

Anaerobic Coverage: *Use Just What You Need*

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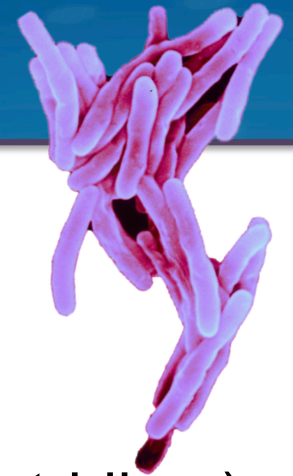
Disclosures

- No financial conflicts of interest
- Everything we discuss is QI, thus protected from legal discovery under WA State Code



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Anaerobes: *Our Helpful Friends*



Bacteria that thrive in low oxygen tension

1. “Strict”

Must live in absence of oxygen (Bacteroides, Clostridium)

2. “Capnophilic”

Tolerate oxygen but prefer only small amounts (Oral strep)

3. “Facultative”

Groove on oxygen, can go anaerobic if they must (E.coli)

Anaerobes: *Our Helpful Friends*

Vital Part of the Human Microbiota

Benefits...

1. Digestion of food
2. Repel candidiasis
3. Reduce UTI risk
4. Reduce *C.difficile* risk
5. ?Autoimmune reduction?



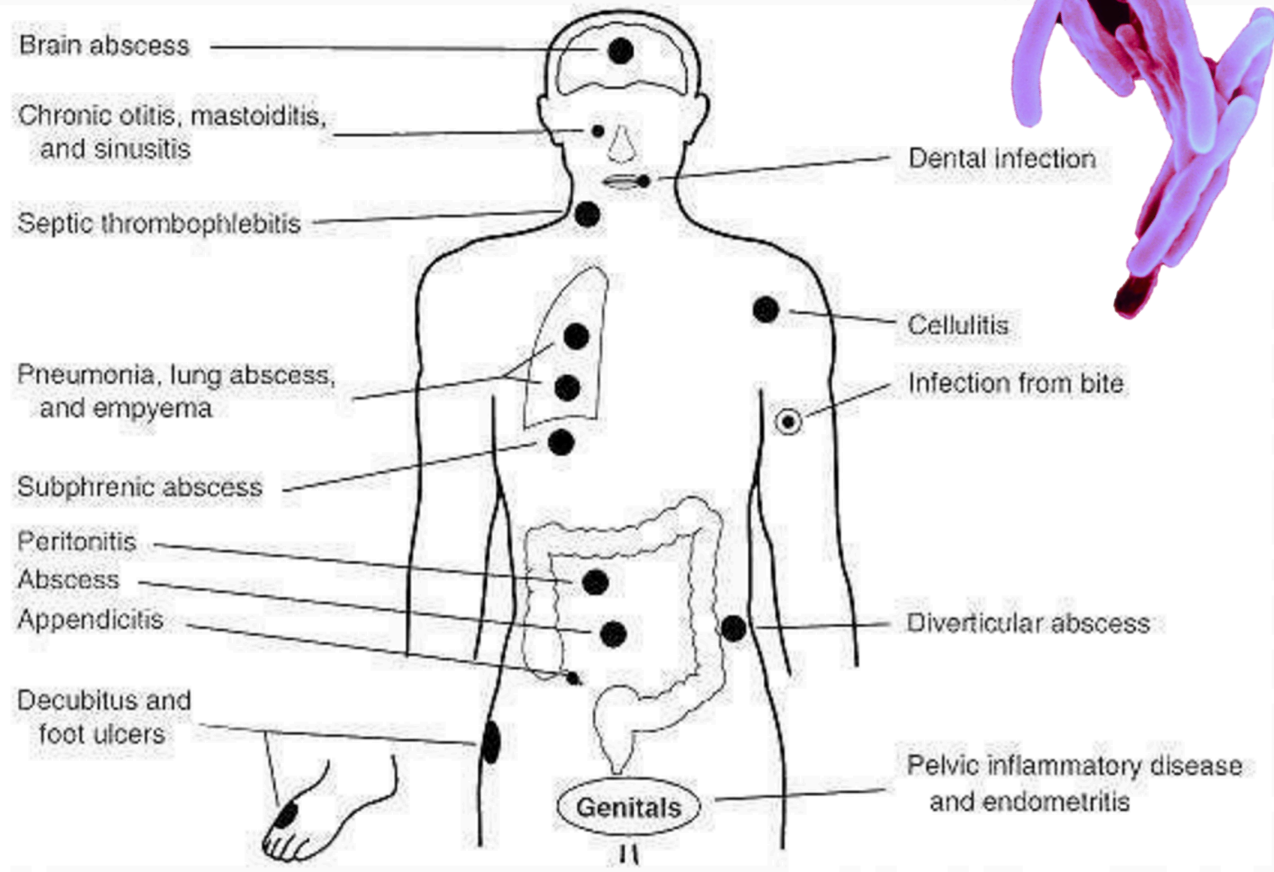
Abx Collateral Damage?

Sneathia/Leptotrichia spp.
Other



Anaerobes: *Frenemies?*

Problems may arise...



Anaerobes: *When to Kill Them?*

“Only when you must”

1. Guided Therapy

Proven anaerobic infection (culture-positive from sterile site)

2. Empiric Therapy

Suspected anaerobic infection (e.g. abdominal source of sepsis)



1. Above Diaphragm

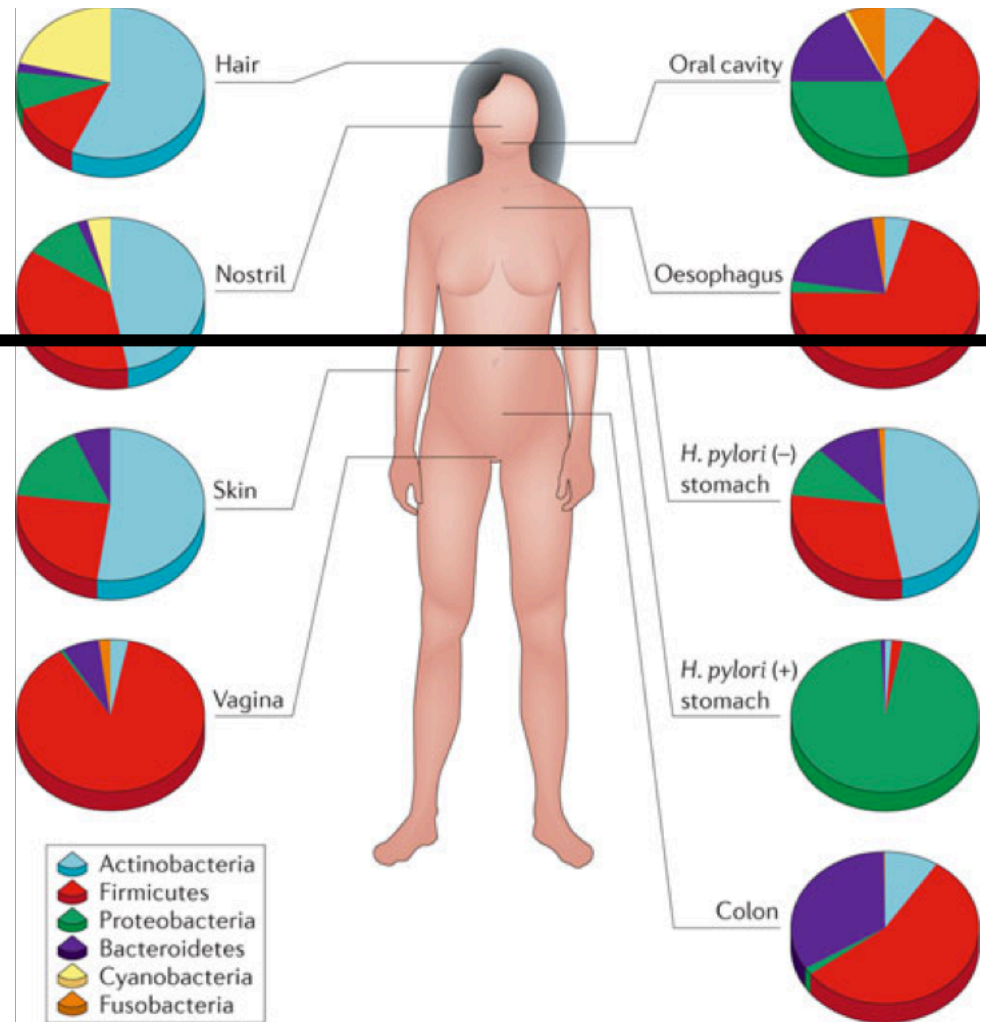
Oral, Respiratory
(Strep, Eikenella,
Fusobacterium)

2. Below Diaphragm

Colon (Bacteroides)



Anatomic Diversity of Anaerobes



1. Above Diaphragm

Oral, Respiratory
(Strep, Eikenella,
Fusobacterium)

PO

Amox-Clav

Clindamycin

+/- Moxiflox

IV

Amp-Sulbact

Clindamycin

+/- Moxiflox

IV

Pip-Tazo

Ertapenem

Imipenem

Meropenem

Doripenem

2. Below Diaphragm

Colon (Bacteroides)

Metronidazole

Metronidazole



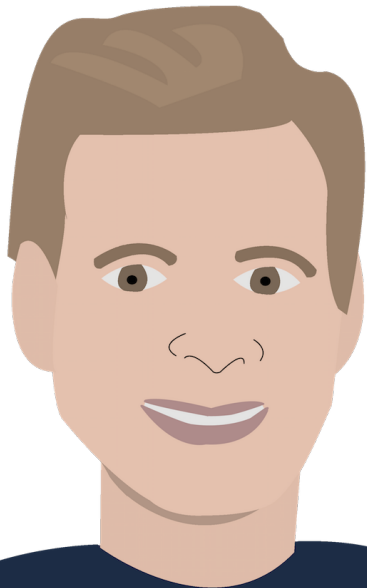
Anaerobes: Coverage Reliability?

“Almost Perfect Reliability”

- Oral anaerobes “virtually always” susceptible to clindamycin or amox-clav.
- *B.fragilis* “virtually always” susceptible to metro, pip-tazo, carbapenems.



Pan-Resistant Organism: *B.fragilis*



That ain't right...

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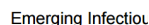
Multidrug-Resistant *Bacteroides fragilis* — Seattle, Washington, 2013

The *Bacteroides fragilis* group consists of species of obligate anaerobic bacteria that inhabit the human gut. They are among the leading pathogens isolated in the setting of intra-abdominal infections. *B. fragilis* strains, especially in the United States, are virtually always susceptible to metronidazole, carbapenems, and beta-lactam antibiotics (1). Although isolated cases of resistance to single agents have been reported, multidrug-resistant (MDR) *B. fragilis* strains are exceptionally rare (1,2). In May 2013, an MDR *B. fragilis* strain was isolated from the bloodstream and intra-abdominal abscesses of a patient who had recently received health care in India. This is only the second published case of MDR *B. fragilis* in the United States. This report summarizes the case and highlights the need for awareness of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in returning travelers who have received inpatient medical care outside the United States, both for timely implementation of proper infection control measures and to ensure administration of appropriate antimicrobials.

count of 25,000/ μ L. Blood cultures were obtained but yielded no growth. A CT scan of the abdomen revealed multiple fluid collections suggesting abscesses. Vancomycin and piperacillin/tazobactam were initiated, and the patient underwent radiographically guided percutaneous drainage. The fluid grew a pan-susceptible *Escherichia coli*, and antibiotics were narrowed to ceftriaxone. The leukocyte count improved initially, but then increased again several days later. Repeat blood cultures drawn through a central catheter showed anaerobic gram-negative rods, and piperacillin/tazobactam coverage was restarted. Follow-up blood cultures drawn 2 days later demonstrated no growth. A repeat CT scan for persistent fever, 10 days after drain placement, demonstrated a ring-enhancing fluid collection in the abdomen and right flank and pelvic fluid collections. Vancomycin was added to the patient's antimicrobial regimen, and an additional percutaneous drain was placed. Fluid was sent immediately for microbiologic testing. Gram stain of the fluid revealed 4+ polymorphonuclear cells and 3+ gram-negative bacilli, with a pure culture of anaerobic

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2101.140662>

A circular genome map of the human genome. The map consists of several concentric rings. The outermost ring is a circular bar chart representing the distribution of genomic features across the genome. The next ring inward is a circular bar chart representing the distribution of genomic features across the genome. The innermost ring is a circular bar chart representing the distribution of genomic features across the genome. The map is divided into segments by radial lines, and the segments are color-coded. The map is labeled with genomic coordinates in kbp (kilobases) at various points around the circle: 5,000 kbp, 4,500 kbp, 4,000 kbp, 3,500 kbp, 3,000 kbp, 2,500 kbp, 2,000 kbp, 1,500 kbp, 1,000 kbp, and 500 kbp.



The WHO priority list

PRIORITY: CRITICAL

- ◆ **Acinetobacter baumannii**
carbapenem-resistant
- ◆ **Pseudomonas aeruginosa**
carbapenem-resistant
- ◆ **Enterobacteriaceae**
carbapenem-resistant,
ESBL-producing

PRIORITY 2: HIGH

- ◆ **Enterococcus faecium**
vancomycin-resistant
- ◆ **Staphylococcus aureus**
methicillin-resistant
vancomycin-intermediate
and resistant
- ◆ **Helicobacter pylori**
clarithromycin-resistant
- ◆ **Campylobacter spp.**
fluoroquinolone-resistant
- ◆ **Salmonellae**
fluoroquinolone-resistant
- ◆ **Neisseria gonorrhoeae**
cephalosporin-resistant
fluoroquinolone-resistant

PRIORITY 3: MEDIUM

- ◆ **Streptococcus pneumoniae**
penicillin-non-susceptible
- ◆ **Haemophilus influenzae**
ampicillin-resistant
- ◆ **Shigella spp.**
fluoroquinolone-resistant

Source: WHO

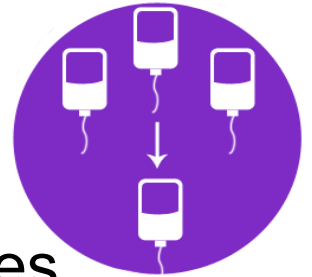


WHO's list of the 12 most threatening pathogens includes (from left) *Staphylococcus aureus* (causing skin infections, pneumonia and bloodstream infections), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (causing blood infections, pneumonia, infections after surgery) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (causing the sexually transmitted disease gonorrhea).

NIAID, NIH Image Gallery/Flickr

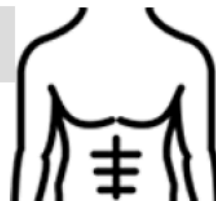
Anaerobes: *De-Escalation Opportunities*

“One and Done”



- Very rarely necessary to “double cover” anaerobes
Pip-Tazo + Metro is one drug too many!
- Exotic, rare exceptions aside, please consider stopping one (or both!) drugs
- Reduce risk of diarrhea!
- Reduce risk of metro-induced neuropathy & nausea!

INTRA-ABDOMINAL



A. Community-acquired, mild-moderate (Enteric Gram-negative rods, anaerobes)

- **HMC only:** Ertapenem 1g IV q24h
- **UWMC only:** Ceftriaxone 2g IV q24h **PLUS** Metronidazole 500mg PO/IV q8h
- For uncomplicated **biliary** infections, anaerobic coverage usually not necessary, use Ceftriaxone alone

Typical Duration: 4 days following source control

B. Hospital-acquired, severe physiological disturbance, advanced age, immunocompromised

- Vancomycin** **PLUS**
- Piperacillin-tazobactam 4.5gm X 1, then 4 hours later, start 3.375gm IV q8h infused over 4 hours

Typical Duration: 4-7 days from source control; if source control is not attained, then duration is variable.

C. Intra-abdominal infections:

- ⇒ Double anaerobic coverage is not required (i.e. metronidazole + piperacillin/tazobactam)
- ⇒ Abdominal Transplant patients: Same as above and consult Transplant Infectious Diseases

osyn?

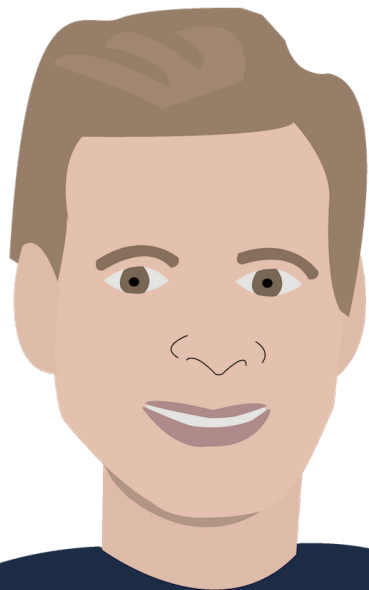


n a short course
(metronidazole)
(ceftriaxone for
ss)

infection

Conclusions

1. Anaerobes come in 2 flavors (above & below diaphragm)
2. Only kill them when necessary
3. Only kill them with one drug at a time
4. Low(ish) hanging fruit



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References

- Brook et al. Antianaerobic antimicrobials: spectrum and susceptibility testing. *Clin Microb Rev* 2013 (PMID: 23824372)
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