

Antimicrobial susceptibility of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae*, 2011

The antimicrobial susceptibility of all 70 viable invasive isolates of *H. influenzae* referred to ESR in 2011 was tested (see table). Ampicillin, co-amoxiclav, cefuroxime and cefaclor minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) were determined by Etest on *Haemophilus* test medium. Cefotaxime, ciprofloxacin, clarithromycin, co-trimoxazole, rifampicin and tetracycline susceptibilities were determined by disc diffusion on *Haemophilus* test medium. MICs and disc diffusion zone diameters were interpreted according to the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute's criteria.¹

Eight (11.4%) of the 70 isolates were serotype b. Ten (14.3%) isolates produced β -lactamase. Twelve isolates were ampicillin resistant, but not β -lactamase producing – so-called BLNAR (β -lactamase-negative, ampicillin-resistant) *H. influenzae*. One of the β -lactamase producing isolates appeared to also have the BLNAR mechanism of resistance, that is, an altered penicillin-binding protein (PBP).

Antimicrobial resistance among Haemophilus influenzae isolates from invasive disease, 2011

Antibiotic ¹	Number tested	Number resistant ²	Percent resistant
Ampicillin	70	22	31.4
Co-amoxiclav	70	13	18.6
Cefaclor	70	13	18.6
Cefuroxime	70	13	18.6
Cefotaxime	70	0	0
Ciprofloxacin	70	0	0
Clarithromycin	70	0	0
Co-trimoxazole	70	14	20.0
Rifampicin	70	0	0
Tetracycline	70	0	0

¹ Results for the full range of antibiotics tested are presented. Many are not appropriate for the treatment of invasive *H. influenzae* disease or the chemoprophylaxis of contacts.

² All BLNAR *H. influenzae* have been considered resistant to ampicillin, co-amoxiclav, cefaclor and cefuroxime, in line with the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute's recommendations, although they often test as susceptible to these antibiotics in standard susceptibility tests.

Trends in ampicillin resistance and β -lactamase production among invasive *H. influenzae* in the last 10 years are shown in the figure below. Until 2005, most of the ampicillin resistance was due to β -lactamase production. However, since that time, only about half the ampicillin-resistant isolates have been producers of β -lactamase, with the other half being BLNAR *H. influenzae*.

¹ Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. Performance standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing; twentieth informational supplement. Wayne, PA, USA: CLSI; 2011. CLSI document M100-S21

Ampicillin resistance and beta-lactamase production among invasive Haemophilus influenzae, 2002-2011

