



August 20, 2019

Agenda

- Prophylaxis for *C. difficile*
- Case Discussions
- Open Discussion



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Prophylaxis for *C. difficile* Infection (CDI)

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Agenda

Goal: Discuss the evidence for prophylaxis in CDI

1.) Primary prophylaxis

2.) Secondary prophylaxis

3.) Probiotics: a yogurt a day keeps *C. diff* away?



C. difficile Fact Sheet

IMPACT



C. diff causes close to half a million illnesses each year and can affect people of all ages.¹



1 in 5 patients will get *C. diff* at least once more.¹



One in 11 people over 65 diagnosed with a healthcare-associated *C. diff* infection die within a month.¹

RISK



People on antibiotics are 7 to 10 times more likely to get *C. diff* while on the drugs and during the month after.²



Extended stays in healthcare settings, especially hospitals and nursing homes, also increase risk.



More than 80% of *C. diff* deaths occur in people 65 and older.

[cdc.gov/cdiff](https://www.cdc.gov/cdiff)

¹ Table 3 from Lessa FC, Mu Yi, Bamberg WM et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:825-34. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1408913

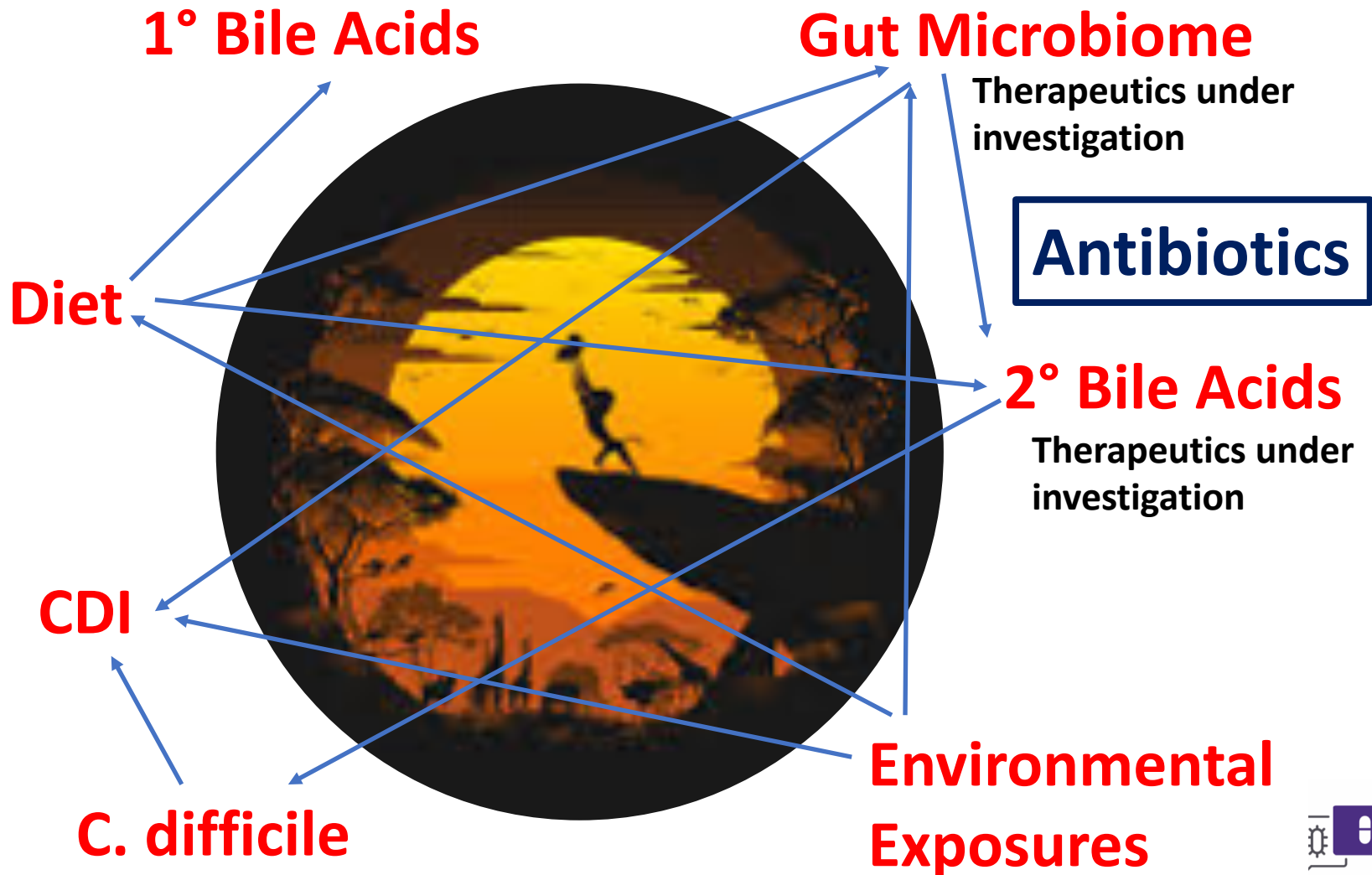
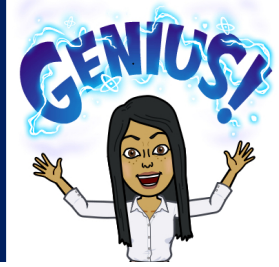
² Hensgens MPM, Goorhuis A, Dekkers OM, Kuijper EJ. J Antimicrob Chemother 2011. DOI: 10.1093/jac/dkr508

CS292825



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Everything is connected

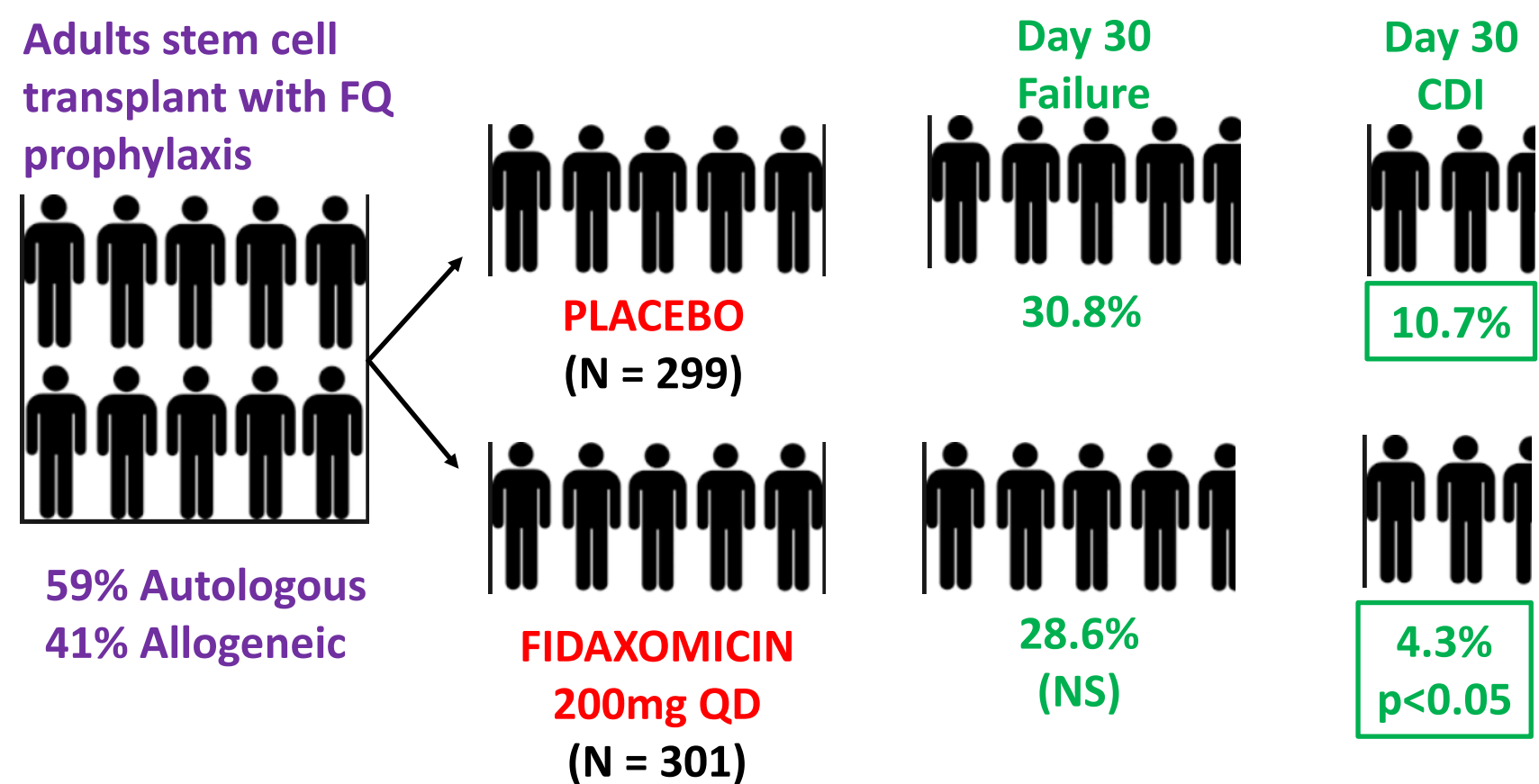


Indications for Primary Prophylaxis

- *C. difficile* incidence in hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients are 5 to 9 fold higher than general hospitalized population
- CDI occurs in 5-15% of autologous and 12-34% of allogeneic HSCT recipients
- Contributing factors:
 - Cytotoxic chemotherapy
 - Prolonged neutropenia
 - **Broad spectrum antibiotics**
 - Possibly graft vs host disease (GVHD)



Primary Prophylaxis – Fidaxomicin



Primary Endpoint : Prophylaxis failure
Confirmed CDI, use of antibiotics effective against CDI for any reason, missing CDI assessments



Oral Vancomycin Prophylaxis Is Highly Effective in Preventing *Clostridium difficile* Infection in Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Recipients

Alex Ganetsky,¹ Jennifer H. Han,^{2,3} Mitchell E. Hughes,¹ Daria V. Babushok,⁴ Noelle V. Frey,⁴ Saar I. Gill,⁴ Elizabeth O. Hexner,⁴ Alison W. Loren,⁴ Selina M. Luger,⁴ James K. Mangan,⁴ Mary Ellen Martin,⁴ Jacqueline Smith,⁴ Craig W. Freyer,¹ Cheryl Gilmar,³ Mindy Schuster,² Edward A. Stadtmauer,⁴ and David L. Porter⁴

- Quality improvement initiative at U of Pennsylvania
- All allogeneic HSCT received oral vancomycin 125mg twice daily starting on hospital admission until discharge
- Primary outcome: CDI confirmed by 2-step testing
- Results:
 - Pre-implementation: No prophylaxis: 20% (11/55)
 - Post-implementation: Vancomycin prophylaxis: 0% (0/90)
 - $P < 0.001$



Fidaxomicin vs. Vancomycin

- No head to head comparison
- Vancomycin
 - Limited to observational studies
- Fidaxomicin
 - Narrower spectrum
 - Inhibits production of toxin A and B
 - Potent inhibitors of *C. difficile* spore formation
 - Post-hoc analyses suggested higher sustained clinical responses without recurrence in cancer patients
- Consider primary prophylaxis given high risk of CDI in HSCT transplant recipients.



Audience Survey Question

59 yo male with history of previous CDI, admitted to your hospital with osteomyelitis requiring 6 weeks of antibiotics. Would you start oral vancomycin for CDI prophylaxis?

- 1) For sure
- 2) No way
- 3) Don't know



Audience Survey Question

What dose and frequency of oral vancomycin would you recommend?

- 1) 125mg qdaily
- 2) 125mg twice daily
- 3) 125mg four times daily
- 4) 250mg twice daily



Secondary Prophylaxis

- **Suppressive Therapy:**

- Concurrent CDI while on systemic antibiotics
- Extension of CDI suppressive therapy when concomitant systemic antibiotics can not be discontinued

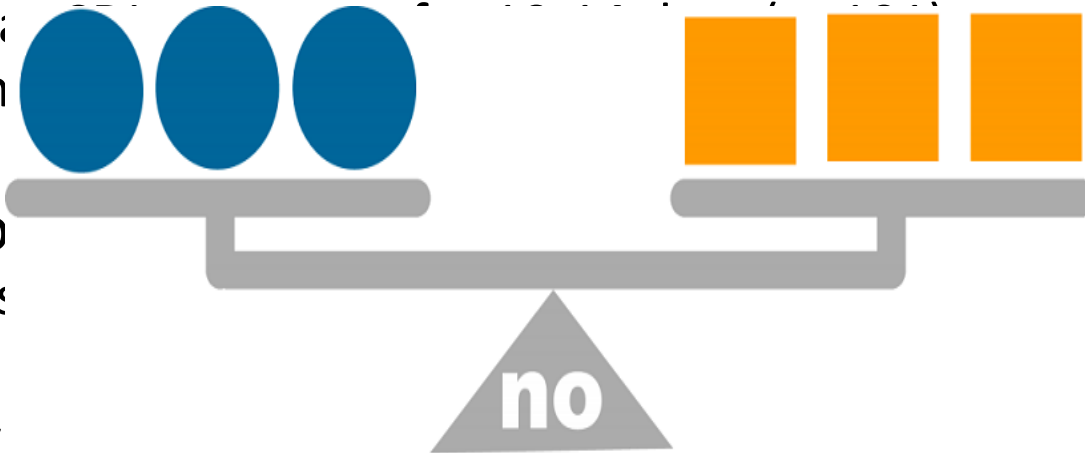
- **Secondary Prophylaxis:**

- Initiation of CDI prophylaxis in patients with previously treated CDI who systemic antibiotics are re-introduced



Suppressive Therapy

- Retrospective study
 - 228 patients with incident CDI
 - regular
 - extended



- The two groups were comparable
 - Age, sex, etc.
 - Primary outcome
 - CDI relapse rate (treatment)
- significant difference**
- CDI relapse rate
 - Regular (17%) vs. Extended (23%)
 - Adjusted OR 1.4 (95% CI: 0.7-2.7)



Oral Vancomycin Prophylaxis (OVP)

- Retrospective study
 - ≥ 18 yo with previous CDI and re-hospitalized requiring systemic antibiotics
 - 71 patients receiving OVP 125-250mg bid
 - 132 patients (control)
- Primary endpoint:
 - Recurrent CDI defined as PCR positive *c. difficile* within 4 wks of completion of systemic abx
- CDI recurrence:
 - 4.2% OVP vs. 26.6% control ($p < 0.001$)



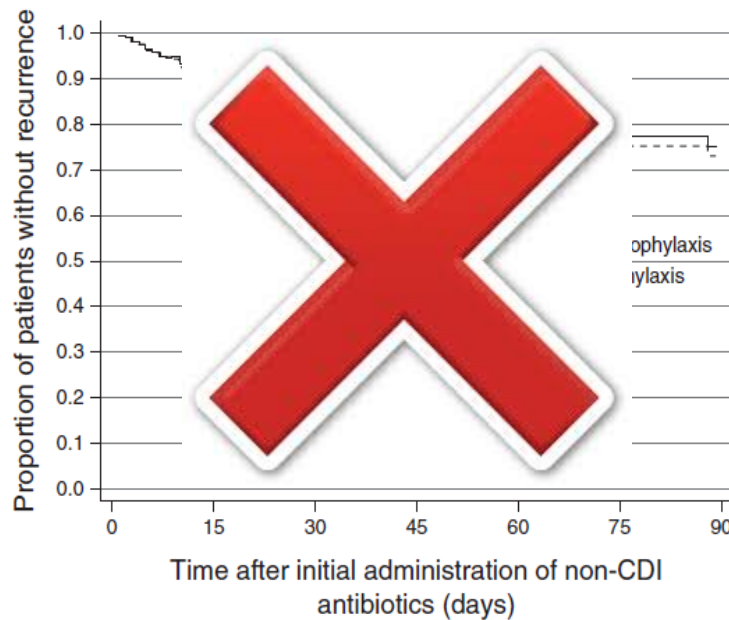
Secondary Prophylaxis (Incident vs. Recurrent CDI)

	Carignan (Canada)	Caroff (USA)
Inclusion Criteria	Previous CDI requiring systemic abx within <u>90 days</u> after CDI diagnosis during a hospital admission or a visit to a hospital outpatient clinic.	Previous CDI requiring systemic abx within <u>150 days</u> after CDI diagnosis during a hospital stay.
Primary Endpoints	CDI recurrence within 90d	CDI recurrence within 90d
Study population	551 patients OVP: 227 (41%) No OVP: 324 (59%) Age: 50% with ≥ 75 yo	760 patients OVP: 193 (25%) No OVP: 567 (75%) Avg age = 59-64 yo
CDI relapse	32.9%	9.5%
Median abx exposure	14 days	5-6 days
Median duration of OVP	7 days	2.3 days



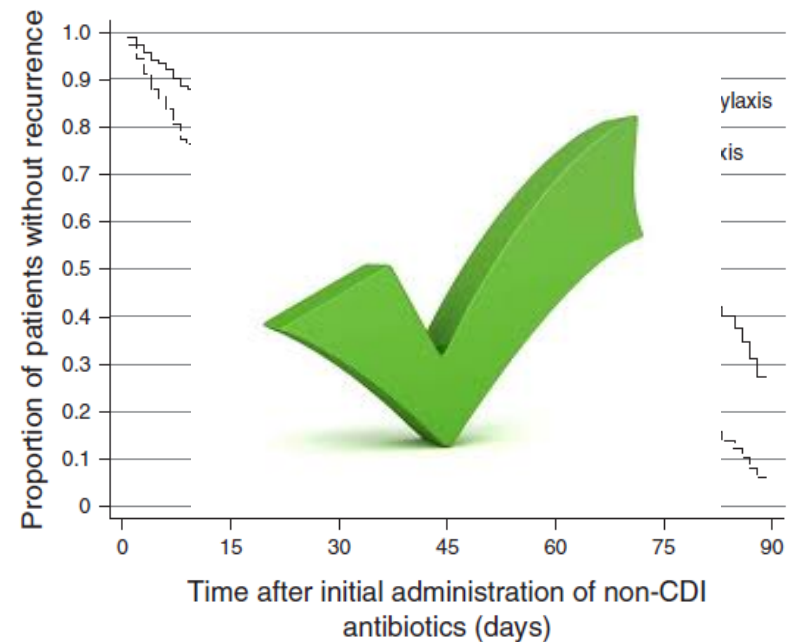
Vancomycin prophylaxis only beneficial in recurrent CDI

Incident CDI (1 previous CDI)



Number at risk							
No vancomycin prophylaxis	242	184	139	111	91	60	0
Vancomycin prophylaxis	137	115	95	84	75	58	0

Recurrent CDI (>1 episode)



Number at risk							
No vancomycin prophylaxis	82	47	34	19	16	8	0
Vancomycin prophylaxis	90	81	61	41	29	18	0

Carignan et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2016



Vancomycin prophylaxis only effective in incident CDI

	Incident CDI (1 previous episode)		Recurrent CDI (>2 episodes)	
	No OVP (n=353)	OVP (n=118)	No OVP (n=118)	OVP (n=353)
CDI relapse (%)	10.5	8.5	7.8	10.9
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	---	0.42 (0.19-0.93)	---	1.19 (0.42-3.33)



Secondary Prophylaxis

- Data are limited
- Gaps in knowledge
 - Targeted population
 - Optimal dose and duration
 - How long?
- Vancomycin is not harmless
 - Deleterious effects to indigenous microbiota of the colon
 - Promote colonization with VRE, KPC, and E. coli
 - 125mg Qdaily is probably sufficient



In a galaxy not so far away.....

GUT A PROBIOTIC STORY WARS



What are Probiotics?

- Live microorganisms
 - Active when reach the intestine
- Confer benefit on the host
 - When administered in adequate amounts
- Common probiotics:
 - *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG
 - *Lactobacillus acidophilus*
 - *Bifidobacterium bifidum*
 - *Saccharomyces boulardii*



Lactobacilli and bifidobacteria in the prevention of antibiotic-associated diarrhoea and *Clostridium difficile* diarrhoea in older inpatients (PLACIDE): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre trial

Stephen J Allen, Kathie Wareham, Duolao Wang, Caroline Bradley, Hayley Hutchings, Wyn Harris, Anjan Dhar, Helga Brown, Alwyn Foden, Michael B Gravenor, Dietrich Mack



- Inpatients ≥ 65 yo, exposed to ≥ 1 antibiotics
- 1493 received multi-strain lactobacilli & bifidobacteria (6×10^{10} organisms), once daily x 21 days; 1488 received placebo
- Primary outcome:
 - Antibiotic associated diarrhea OR *C. difficile* infection (CDI) within 12 wks
- No difference in primary outcome (10.4% vs. 10.8%)
- No difference in risk reduction of CDI
 - CDI occurred in 0.8% probiotics arm vs. 1.2% in placebo arm



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE MAIN COMPARISON [\[Explanation\]](#)

Goldenberg JZ, et al. Cochrane Database Systematic Review 2017

Probiotics compared to control for preventing <i>C. difficile</i> associated diarrhea					
Patient or population: preventing <i>C. difficile</i> associated diarrhea Setting: inpatient and outpatient Intervention: probiotics Comparison: control					
Outcomes	Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No. of participants (studies)	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)
	Risk with control	Risk with probiotics			
Incidence CDAD: complete case	Study population		RR 0.40 (0.30 to 0.52)	8672 (31 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE ¹
	40 per 1,000	16 per 1,000 (12 to 21)			
CDAD (baseline risk 0-2%)	Study population		RR 0.77 (0.45 to 1.32)	5845 (15 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE ²
	11 per 1,000	8 per 1,000 (5 to 14)			
CDAD (baseline risk 3-5%)	Study population		RR = 0.53 (95% CI: 0.16-1.77) Evidence : Low grade based on 3 RCTs		
	38 per 1,000	20 per 1,000 (6 to 67)			
CDAD (baseline risk >5%)	Study population		RR 0.30 (0.21 to 0.42)	2454 (13 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE ⁵
	116 per 1,000	35 per 1,000 (24 to 49)			
Incidence of <i>C. difficile</i> infection: complete case	Study population		RR 0.86 (0.67 to 1.10)	1214 (15 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE ⁶

Safety Consideration

- FDA: Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) when added to food as a dietary supplement
- Fungemia:
 - 33 case reports of *S. cerevisiae/boulardii*
- Bacteremia:
 - 8 cases of *lactobacilli*
- Sepsis:
 - 9 cases with *S. boulardii*, *Lactobacillus G*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, or combination
- Endocarditis:
 - 2 cases with *Lactobacillus* & *Streptococcus*



A yogurt a day keeps C. diff away?



Summary

- **Primary prophylaxis:**

- HSCT transplant recipients
- Fidaxomicin vs. vancomycin?



- **Secondary prophylaxis:**

- Many unanswered questions
- Vancomycin 125mg qdaily probably sufficient



- **Probiotics:**

- IDSA: insufficient data

