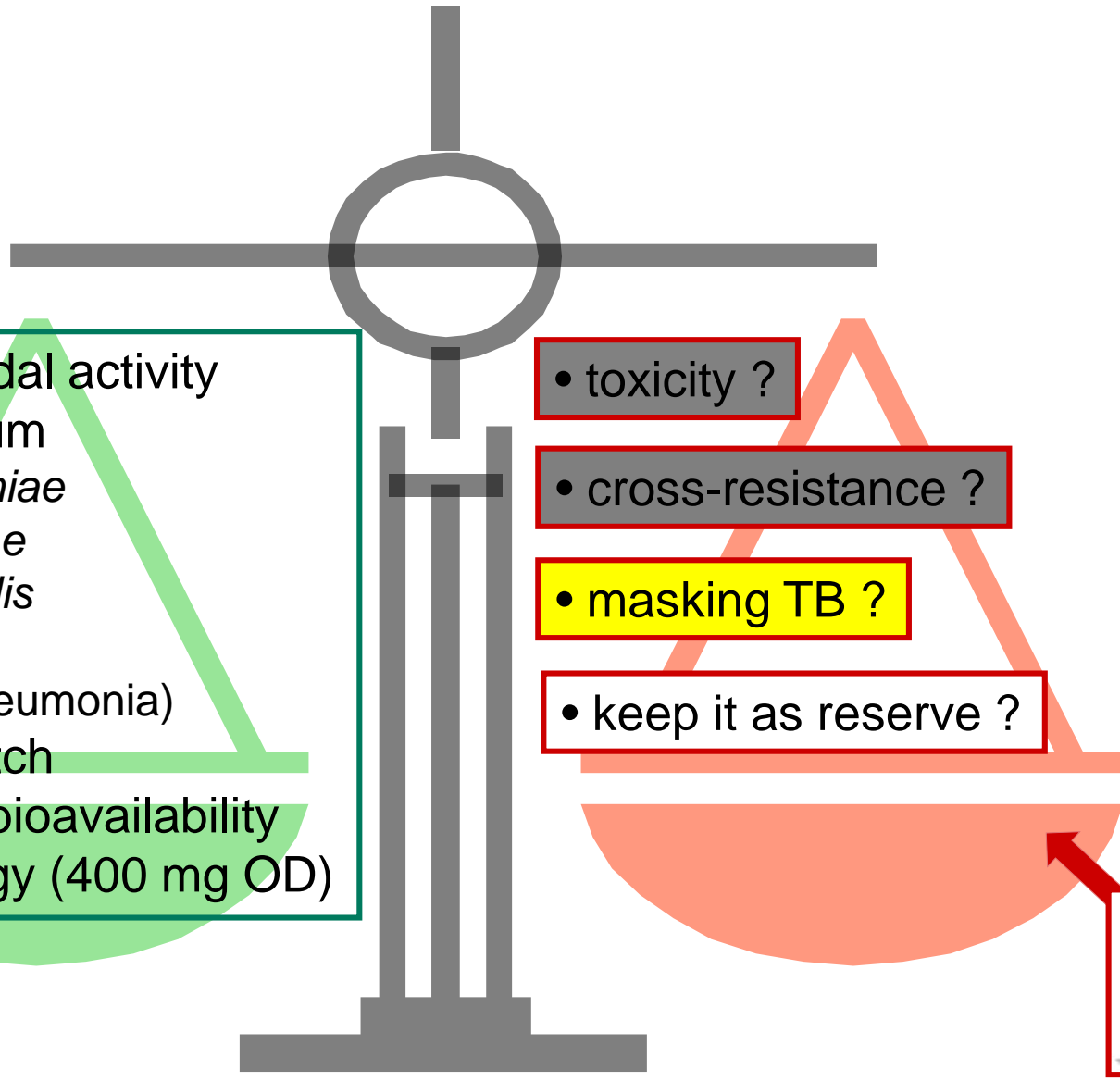
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\* <https://mic.eucast.org/Eucast2/> (EUCAST MIC distributions help to establish the ECOFF but should not be used to determine resistance levels)

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• toxicity ?

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# Does the use of fluoroquinolones for respiratory tract infections mask (and delay the diagnostic of) tuberculosis ?



- A number of papers say "Yes"



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijid](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijid)




Fluoroquinolones are associated with delayed treatment and resistance in tuberculosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Tun-Chieh Chen<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Po-Liang Lu<sup>b,c</sup>, Chun-Yu Lin<sup>b,c</sup>, Wei-Ru Lin<sup>b</sup>, Yen-Hsu Chen<sup>b,c,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Kaohsiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan  
<sup>b</sup> Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan  
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<sup>d</sup> Tropical Medicine Research Center, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan

Chen et al. Int J Infect Dis 2011;15(3):e211-6 - PMID 21195001



The Journal of Emergency Medicine, Vol. 50, No. 3, pp. 371–375, 2016  
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0736-4679/\$ - see front matter

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jemermed.2015.07.044>

**MOXIFLOXACIN USE AND ITS ASSOCIATION ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN AN INNER CITY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

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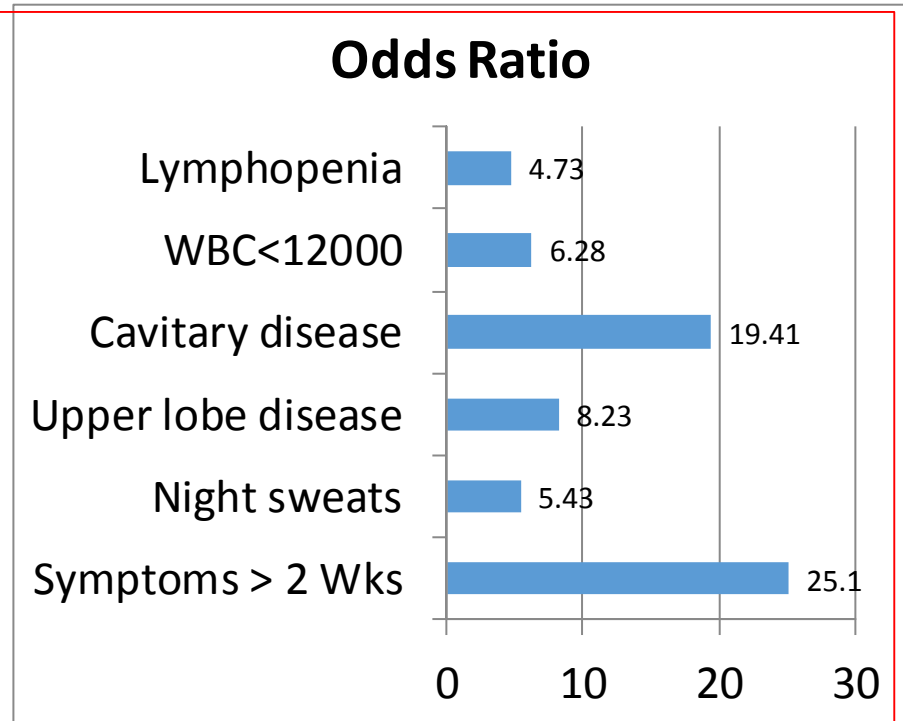
Rush et al. J Emerg Med 2016;50:371-5 - PMID 26416134

# But ...

## 1. Diagnostic tools should aid to identify TB vs non-TB pulmonary infection

### A Malaysian study:

- Prospective with 346 hospitalized pts with “CAP”
- *M tuberculosis* in 4.9%
- Clinical features were very helpful in predicting *M tuberculosis* infection



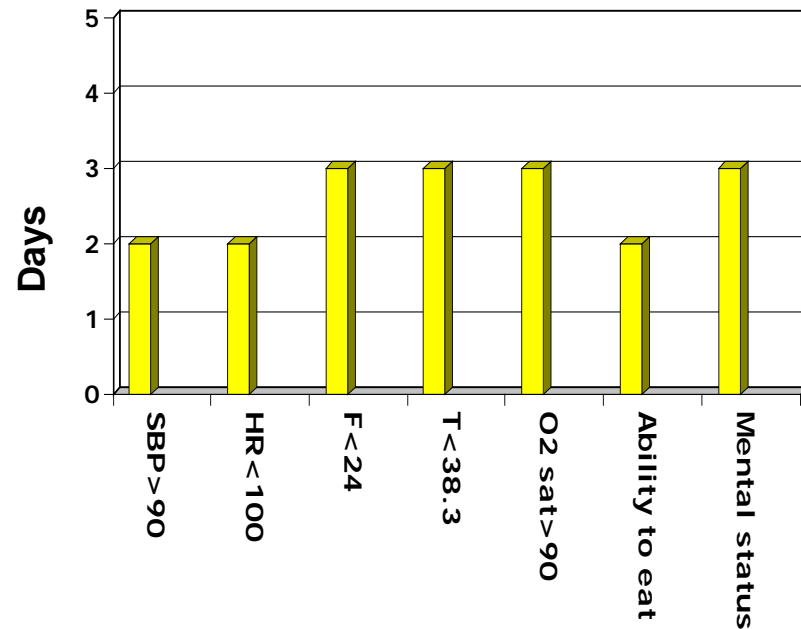
Liam C-K, et al. Respirology 2006; 11:786-92 – PMID [17052309](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17052309/)

# But ...

## 2. Non-TB CAP patients improve rapidly (if treated with an active antibiotic)

### A very basic study:

- Prospective, observational with 668 pts
- Median time to clinical stability was 3 days (lenient definition) to 7 days (conservative definition)
- clinical deterioration occurred in < 1% of cases



Halm et al. JAMA 1998;279:1452-7 - PMID [9600479](#)

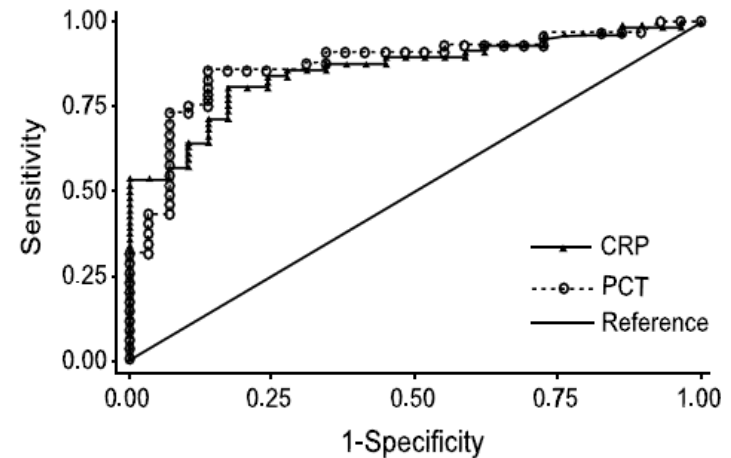
SBP: systolic blood pressure  
HR: hear rate  
F: respiratory rate  
T: temperature

# But ...

## 3. Biomarkers should help to separate non-TB and TB-CAP

### Prospective study of 87 pts, 57 with bacterial CAP and 30 with TB

- CRP = 14.58 mg/dL in bacterial CAP  
5.27 mg/dL in TB ( $p < 0.001$ )
- PCT = 0.514 ng/mL in bacterial CAP  
0.029 ng/mL in TB ( $p < 0.001$ )
- CRP discriminative value: 0.857  
(95% CI, 0.778 to 0.936)
- PCT discriminative value: 0.872  
(95% CI, 0.792 to 0.951)



**Figure 1.** Receiver-operating characteristics curve for discriminating between pulmonary tuberculosis and bacterial community-acquired pneumonia for C-reactive protein (CRP) and procalcitonin (PCT). No difference was detected in the discriminative value between CRP and PCT.

Kang et al. Korean J Intern Med 2009;24:337–42 – PMID: [19949732](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19949732/)

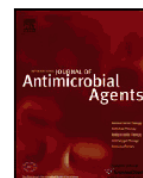
# But here is a practical solution...



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## Review

Does empirical treatment of community-acquired pneumonia with fluoroquinolones delay tuberculosis treatment and result in fluoroquinolone resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*? Controversies and solutions

Gwan-Han Shen<sup>a</sup>, Thomas Chang-Yao Tsao<sup>b</sup>, Shang-Jyh Kao<sup>c</sup>, Jen-Jyh Lee<sup>d</sup>, Yen-Hsu Chen<sup>e</sup>, Wei-Chung Hsieh<sup>f</sup>, Gwo-Jong Hsu<sup>g</sup>, Yen-Tao Hsu<sup>h</sup>, Ching-Tai Huang<sup>i</sup>, Yeu-Jun Lau<sup>j</sup>, Shih-Ming Tsao<sup>k</sup>, Po-Ren Hsueh<sup>l,\*</sup>

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Shen et al. Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2012;39:201-5 - PMID [22285045](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22285045/)

# But here are solutions...



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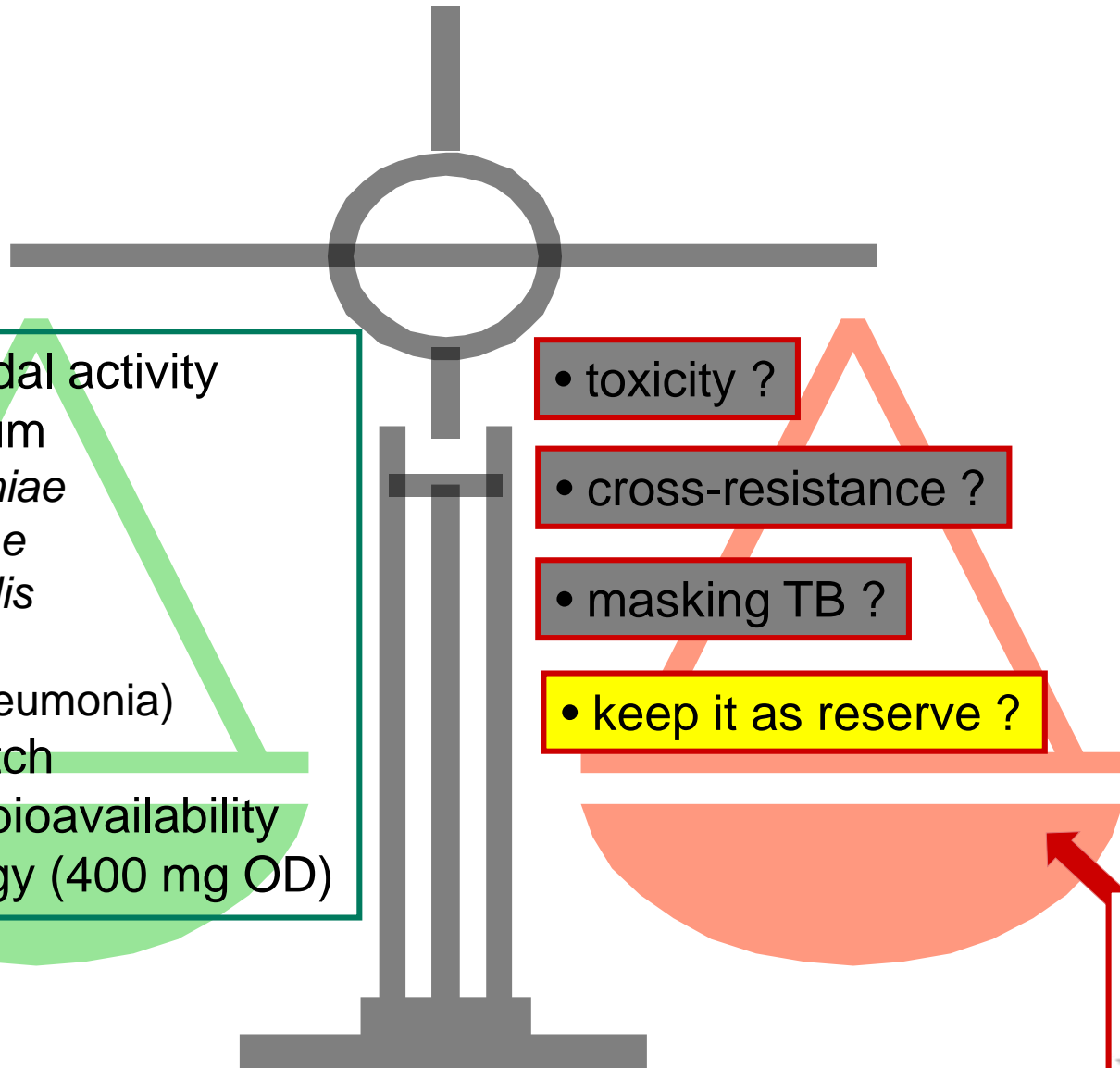
<sup>l</sup> Departments of Laboratory Medicine a

Taipei 100, Taiwan

Shen et al. Int J Antimicro

- Empirical treatment of CAP with a FQ might mask active TB, delay treatment and contribute to the development of FQ resistance.
- BUT ... FQ resistance in *M. tuberculosis* is related to FQ duration (> 10 days) and the timing of exposure (> 60 days before TB diagnosis)
- Consequently, a short-course (5-day) regimen of a FQ (levofloxacin, moxifloxacin and gemifloxacin) is still recommended for empirical therapy for CAP patients if the patient is at low risk for TB.
- Furthermore, FQ resistance is less likely to occur amongst *M. tuberculosis* strains isolated from patients with short-term exposure (<10 days) to FQ.

# A reasonable equilibrium for moxifloxacin ?

- 
- rapid bactericidal activity
  - ad hoc spectrum
    - *S. pneumoniae*
    - *H. influenzae*
    - *M. catarrhalis*
    - intracellular (atypical pneumonia)
  - easy iv/po switch
  - excellent oral bioavailability
  - simple posology (400 mg OD)

• toxicity ?

• cross-resistance ?

• masking TB ?

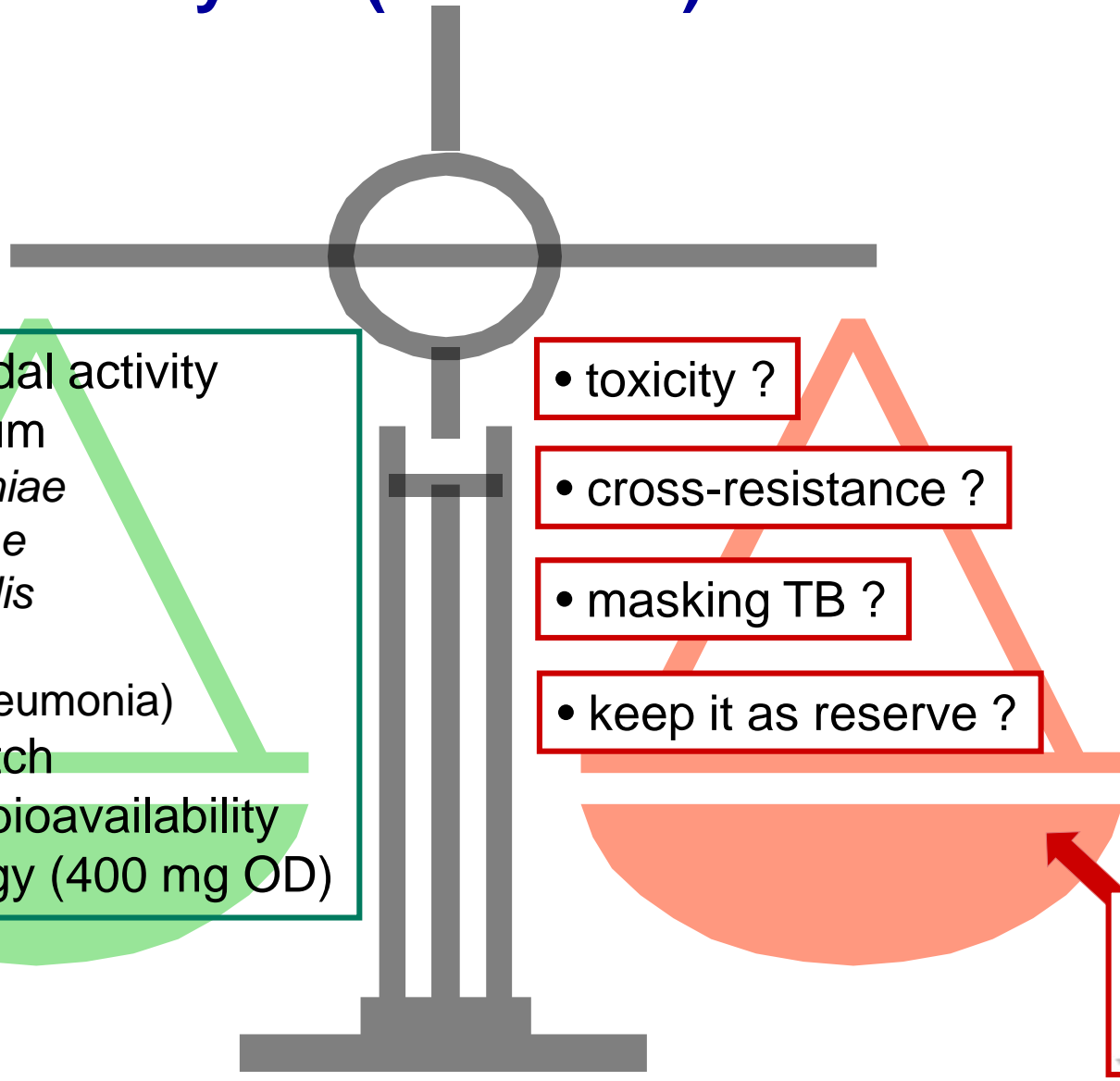
• keep it as reserve ?



# Why keeping the best on reserve ?

- Its is largely a political decisions ..
  - reserve for what ? **what do you want to to keep it for ?.**
  - reserve for how long ? **do I need to wait for failures ?**
  - reserve for which patients ? **who can I treat with old drugs ?**
- which are my comparators ?
  - a  $\beta$ -lactam (TID) + a macrolide (CYP inhibitor !) ?
  - a less potent fluoroquinolone (at larger dose)**make a rational choice for the goal you aim at...**
- is my patient eligible ?
  - a "real" bacterial infection ?
  - without known risk factors ...**think about YOUR patient ...**

# At the end of the day... It will be your (informed) choice !

- 
- rapid bactericidal activity
  - ad hoc spectrum
    - *S. pneumoniae*
    - *H. influenzae*
    - *M. catarrhalis*
    - intracellular (atypical pneumonia)
  - easy iv/po switch
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  - simple posology (400 mg OD)

• toxicity ?

• cross-resistance ?

• masking TB ?

• keep it as reserve ?



# Please, ask questions ...



be critical,  
**ask for facts !**

Vesalius - anatomy

All slide are available on <http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be> → Lectures