



Coördinatiecommissie Antibioticabeleid / Commission de  
coordination de la politique antibiotique

# Evidence-Based Guidelines for the Hospital Use of Antibiotics

Antibiotic treatment of  
**acute community-acquired pyelonephritis**  
in immunocompetent adults.  
A national clinical guideline.

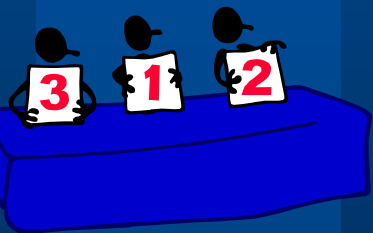
Bénédicte Delaere

Dirk Ramaekers

# Table of contents



- Mission of the project
- E-B guidelines development process
- Presentation of the guideline



1	2	3	4	5
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree

# Mission of the project



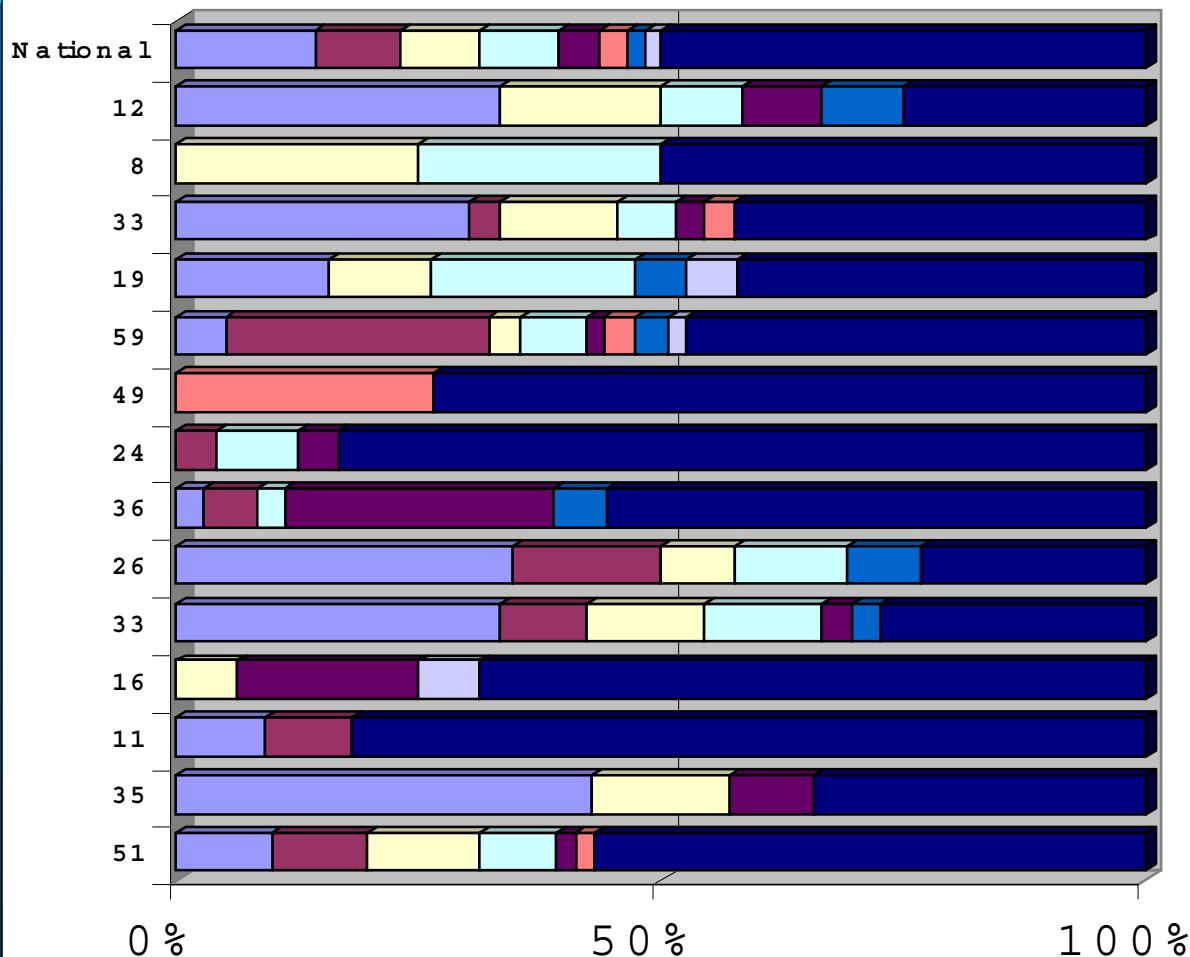
- **To promote the appropriate use of antibiotics:**
    - to reduce overuse and inappropriate use of antibiotics
    - to reduce the use of newer antibiotics when existing antibiotics are effective
    - to avoid or limit the development of antibiotic resistance
- best medical practice, quality of care**

# Clinical Practice Guidelines

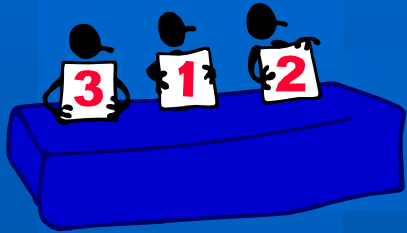


- *"systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances"*
- They are designed *to help* practitioners assimilate, evaluate and implement the ever-increasing amount of evidence and opinion on best current practice
- Clinical guidelines are intended as neither cookbook nor textbook but, where there is evidence of *variation in practice* and a strong research base providing evidence of effective practice, guidelines can assist health care professionals in making decisions about appropriate and effective care for their patients

# Minimal Data Analysis



- Quinolones 3° gén. oraux + quinolones 3° gén. IV
- Pénicill large spectre avec inhib. béta-lact. oraux + IV
- Quinolones 3° génération IV
- Pénicill large spectre avec inhib. béta-lact. IV
- Quinolones 3° génération oraux
- Céphalosporines 2° gén. (exc Anaérobies) IV
- Pénicill large spectre avec inhib. béta-lact. oraux + IV + aminos. IV
- Pénicill large spectre avec inhib. béta-lact. IV + aminos. IV
- Autres



# Opinion 1



- **Good clinical practice guidelines, can help the clinician in making the most appropriate choice of antibiotics to provide the best quality of care**

1

strongly  
disagree

2

disagree

3

no  
opinion

4

agree

5

strongly  
agree

# What is Evidence-Based Medicine?



- The conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients
- The integration of **individual clinical expertise** with the best available **external evidence** and patient's values and expectations
- Can provide the best and most cost-effective care for every patient (e.g. via E-B guidelines)

# What EBM is not!



- EBM is not cook-book medicine
  - evidence needs extrapolation to the patient's unique biology and values
- EBM is not cost-cutting medicine
  - when efficacy for my patient is paramount, costs may even rise
- EBM is not restricted to randomised trials and meta-analyses



# EBM in 5 steps...



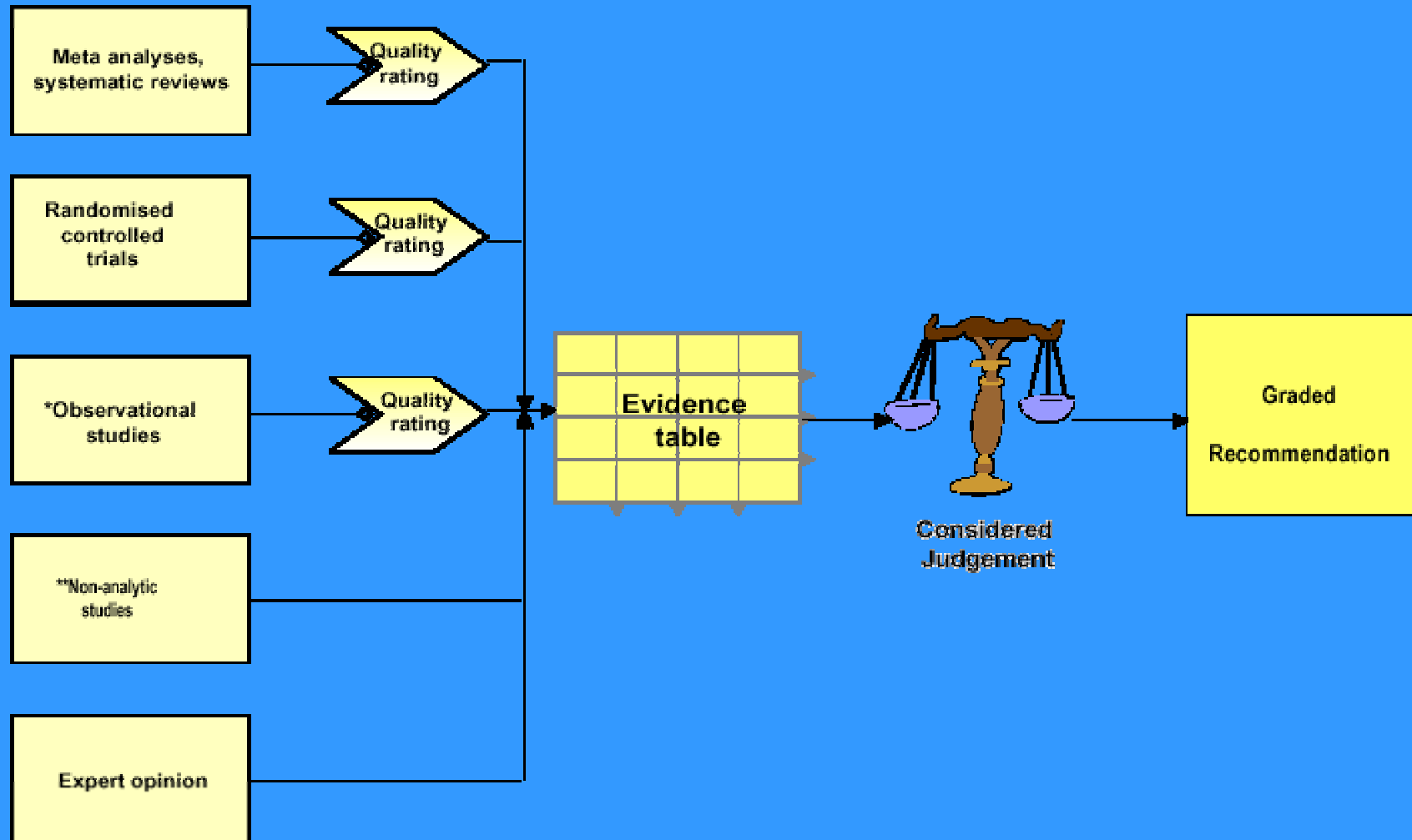
- 1 Translation of the **subject** to an answerable question
  - 2 Efficient **search** for the best evidence
    - primary literature
    - secondary (pre-appraised) sources e.g., Cochrane; E-B Journals
  - 3 Critical **appraisal** of the evidence for its validity and clinical applicability ➔ generation of a summary and categorisation (level of evidence 1 → 5).
- 
- 4 Integration of that critical appraisal with clinical expertise and patient's unique biology and beliefs ➔ action
  - 5 Evaluation of performance

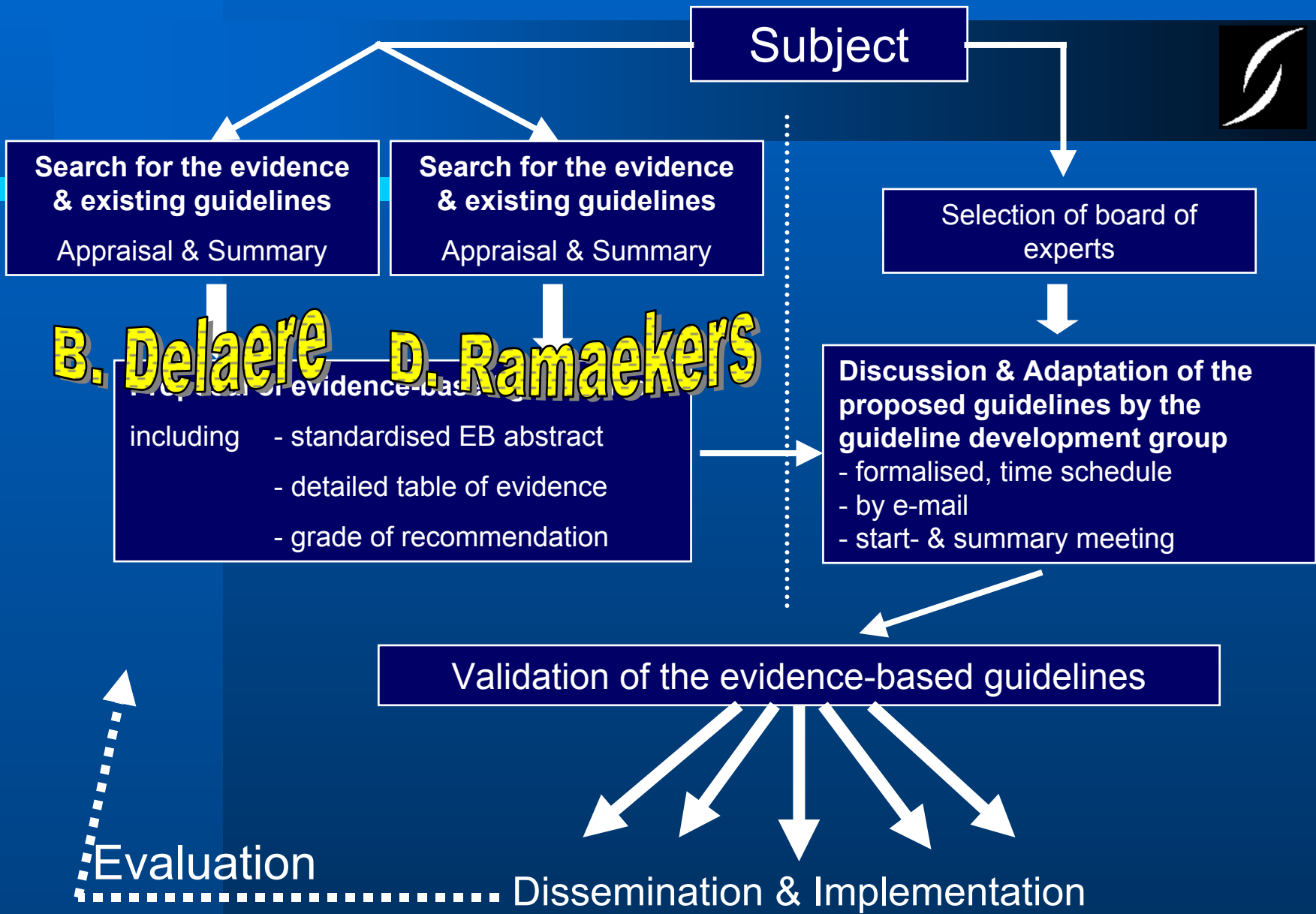
# Why *Evidence-Based* guidelines?



- **consensus opinion of experts based on**
  - systematic review of the scientific literature &
  - microbiological survey
- **potential sources of bias are minimised & likely validity of the recommendations is maximised**
- **conclusions from the external evidence are as paramount as the microbiology**
  - e.g. relapse rate
  - e.g. ceftriax versus cefotax
- **‘No evidence to support...’**

# Development of E-B guidelines





**B. Delaere** **D. Ramaekers**

# Levels of evidence ([www.sign.ac.uk](http://www.sign.ac.uk))

1++	High quality meta analyses, sytematic reviews of RCT's, or RCT's w ith a very low risk of bias
1+	Well conducted meta analyses, systematic reviews, or RCT's w ith a low risk of bias
1-	Meta analyses, systematic reviews, or RCT's w ith a high risk of bias
2++	High quality systematic reviews of case-control or cohort studies High quality case-control or cohort studies w ith a very low risk of confounding or bias and a high probability that the relationship is causal
2+	Well conducted case control or cohort studies with a low risk of confounding or bias and a moderate probability that the relationship is causal
2-	Case control or cohort studies w ith a high risk of confounding or bias and a significant risk that the relationship is not causal
3	Non-analytic studies, e;g. case reports, case series
4	Expert opinion

# Grades of recommendations



A

A least one meta-analysis, systematic review, or RCT rated as 1++, and directly applicable to the target population; *or*

A body of evidence consisting principally of studies rated as 1+, directly applicable to the target population, and demonstrating overall consistency of results

B

A body of evidence including studies rated as 2++, directly applicable to the target population, and demonstrating overall consistency of results; *or*

Extrapolated evidence from studies rated as 1++ or 1+

C

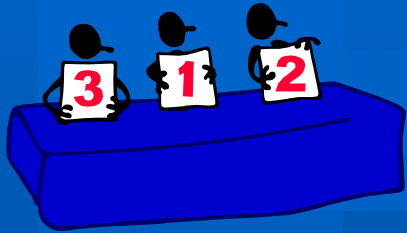
A body of evidence including studies rated as 2+, directly applicable to the target population, and demonstrating overall consistency of results; *or*

Extrapolated evidence from studies rated as 2++

D

Evidence level 3 or 4; *or*

Extrapolated evidence from studies rated as 2+



## Opinion 2



- Clinical practice guidelines should take into account the results of a systematic review of the literature (& local microbiology) and the recommendations should be graded according to the level of evidence, explicitly defining expert opinion as such

1

strongly  
disagree

2

disagree

3

no  
opinion

4

agree

5

strongly  
agree

# guideline development group



## **multidisciplinary group!**

- ✓ minimum 6, maximum 12-15 members
- ✓ team manager (B. Delaere, D. Ramaekers)
- ✓ at least one infectiologist and one microbiologist
- ✓ several clinical experts in the area covered by the guideline
- ✓ experts from the (scientific) association(s)

**microbiological survey** resistance patterns



# GDG acute pyelonephritis



Ameye F. (urology, St. Lucas Gent): no conflict of interest

Boelaert J. (nephrology, AZ St. Jan Brugge): no

De Groote P. (urology, Clin. Europe, Brussels): no

De Ridder D. (urology, UZ Leuven): no

Donders G. (obstetrics & gynecology, H.H. Tienen & UZ Leuven): no

D' Orio V. (emergency medicine, CHU Liège): no

Firre E. (internal medicine and nephrology, CHR Citadelle Liège): no

Hubinont C. (gynéco-obstétrique, UCL): no

Jadoul M. (Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, nephrology, Bruxelles): no

Machiels P. (Notre-Dame, Gosselies): no

Peetermans W. (infectiology, UZ Leuven): no

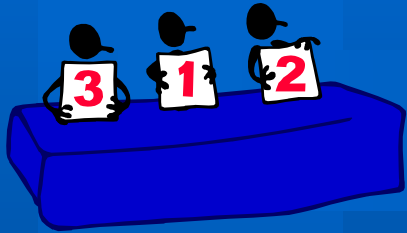
Struelens M. (Erasme, ULB, Bruxelles): no

Van Wijngaerden E. (infectiology, UZ Leuven): no

Vandercam B. (Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc – Infectiology - Bruxelles): no

Verschraegen G. (Laboratorium voor bacteriologie en virologie, UZ Gent): no

- Supervised by the Coördinatiecommissie Antibioticabeleid / Commission de coordination de la politique antibiotique. However, neither this commission nor the Government has influenced the contents of these recommendations.



# Opinion 3



- A guideline development group is multidisciplinary including experts from the clinical specialities involved in the subject and uses an explicitly structured & rigorous methodology

1

strongly  
disagree

2

disagree

3

no  
opinion

4

agree

5

strongly  
agree

# Validation of the EBG

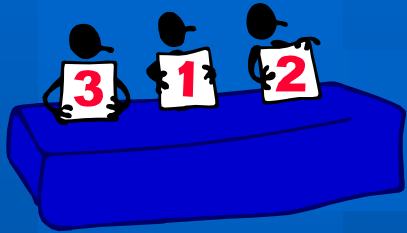


- **Quality appraisal** of the guideline
  - formalised checklist: >90%
  - <http://www.agreecollaboration.org/>

- **External review**

- expert(s) in systematic reviews and guideline development
- expert(s) with clinical expertise, potential user(s) of the EBG
- [www.cebam.be](http://www.cebam.be)





# Opinion 4



- A guideline should always be quality appraised using a validated instrument and should be externally reviewed before dissemination

1

strongly  
disagree

2

disagree

3

no  
opinion

4

agree

5

strongly  
agree

# Systematic review pyelonephritis



- **Existing guidelines:**

Searching all available Internet guideline clearinghouses and Medline:

- IDSA (on-line: <http://www.idsociety.org/pg/toc.htm> issue practice guidelines)
- John Hopkins University (<http://www.hopkins-id.edu/>)
- French consensus on antibiotherapy of urinary tract infections.
- Nederlands Kwaliteitsinstituut voor de gezondheidszorg CBO.

- **PubMed search (Medline) / Grateful Med (Medline, Healthstar):**

Both the primary terms and the related MeSH's (Medical Subject Headings)

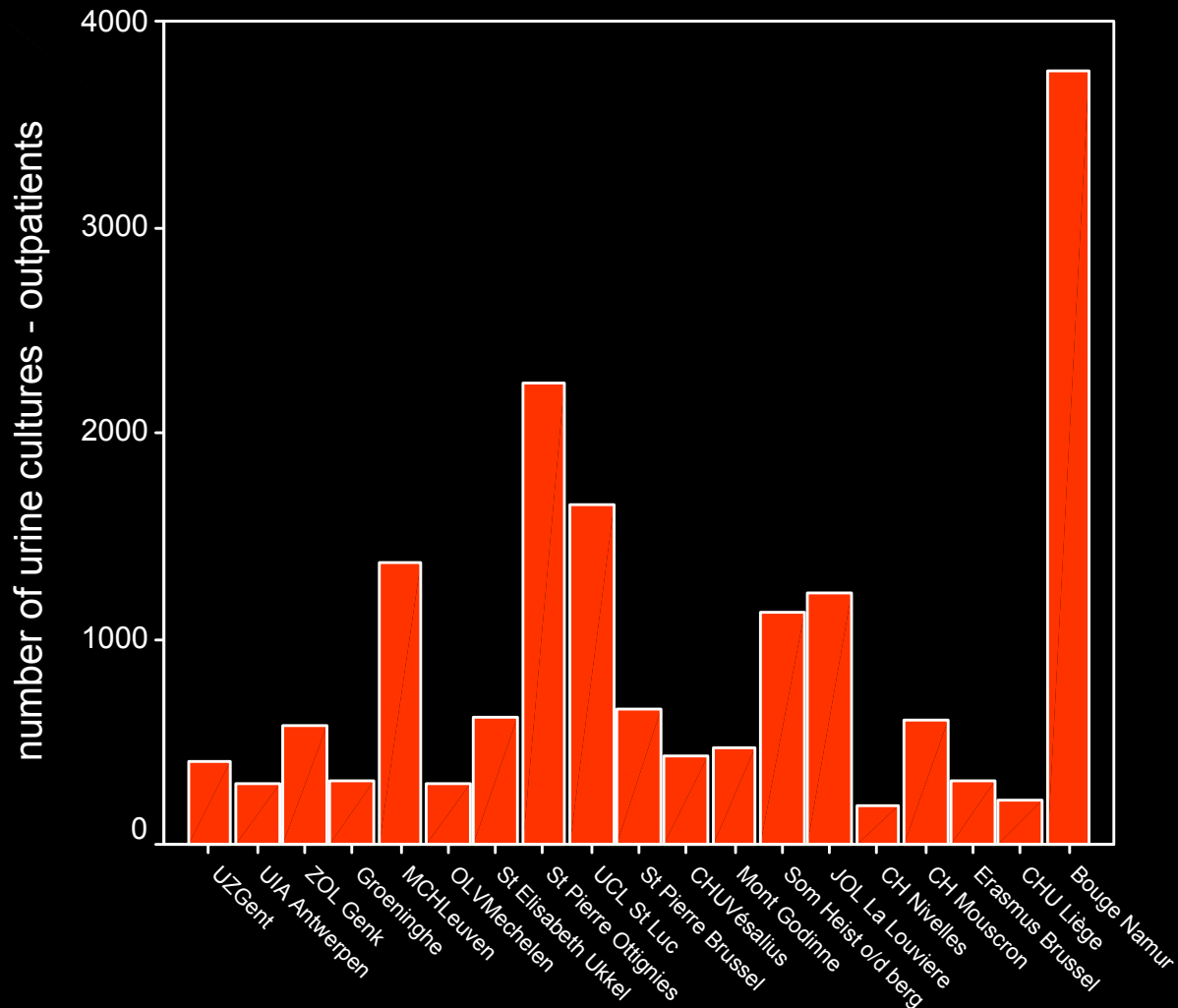
- For Women: pyelonephritis/therapy[MESH]; 1980 to 2000; female.
- For Men: pyelonephritis/therapy[MESH]; 1980 to 2000; male.
- For Pregnancy: pregnancy[MESH] AND pyelonephritis/therapy[MESH], 1980 to 2000.

For all these subjects, a separate search was performed for the different types of publication: *meta-analysis; randomised controlled trial; clinical trial; review; practice guideline.*

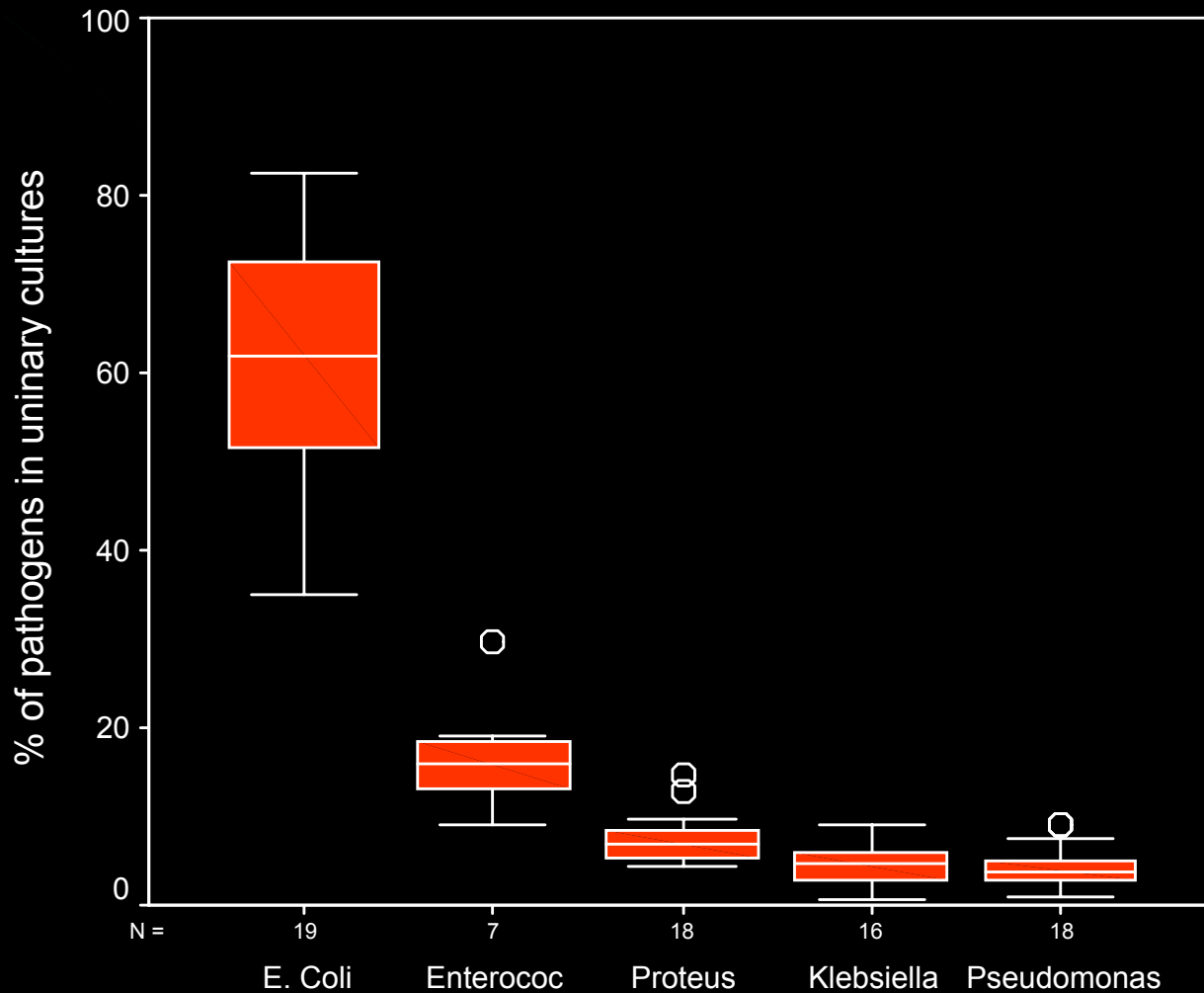
- **Cochrane Library / DARE / CCT**

All these databases were searched with the primary term: *pyelonephritis.*

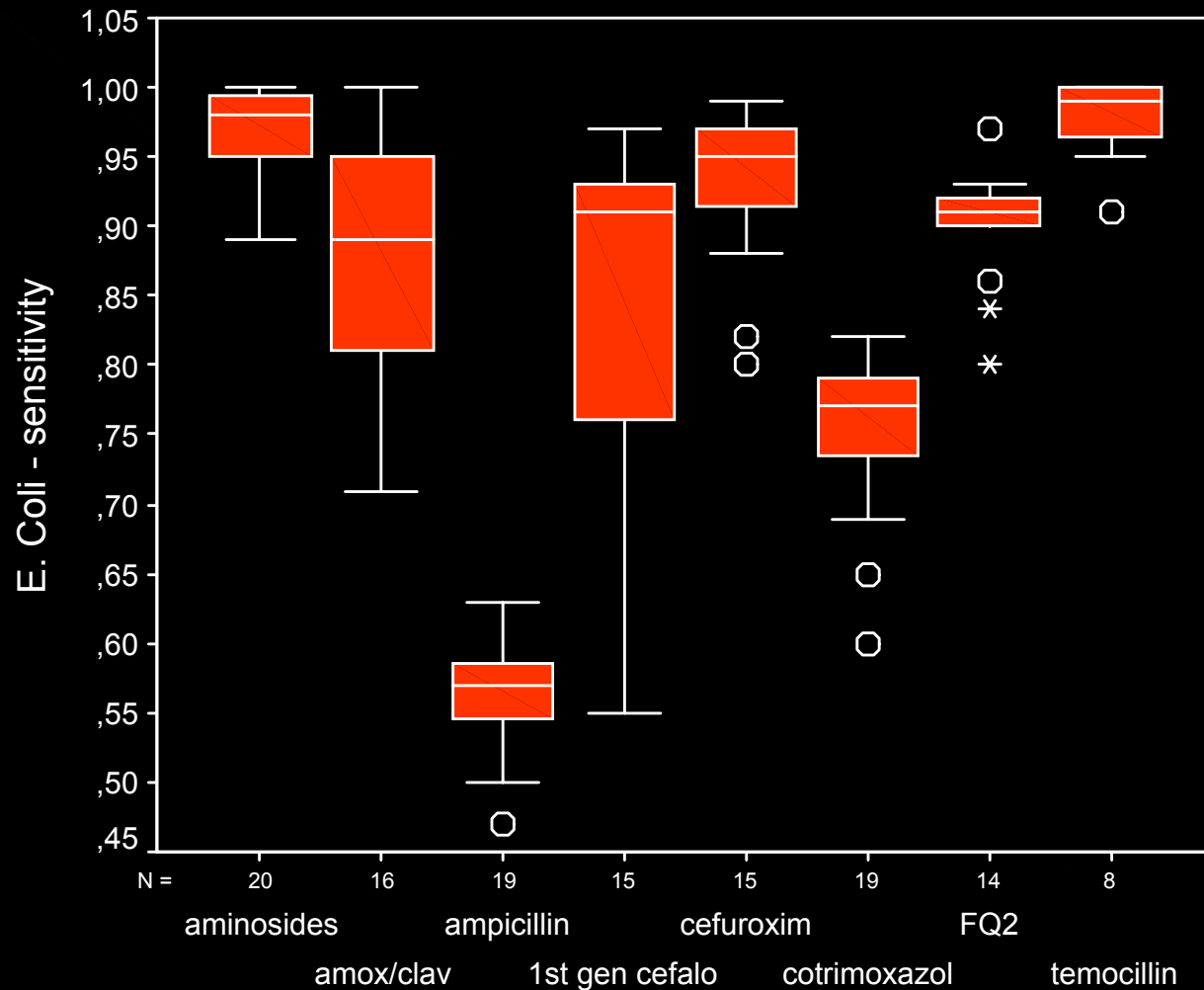
# Results of the microbiological survey



# Distribution of pathogens

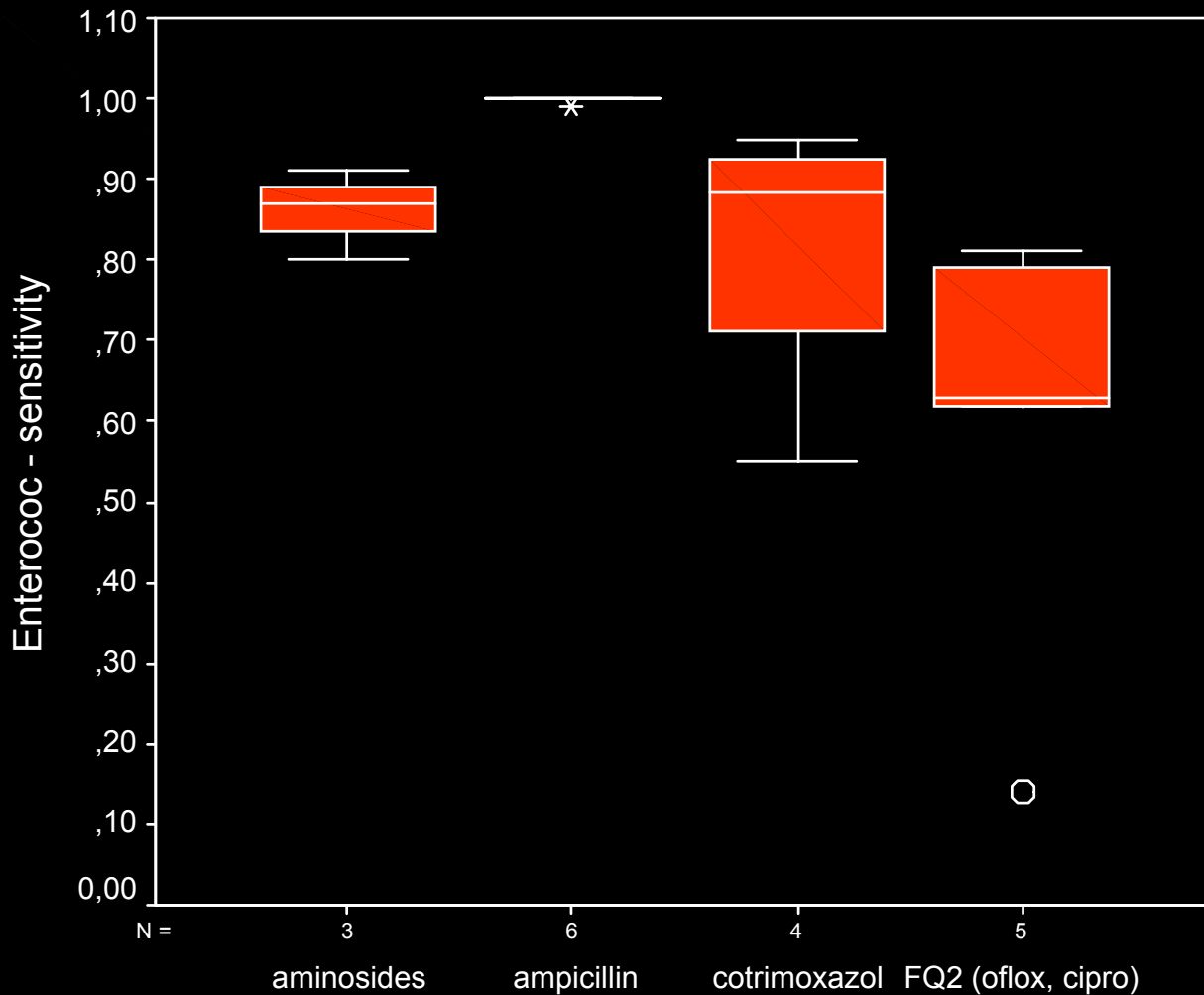


# Sensitivity - E. coli





# Sensitivity - Enterococcus



# Literature - non-pregnant women



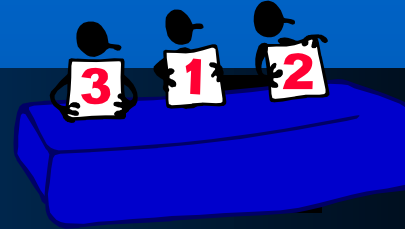
- meta-analysis IDSA 4 RCT's (Jernelius, Johnson, Stamm, Ode): FQ or CTX > ampi; 14 days
- Talan: cipro 7d > CTX 14 d
- Mombelli: cipro iv = cipro oral
- Richard: levo = cipro
- Sandberg: FQ >  $\beta$ -lactams
- (Sandberg - Le Conte: addition tobramycin not superior)
- (8 studies excluded)
- Hooton, Israel: outpatient switch therapy safe & effective
- Limited or no clinical studies amox/clav, cephalo 1 & 2, temo
- Few reports on cephalo 3

# Recommendations non-pregnant women (1)

## *MILD PYELONEPHRITIS - empirical therapy*

- The efficacy of fluoroquinolones for empiric therapy has been established (1++, A).
- Oral therapy is proposed for patients without clinical signs of severe sepsis (1++, A). Outpatient treatment with oral fluoroquinolones is safe in absence of severe sepsis and renal insufficiency, and with the ability to take oral medication (1+, B).
- First generation fluoroquinolones (FQ<sub>1</sub>), such as norfloxacin, are not recommended because of their low serum concentration (4, D).
- Association of an aminoglycoside is not recommended in absence of severe sepsis (1+, B).
- Co-trimoxazole, ampicillin and first generation cephalosporins cannot be recommended as empiric therapy due to the high level of resistance in many regions of Belgium.

# Guideline - non-pregnant women (1)



## *MILD PYELONEPHRITIS - empirical therapy*

For non-pregnant women with mild pyelonephritis (no clinical signs of severe sepsis, patient can take oral medication):

A

Empiric therapy with oral fluoroquinolone

B

without the association of an aminoglycoside

(If fluoroquinolones are contra-indicated, switch to the alternatives in the next guideline)

1

2

3

4

5

strongly disagree

disagree

no opinion

agree

strongly agree

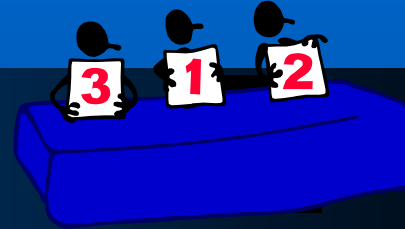
# Recommendations non-pregnant women (2)



## *SEVERE PYELONEPHRITIS - empirical therapy*

- The efficacy of FQ for empirical therapy has been established (1++, A).
- Temocillin, amox/clav and 2nd gen. cephalo's are a valuable alternative in patient needing initial iv therapy (3, D).  
This is also supported by the current resistance figures of the Belgian microbiological survey.
- The utility of an aminoglycoside in association with amox/clav or 2nd gen. cephalo's is not supported by the literature. The association of an aminoglycoside should be reserved to patients with septic shock (3,D).
- In patients that fail to improve during outpatient treatment after 48-72 hours, treatment should be changed to a parenteral FQ or one of the alternatives depending on the choice of the initial oral antibiotic and the result of the urinary culture (4,D).

# Guideline - non-pregnant women (2)



## *SEVERE PYELONEPHRITIS - empirical therapy*

For more severe cases (vomiting, dehydration, severe sepsis; failure to improve during outpatient treatment; or inability to take oral medication), requiring hospitalisation:

A

- Empiric therapy with parenteral fluoroquinolone.

- Alternatives:

D

- temocillin, second generation cephalosporin or amoxicillin-clavulanic acid

D

- only in cases of septic shock, an aminoglycoside can be associated to the second generation cephalosporin or amoxicillin-clavulanic acid.

1

strongly disagree

2

disagree

3

no opinion

4

agree

5

strongly agree

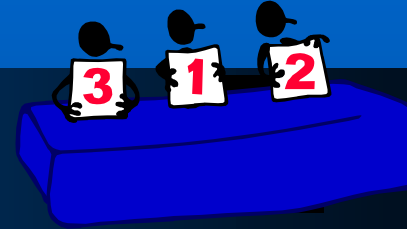
# Recommendations non-pregnant women (3)



## *Directed therapy and Duration*

- Always perform a urine culture including antibiogram.
- The clinical and bacteriological efficacy of fluoroquinolones (1+, A) and co-trimoxazole (1+, A) is significantly better than that of  $\beta$ -lactams (recurrence).
- If enterococcus sp. is isolated, ampicillin is the recommended directed therapy (3,D), alone or in association with an aminoglycoside (3,D).
- Outpatient treatment is safe in absence of severe sepsis and renal insufficiency, and with the ability to take oral medication (1+, B).  
In more severe cases requiring initial iv therapy, a switch to oral therapy is proposed after 24-48h, once symptoms and fever have disappeared (2++, B).
- In with uncomplicated pyelonephritis, without severe sepsis and without diabetes, at least 7 days of fluoroquinolones (1+, B).  
In other cases (severe sepsis, diabetes or treatment with another antibiotic) a duration of treatment of 14 days, but not longer, is warranted (1++, A).

# Guideline - non-pregnant women (3)



## *Directed therapy and Duration*

B	Upon clinical improvement (resolution of fever), switch of intravenous therapy, based on the antibiogram of the urinary pathogen cultured, to an oral antibiotic (preferentially a fluoroquinolone or co-trimoxazole and for enterococci amoxicillin)
B	- for a total duration of antibiotic treatment of at least 7 to a maximum of 14 days for fluoroquinolones in non-diabetic female patients;
A	- for 14 days for all other oral antibiotics.

1

2

3

4

5

strongly  
disagree

disagree

no  
opinion

agree

strongly  
agree



# Literature - men



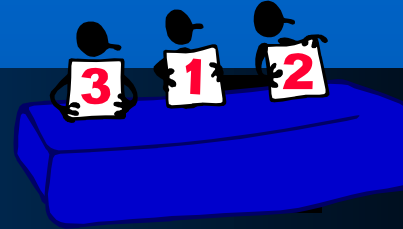
- data from controlled studies are lacking
- low number of included men in mixed trials
- Mombelli, Johnson: eradication & recurrence FQ >  $\beta$ -lactams

# Recommendations men



- The same antibiotic regimens are recommended in men (3, D).
- Note the high rate of relapse with beta-lactams in studies where both sexes were included and where men could be isolated with, however, mostly a minority of men.
- Standard duration of therapy is 2 weeks since no studies are available to determine the most appropriate duration in men (4, D).

# Guideline - men



D

For men, the same antibiotic regimens are recommended, for 14 days.

1

2

3

4

5

strongly  
disagree

disagree

no  
opinion

agree

strongly  
agree

# Literature - pregnant women



- Cochrane review Vacquez
- Wing: cefazol = ceftriax = ampi/genta
- Sanchez-Ramos: ceftriax = cefazolin
- (Angel: cephalo 1 iv = oral)
- Millar, Wing: outpatient treatment safe & effective in selected pts.
- Lenke, Van Dorsten: doubt on suppressive therapy nitrofurantoin
- Cochrane review Smail: asymptomatic bacteriuria

# Recommendations pregnant women



- Fluoroquinolones are not indicated for the treatment of acute pyelonephritis in pregnant women (FDA safety categories).
- Parenteral cefazolin (resistance) and ceftriaxone are the most evaluated as empirical therapy (1+, B). Several experts consider parenteral cefuroxime or amoxicillin/clavulanic acid as valuable and safe alternatives (4, D).
- Directed therapy depends on the antibiogram and on the safety for pregnancy.
- In patients without severe sepsis, concurrent medical conditions or pre-term labour, a brief hospital stay followed by oral outpatient therapy is suggested (2+, C). Oral cefuroxime (2+, C) is recommended as outpatient therapy for a total duration of antibiotic treatment of 10-14 days (2+, C). In later pregnancy, few women will be candidate for outpatient management.
- There is no conclusive evidence for the use of suppressive therapy with nitrofurantoin (1+, B). However, close surveillance for and prompt treatment of recurrent or persistent even asymptomatic urinary tract infection is recommended (2+, C).

1

strongly  
disagree

2

disagree

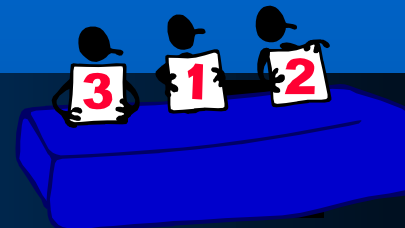
3

no opinion

4

agree

5

strongly  
agree

# Guideline - pregnant women

C, B

For **pregnant women**, cefuroxime or ceftriaxone is recommended as initial parenteral empirical therapy.

Alternatives:

D

- amoxicillin-clavulanic acid

D

- aztreonam in case of penicillin allergy

C

A brief hospital stay is recommended. Upon clinical improvement (48 hours resolution of fever) and without severe sepsis, concurrent medical conditions or pre-term labor, the patient can be discharged on an oral antibiotic depending on the antibiogram of the urinary pathogen cultured and the safety profile of the antibiotic (preferentially a first generation cephalosporin), for a total duration of 14 days.

B

Suppressive therapy with nitrofurantoin to prevent recurrent disease is not indicated.



[www.health.fgov.be/antibiotics](http://www.health.fgov.be/antibiotics)