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High dose trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and clindamycin for *Staphylococcus aureus* endocarditis.

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2

3 **Objective:** The mortality rate from *Staphylococcus aureus* endocarditis remains as high as
4 20-30% despite better medical and surgical treatment. This study evaluates the efficiency and
5 tolerance of a combination of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and clindamycin (T&C) +/-
6 rifampicin and gentamicin, with rapid switch to oral T&C.

7 **Methods:** Before-after intervention study to compare the outcome of 170 control patients
8 before the introduction of the T&C protocol (2001 to 2011) to 171 patients in the T&C group
9 (2012 to 2016). All patients diagnosed as *S. aureus*-infective endocarditis, and referred to our
10 center between 2001 and 2016 were included. Between 2001 and 2011, the patients were
11 given a standardized antibiotic treatment: oxacillin or vancomycin, for 6 weeks, plus
12 gentamicin for 5 days. Since February 2012, the antibiotic protocol includes high dose of
13 T&C (intravenously, switched to oral at day 7). Rifampicin and gentamicin can be added (if
14 blood culture positive after 48 hours or cardiac abscess).

15 **Results:** The two groups were slightly different. In intention to treat, the global mortality rate
16 was lower in the T&C group (19.3% vs 30% - $p=0.024$), as well as the in-hospital mortality
17 (9.9% vs 18.2% - $p=0.03$), and the 30-days mortality (7.1% vs 14.2% - $p=0.05$). The mean
18 duration of hospital stay alive was significantly shorter in the T&C group (30 vs 39 days -
19 $p=0.005$)

20 **Conclusions:** The management of *S. aureus* IE in our multidisciplinary team, using a rapid
21 shift to oral antibiotic with T&C, shows promising results reducing length of hospital stay and
22 the mortality rate.

23

24

25 **Abstract: 249 words**

26 **Introduction**

27 Despite better medical and surgical treatment, the hospital mortality rate from
28 infective endocarditis (IE) is still as high as 20-50% [1–3] depending on the study.
29 *Staphylococcus aureus* is now the most common cause of IE, around 26% of the cases [4] and
30 Health care–associated IE is more frequent than community-acquired and intravenous drug
31 user associated infection [5]. Patients with *S. aureus* IE present more aggressive forms [3]
32 associated with higher rates of stroke, systemic embolization and persistent bacteremia [5]. *S.*
33 *aureus* is an important prognostic factor in IE [6] usually with a high mortality rate of about
34 13-28% [1,2]. Managing patients with IE is a real challenge. The introduction of a
35 standardized multidisciplinary team approach has reduced the mortality rate from 28% to 13%
36 in- hospital mortality in an Italian team [7] and from 18.5% to less than 10% in one year
37 mortality in our team [8]. However, in our center, early mortality (< 90-days) rate had risen
38 from 9% in 2000-2006 to 12% in 2006-2008 and to 15% in 2009-2012 [9]. Preliminary works
39 have tried to explain this rise of mortality by both a lower coordination with surgery
40 following a change of the head of the cardiac surgery department [10], and an increasing
41 proportion of *S. aureus* IE (from 11 to 19% in 10 years). This infection was the most severe,
42 with a mortality rate of 20.4% at 90-day, mainly due to septic shocks [9], particularly in
43 sepsis-induced multiple organ dysfunction syndrome in *S. aureus* prosthetic valve IE.

44 In order to improve the septic control of *S. aureus* IE and to reduce the mortality rate
45 in our center, we decided to modify the antibiotic protocol (T&C), combining a high dose of
46 trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMZ) with clindamycin for anti-toxin activity [11],
47 intravenously with a rapid oral switch at day 7. A preliminary study published in March 2013
48 presented promising results [9] with a significant drop of mortality from 15% between 2009
49 and 2011 to 8% in 2012 with T&C. Since October 2013, in view of the persistence of early
50 deaths due to sepsis (cardiac abscess or persistence of positive blood culture), and according

51 to the literature that confirms the persistence of *S. aureus* bacteremia as a predictor of poor
52 outcome [12] rifampicin and gentamicin were associated with T&C in case of cardiac abscess
53 and persistent bacteremia.

54 We report our experience of a high dose of T&C +/- rifampicin and gentamicin with
55 rapid switch to oral therapy. In comparison with the conventional treatment. This is not a
56 randomized trial because the new protocol was decided to handle the increased mortality in
57 our center.

58

59 **Material and methods:**

60 *Patients*

61 We conducted a prospective a study from 2001-2017. Missing data were
62 retrospectively recorded. Our study population is defined as all patients referred to our center
63 between December 2001 and January 2017, and who have been diagnosed with definitive *S.*
64 *aureus* IE, according to the modified Duke criteria [13], and after 2015 to ESC guidelines
65 [14]. We collected data on clinical features and epidemiological data. The patients were
66 managed by our multidisciplinary team including cardiologist, microbiologist, cardiac
67 surgeon, radiologist, neurologist and anesthetist. Patient follow-up includes clinical exam,
68 weight, routine blood test, blood culture after 24 and 48h hours of treatment,
69 electrocardiograms, echocardiography (1 per week TTE or TOE), PET/CT (since 2011), body
70 scanner (+/- arteriography) and evaluation of antibiotic side effect.

71 We studied overall mortality during hospital stay, within 30 days and 90 days, and causes of
72 death within 30 days and 90 days. The analysis was undertaken in intention to treat and on
73 treatment.

74

75 *Therapeutic Protocols*

76 Starting on the 1st of December 2001, all patients with an IE due to *S. aureus* were
77 given a standardized antibiotic treatment [8]: oxacillin 12 g/day intravenously during six
78 weeks for methicillin sensible *S. aureus*, or vancomycin 30 mg/kg/day intravenously
79 (discontinuous) during six weeks for MRSA. This antibiotic-therapy was combined with one
80 daily injection of 3 mg/kg of gentamicin for five days. In case of renal dysfunction, the doses
81 of aminoglycoside, vancomycin and oxacillin were adjusted according to the antibiotics
82 serum levels.

83 Starting on the 1st of February 2012, the antibiotic protocol T&C combined a high
84 dose of TMP-SMZ (960 mg/4800 mg per day in six daily discontinuous intravenous
85 injections, maximal dose adapted to weight and renal function), and clindamycin (1800
86 mg/day in three discontinuous injections) for a period of seven days. The treatment was
87 switched at day 7 to oral TMP-SMZ 160/800 only (six tablets a day for a five weeks period,
88 also adapted to weight and renal function) [14] without clindamycin . When blood cultures
89 were still positive after 48h or in the presence of a cardiac abscess at TTE, a combination of
90 rifampicin intravenously (1800 mg/day) and gentamicin intravenously (180 mg/day) for seven
91 days was added to the protocol. Patients who had previously received antibiotic treatment for
92 more than 5 days were not included in the T&C group because the efficacy of T&C could not
93 be evaluated, but received the same management of those included in our study. All *S. aureus*
94 strains isolated from blood cultures in the T&C were susceptible to TMP-SMZ and
95 clindamycin.

96
97 We compared the T&C group with the control group (oxacillin and gentamicin or
98 vancomycin and gentamicin protocol). The primary efficiency endpoint was mortality (global,
99 at day 30, at day 90). Length of stay in hospital, the causes of death within 30 days and 90
100 days and the emergence of acute renal insufficiency were also studied.

101 ***Statistical Analysis***

102 The data were initially collected from the patient's records on an Excel table. The
103 analyses were performed using R Software (version 3.2.3). Continuous variables for
104 individuals were expressed as mean \pm confidence interval, and were compared using student's
105 t-test. Categorical variables were expressed as a percentage and were compared using Fisher's
106 t-test. A multivariate analysis was performed on the significant variables, using a logit linear
107 regression.

108 **Results**

109 *Patient's characteristics in the T&C group compared to the control group*

110 A total of 341 patients were included in this study: 171 patients in the T&C group and
111 170 patients in the control group (table 1). After univariate analysis, the two groups were
112 almost comparable, except for age (64.4 ± 17.3 vs. 59.4 ± 16.8 years old; $p=0.007$), and
113 elevated blood pressure (35.7% vs 24.7%; $p=0.034$), which were significantly higher or more
114 frequent in the T&C group. The clinical features were almost comparable, except for fever
115 (78.4% vs 89.4%; $p=0.007$), heart murmur (38% vs 50%; $p=0.029$) and mycotic aneurism
116 (2.3% vs 7.1%; $p=0.043$). For echocardiography features, the two groups were comparable
117 expect for the presence of vegetation (64.3% vs 81.8%; $p<0.001$). For biological features, the
118 T&C group and the control group were comparable for leukocytosis count and protein C
119 reactive level, but not for serum creatinine level (138.2 ± 17.3 vs 176.8 ± 32.4 $\mu\text{mol/l}$;
120 $p=0.048$). After multivariate analysis including all above mentioned variables, only fever
121 ($p=0.04$) and vegetation ($p=0.003$) have revealed to be independently significantly different.

122 *Outcome in the T&C group compared to control group:*

123 The average length of hospital stay for patients who did not die during hospitalization
124 was significantly shorter in the T&C group than in the control group, in intention to treat

125 (29.8 ± 3.8 days vs 39.0 ± 5.2 days – p=0.005) and on treatment (26.4 ± 3.8 days vs 36.9 ± 4.8
126 days - p=0.0007) (Table 2).

127 After a median follow up of 166 days following the diagnosis and the treatment of IE,
128 the outcome of the T&C group was associated with a 2-fold lower global mortality rate in
129 intention to treat (19.3% vs 30% p=0.024 ; OR=0.56 [0.34-0.92]), with a 2-fold lower in-
130 hospital mortality rate in intention to treat (9.9% vs 18.2% p=0.03 ; OR=0.49 [0.26-0.93]),
131 and on treatment (10.1% vs 14.7% p=0.036 ; OR=0.46 [0.23-0.92]). The mortality rate at day
132 30 was also 2 time lower in intention to treat (7.1% vs 14.2% p=0.05 ; OR=0.46 [0.22-0,96]),
133 and on treatment (7.4% vs 15.3% p=0.05 ; OR=0.44 [0.20-0.99]) (Table 2). However, the
134 mortality rate at day 90 was not significantly different among the two groups in intention to
135 treat (16.4% vs 21.2%; p=0.32) and on treatment (15.0% vs 20.5%; p=0.32) (Table 2).

136 The analysis of the causes of in-hospital death showed that sepsis or multi-organ
137 failure was almost twice more often associated with the control group (8.2%) than with the
138 T&C group (4.7%), although the trend is not statistically significant (Table 2). In the T&C
139 group, septic failure was observed in 8 patients, of whom only 4 had rifampicin and
140 gentamicin (4 patients were treated before 2013). The T&C protocol was stopped prematurely
141 in two cases because of acute renal failure and in one case because of microbiological failure
142 with an antibiotic switch by daptomycin and linezolid (without success and finally the patient
143 underwent a cardiac transplantation). In one case the patient died after *S. aureus* IE relapse.

144 The analysis of mortality within 30 days showed that severe sepsis/multi-organ failure
145 was also 2 times more often associated with the control group (5.9%) than with the T&C
146 group (3.0%) although the trend is also not statistically significant (Table 2).

147 *Compliance to antibiotic protocols:*

148 Compliance to the antibiotic protocols was not statistically different between the two
149 groups: 33/171 (19.3%) antibiotic modifications in the T&C group versus 44/170 (25.9%) in
150 the control group (p=0.16) (Table 3, 4).

151 In 10 of 171 patients (5.8%), T&C was stopped because of a microbiologic failure: 4
152 received T&C rifampicin and gentamicin and 6 received only T&C. In 9 cases (5.3%) T&C
153 was stopped because of acute renal failure, in 7 cases (4.1%) because of skin adverse
154 reactions. Among the 138 patients treated with T&C, 39 (28.26%) required rifampicin and
155 gentamicin, and 99 patients had only T&C (Table3). In this group, 3 patients died during
156 hospitalization, 2 within 30 days, 7 within 90 days, 7 within 1 year and 7 after 1 year.

157 In the control group, treatment was stopped prematurely in 27 cases (acute renal
158 failure (n=1), microbiological (n=10), skin adverse effect (n=4), other side effects (n=10),
159 hematologic toxicity (n=2) (table 4). In this group, 6 patients died during hospitalization, 7
160 within 90 days and 14 after 1 year.

161 The doses of TMP-SMZ had to be adjusted according to renal insufficiency in 58
162 patients (33.9%) and in 17 patients in the control group (10%). The doses were also adjusted
163 for cytolytic hepatitis in 8 patients in the T&C group. T&C treatment was stopped
164 prematurely in 33 patients (19.3%) and in 27 patients in the control group (16%).

165 *Relapses and recurrence observed in the T&C group*

166 We defined a relapse as a new episode of endocarditis caused by the same bacteria as
167 in the initial case, after completion of treatment, based on blood or valve cultures. The
168 occurrence of relapses, observed in 7/171 (4.1%) patients in the T&C group was not
169 significantly different from 10/170 (5.9%) patients in the control group (p=0.46). However,
170 the early relapses (< 30 days vs > 90 days) were significantly more frequent in the control
171 group (9 early – 1 late) than in the T&C group (1 early – 6 late) (p=0.004).

172 We observed 6/171 (3.51%) IE recurrences with another micro-organism (2 *E.*
173 *faecalis*, 3 *Streptococcus* sp.) in the T&C group, and 12/170 (7.06%) in the control group
174 (p=0.15). They cannot be considered as treatment failures.

175

176 **Discussion**

177 Over a 5 years period of management of *S. aureus*, IE mortality rate of patients treated
178 with T&C was comparable to other published cohorts. The mortality rates were twice lower in
179 T&C group than among controls, as overall, 30-days, and in-hospital mortality rates, as well
180 in intention to treat as on treatment. Among the causes of death, severe sepsis and multi-organ
181 failure was twice less frequent in the T&C group compared to the control group (although not
182 significant). In the subgroup treated by T&C and rifampicin / gentamicin according to a
183 microbiologic failure, we note only one death due to septic cause at 171 days in a patient with
184 *S. aureus* IE relapse. Using T&C with a rapid switch to oral prescription allowing a
185 significant reduction (10 days) of hospital stay duration.

186

187 TMP-SMZ is particularly effective on *S. aureus*, regardless of its sensitivity or
188 resistance to methicillin [15][16], with a very low resistance rate in our center [9]. This
189 treatment has been used for over 30 years at low standard dose with excellent oral
190 bioavailability.(>90%) [17]. It has also proven effective and tolerable at higher doses in
191 orthopedic implant infections [18]. In an observational study, Goldberg *et al.* reported similar
192 outcomes for TMP-SMZ and vancomycin, no significant difference between outcome and
193 mortality in the treatment of Methicillin resistant (MRSA) *S. aureus* bacteremia [19].
194 Markowitz *et al* reported the possible inferiority of low dose TMP-SMZ to vancomycin for
195 methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* bacteremia : in right side IE the cure rate was 64% (7/11) for
196 TMP-SMZ versus 92% (11/12) for vancomycin (p=0.095) [20]. In a randomized controlled
197 trial including 252 patients, Paul *et al.* concluded that TMP-SMZ did not achieve non-
198 inferiority to vancomycin in the treatment of severe MRSA infections [21]. The difference
199 was particularly marked in patients with bacteremia. Clindamycin has an excellent tissue
200 diffusion, is bacteriostatic on *S. aureus*, and is the most down regulating agent for *S. aureus*

201 toxin secretion [11]. However the usefulness of clindamycin in *S. aureus* infections toxins is
202 still debated. Vancomycin remains the reference treatment of IE due to MRSA [22]. New
203 therapeutic solutions such as daptomycin [23], ceftazolin [24], or linezolid [2] have not
204 produced better results. Contrary to the molecules recently introduced on the market, T&C are
205 considerably cheaper and efficient.

206 Four to six weeks of intravenous antibiotic are currently recommended for *S. aureus*
207 IE treatment [14] and most of the patients remain hospitalized during this period. Oral
208 antibiotic therapy for treatment of IE is not well established [25,26]. Oral therapy was
209 reported in right-sided in *S. aureus* IE [26] [27], using oral ciprofloxacin plus rifampicin
210 [28,29], oral penicillin in a child [26], oral fucidic acid and linezolid, oral fucidic acid and
211 rifampicin [27]. Recently, rapid oral shift in patients with left side IE in stable condition, was
212 reported was non inferior to intravenous antibiotic treatment [25]. Rapid oral shift of
213 antibiotic regimen in IE reduce the risk of catheter-related infection, the cost and the duration
214 of hospital stay [27]. The tolerance of T&C was acceptable, with no major difference
215 underlined concerning the development of an acute renal failure. In our study, there has been
216 an adjustment of the doses of TMP-SMZ in a significant number of cases (33.9%). Dosage in
217 plasma should allow a better management [30]. The treatment has even been prematurely
218 interrupted in 19.3% of the case (of which 1/3 for acute renal failure and 1/3 for septic
219 failure), which is comparable to the reference treatment, with linezolid and daptomycin
220 [2,23].

221 Our study has some limitations: this is not a clinical trial, we are a reference center and
222 our experience may not be reproduced in other settings, particularly in patients with MRSA,
223 who represent only 10% of our study population. It is a non-randomized study in a
224 monocentric study in a reference center. The number of patients lost to follow-up in the T&C
225 group was 2 (1.1 %) versus 1 (0.5%) in the control group at day 30 and 6 (3.5%) versus 5

226 (2.9%) at day 90. Patients in T&C group had less frequently a vegetation (110 patients versus
227 139 patients p=0.0004). This may suggest patients with less severe infections. In the T&C
228 group 39 patients with persistent bacteremia and septic failure were treated with gentamicin
229 and rifampicin this may contribute to the effectiveness of our treatment.

230 **Conclusions**

231 The management of *S. aureus* IE in our multidisciplinary team, using a rapid oral
232 antibiotic shift with TMP-SMZ, shows promising results, reduces the length of hospital stay,
233 the mortality rate and sepsis-induced multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. This treatment is
234 a safe alternative treatment in *S. aureus* IE.

235

236 **Declarations**

237 **Funding:** Supported by the French State, managed by the “Agence Nationale pour la
238 Recherche” including the "Programme d'Investissement d'Avenir" under the reference
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240 **Competing Interests:** None

241 **Ethical Approval:** Ethical Committee approval number: 2019-004

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Table 1 : Comparison of patient characteristics in the trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole & clindamycin (T&C) group to the control group using univariate analysis.

MRSA: methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

	T&C group N=171	Control group N=170	p	OR
COMORBIDITIES				
Mean Age (years) [range]	64.4 [13-94]	59.4 [19-102]	0.007	
Sex Male	115 (67.3%)	125 (73.5%)	0.23	
Prior IE	16 (9.4%)	13 (7.6%)	0.70	
Intravenous drug use	22 (12.9%)	26 (15.3%)	0.54	
HIV	3 (1.8%)	6 (3.5%)	0.34	
Diabetes	38 (22.2%)	30 (17.6%)	0.34	
Coronary artery disease	22 (12.9%)	18 (10.6%)	0.50	
Chronic lung injury	15 (9.1%)	18 (10.6%)	0.61	
Chronic renal failure	23 (13.5%)	27 (15.9%)	0.54	
Dialysis	7 (4.1%)	8 (4.7%)	0.80	
Elevated blood pressure	61 (35.7%)	42 (24.7%)	0.034	1.4 [1.03-2.1]
Alcohol	18 (8.8%)	11 (6.5%)	0.54	
Myocardial infarction	20 (11.7%)	18 (10.6%)	0.86	
Autoimmune disease	10 (5.8%)	6 (3.5%)	0.44	
History of cancer	18 (10.5%)	23 (13.5%)	0.41	

Leukemia / Lymphoma	5 (2.9%)	7 (4.1%)	0.41
Charlson comorbidity index	3 [0-10]	3 [1-5]	0.27

IE CHARACTERISTICS (non-exclusive)

Native valve IE	97 (56.7%)	96 (56.5%)	1
Valvular prosthesis IE	43 (25.1%)	34 (20.0%)	0.3
Cardiac device related IE*	48 (28.1%)	48 (28.2%)	1
Bicuspid valve	6 (3.5%)	8 (4.7%)	0.59
MRSA	21 (12.3%)	19 (11.2%)	0.87

CLINICAL FEATURES

Fever**	134 (78.4%)	152 (89.4%)	0.007	0.88 [0.80-0.96]
Acute heart failure	38 (22.2%)	43 (25.3%)	0.53	
Cardiogenic shock	13 (7.6%)	7 (4.1%)	0.25	
Septic shock	24 (14.0%)	12 (7.1%)	0.051	
Heart murmur	65 (38.0%)	85 (50%)	0.029	0.76 [0.60-0.97]
Embolism	81 (47.4%)	94 (55.3%)	0.16	
Major cerebral bleeding	14 (8.2%)	21 (12.4%)	0.22	
Spondylodiscitis	19 (11.1%)	9 (5.3%)	0.074	
Mycotic aneurism	4 (2.3%)	12 (7.1%)	0.043	0.33 [0.11-1.00]

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Aortic IE	57 (33.3%)	57 (33.5%)	1
Mitral IE	51 (29.8%)	62 (36.5%)	0.13
Tricuspid IE	37 (21.6%)	30 (17.6%)	0.41

Cardiac device related IE	45 (26.3%)	48 (28.2%)	0.72
Vegetation	110 (64.3%)	139 (81.8%)	0.0004 0.79 [0.69-0.90]
Annular abscess	36 (21.1%)	27 (15.9%)	0.26
Pseudo aneurysm	9 (5.3%)	8 (4.7%)	1
Severe valvular insufficiency	48 (28.1%)	49 (28.8%)	0.90
Valvular perforation	23 (13.5%)	34 (20.0%)	0.11
Left ventricle ejection fraction.	55 [20-75]	60 [20-70]	0.69

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES (means)

Leukocytosis (Giga/l)	11.9 [2.1-28]	11.5 [2.9-32]	0.5
C reactive protein (mg/l)	146 [3-523]	168 [2-455]	0.15
Serum creatinin (μ mol/l)	138 [9-898]	174 [30-933]	0.048

FOLLOW UP

Relapse	7(4.1%)	10(5.9%)	0.046
Recurrences	6(3.5%)	12(7.06%)	0.15
Persistent bacteremia		10 (5.9%)	

*including pacemaker, defibrillator and dialysis catheter ** temperature \geq 38°C on admission

Table 2: Comparison of patients' outcome in the T&C group vs the control group, as Intention to Treat and On Treatment

OUTCOME	Intention to Treat			On Treatment		
	Control Group N=170 (%)	T&C Group N=171(%)	p	Control Group N= 126	T&C group N=138 (%)	p
Septic failure	14 (8.2)	10 (5.8)	0.41	6 (3.5)	3 (2.2)	0.02
Surgery	114 (67.1)	89 (52.1)	0.006	73 (57.9)	73 (52.9)	0.46
Relapses	22 (12.9)	13 (7.6)	0.11	13 (7.6)	8 (5.8)	0.6
Mean Hospital stay (days)	34.1 ± 4.5	29.6 ± 3.9	0.14	32.2 ± 4.4	26.6 ± 4.1	0.06
Mean Hospital stay alive (days) *	39.0 ± 5.2	29.8 ± 3.8	0.005	36.9 ± 4.8	26.4 ± 3.8	0.0007
<i>In-Hospital death</i>	<i>31 / 170 (18.2)</i>	<i>17/ 171 (9.9)</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>25 / 126 (14.7)</i>	<i>14 / 138 (10.1)</i>	<i>0.036</i>
Sepsis / multi organ failure	14 (45.2)	8 (47.1)	1	9 (36.0)	5 (35.7)	1

Other causes	17 (54.8)	9 (52.9)		16 (64.0)	9 (64.3)	
<i>Death at day 30</i>	<i>24 / 169 (14.2)</i>	<i>12 / 169 (7.1)</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>19 / 125 (15.3)</i>	<i>10 / 136 (7.4)</i>	<i>0.05</i>
Sepsis / multi organ failure	10 (41.7)	5 (41.7)	1	6 (31.6)	3 (30.0)	1
Other causes	14 (58.3)	7 (58.3)		13 (68.4)	7 (70.0)	
<i>Death at day 90</i>	<i>35 / 165 (21.2)</i>	<i>27 / 165 (16.4)</i>	<i>0.32</i>	<i>25 / 122 (20.5)</i>	<i>20 / 132 (15.0)</i>	<i>0.32</i>
Sepsis / multi organ failure	14 (40.0)	8 (29.6)	0.43	9 (36.0)	5 (25.0)	0.52
Other causes	21 (60.0)	19 (70.4)		16 (64.0)	15 (75.0)	
<i>Global mortality**</i>	<i>51 / 170 (30.0)</i>	<i>33 / 171 (19.3)</i>	<i>0.024</i>	<i>37 / 126 (29.4)</i>	<i>28 / 138 (20.3)</i>	<i>0.11</i>
<i>One year mortality</i>	<i>45/170</i>	<i>34/171</i>	<i>0.16</i>	<i>32/126</i>	<i>24/138</i>	<i>0.3</i>

*patients not died during the hospitalization

** Mortality until last known follow-up

Table 3: Protocol modifications in the Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole & Clindamycin (T&C) group

Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole & clindamycin group	N=171
T&C as first line treatment	69 (40.3 %)
Dose adaptation	58 (33.9%)
Persistent bacteriemia	39 (28%)
T&C as second line treatment:	102 (59.6%)
First-line treatment < 5 days:	
Cloxacillin-Gentamicin	43 (25.1%)
Vancomycin-Gentamicin	33 (19.3%)
Other (including C&C)	95 (55.6%)
Interruption of T&C:	33 (19.3%)
Followed by a second or a third line treatment:	
Cloxacillin	21 (63.6 %)
Vancomycin	3 (9.1 %)
Other antibiotics	9 (27.3 %)
Causes of interruption	33/171
Acute renal failure due to T&C	9 (5.3 %)
Septic failure	10 (5.8 %)
Skin adverse effect	7 (4.1 %)
Digestive intolerance	1 (0.6 %)
Other	5 (2.9 %)
Medical decision	6 (3.5 %)
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> diarrhea	0

Table 4: Protocol modifications in the control group

Control group	N=170
	142
Dose adaptation	
Renal adaptation	17 (10%)
First-line treatment	
Cloxacillin-Gentamicin	80 (47%)
Vancomycin-Gentamicin	58 (34%)
Cloxacillin-gentamicin or vancomycin as second line treatment < 5 days	32 (18%)
Interruption	27 (16%)
Causes of interruption	27/170
Acute renal failure	1
Septic failure	
Skin adverse effect	4
Other adverse effect	10
Hematologic toxicity	1
Medical decision	0
Others associated micro-organism	10
