Infection Current Awareness Update – 30/12/19

Welcome to the weekly Infection Current Awareness Update (ICAU), produced by PHE Knowledge and Library Services. The purpose of this update is to provide you with the latest, best evidence about infection, to help you make informed decisions.

If you have any queries, please contact us at libraries@phe.gov.uk, and if you would like to request a literature search, please use the Knowledge and Library Services Enquiries Portal (PHE staff only).

Please note that not all the articles and resources referred to in this alert are freely available. Some articles may require an Athens username and password, and for PHE and NHS staff, these can be obtained here. If you do not work for PHE or the NHS, you may want to approach your local health library service to discuss how you may have access to library services.

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Infection-related guidance

Infectious Diseases Society of America

#Bacteria found in urine doesn’t always indicate infection, & #antibiotics aren’t always the solution, according to IDSA’s guideline for the
management of asymptomatic bacteriuria. Learn more: bit.ly/2QkbiiQ #IDSAGuidelines pic.twitter.com/cY7BCDFIi1
29 Dec 2019
IDSA on Twitter: "#Bacteria found in urine doesn’t always indicate infection, & #antibiotics aren’t
Meet Meredith, a cancer survivor who passed away from an antibiotic-resistant infection. bit.ly/2LoiNU9 Help us spread awareness & support for the DISARM Act by contacting your legislators: bit.ly/2YHHRuW #DISARMSuperbugs pic.twitter.com/ArYINlHEiX
27 Dec 2019
infection. https://t.co/pRVTbHAWhM Help us spread awareness & support for the DISARM Act by contacting your

Infection-related journals

American Journal of Infection Control

Editorial Board
29 Dec 2019
Information for Readers
29 Dec 2019
Information for Authors
29 Dec 2019
Patricia Stone, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, Takes the Helm at AJIC
29 Dec 2019
The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) has announced Patricia Stone, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, as editor of the American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC). Stone assumes the role from Elaine Larson, PhD, RN, FAAN, CIC, who retired in December of 2019 and had served as AJIC editor since 1995.

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29 Dec 2019
APIC Masthead
29 Dec 2019
Hand hygiene knowledge, attitudes, and practices among hospital inpatients: A descriptive study
27 Dec 2019
It is well established that health care workers (HCWs) can transmit pathogens to patients on unclean hands,1 but health care–associated infections (HAIs) also may be acquired by patients in hospitals via their own hands.

Monitoring the effectiveness of daily cleaning practices in an intensive care unit (ICU) setting using an adenosine triphosphate (ATP) bioluminescence assay
26 Dec 2019
Health care-associated infections (HAIs) impact over 630,000 patients and are responsible for over 72,000 deaths in the United States annually.1 Admission to hospital rooms previously occupied by patients with HAIs has been associated with a 50%-250% increased risk of developing a HAI with multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), such as vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE).

Pseudo-outbreak of Mycobacterium fortuitum in a hospital bronchoscopy unit
24 Dec 2019
Mycobacterium fortuitum belongs to the rapid-growth mycobacteria (RGM) group, which are ubiquitous in nature, being widely distributed in water, soil, and animals. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in infections caused by RGM, both localized and disseminated.

**Efficacy of a multi-purpose high level disinfection cabinet against Candida auris and other health care-associated pathogen**

23 Dec 2019

Portable equipment and other shared items are a potential source for transmission of health care-associated pathogens. For example, a recent outbreak of the emerging multidrug-resistant fungal pathogen Candida auris was linked to contamination of shared temperature probes.

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**American Journal of Medical Quality: Current issue**

**Human Factor Consideration in Routine Root Cause Analysis**

29 Dec 2019

American Journal of Medical Quality, Ahead of Print.

**Barriers and Facilitators in the Recruitment and Retention of More Than 250 Small Independent Primary Care Practices for EvidenceNOW**

23 Dec 2019

American Journal of Medical Quality, Ahead of Print. Few studies have examined factors that facilitate recruitment of small independent practices (SIPs) (<5 full-time clinicians) to participate in research and methods for optimizing retention.

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**Clinical Infectious Diseases - Advance Access**

**Darunavir/Cobicistat/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide in a Rapid Initiation Model of Care for HIV-1 Infection: Primary Analysis of the DIAMOND Study**

27 Dec 2019

Rifampicin can be given as flat-dosing instead of weight-band dosing.

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**Clinical Infectious Diseases - Current Issue**

**Chronic Painful Lesion**

16 Dec 2019

A 30-year-old Chadian man entered the University Hospital of Caen (France) with a chronic lesion of the right foot that had progressed for 7 years. Initially painless, this tumefaction recently became painful while walking. The patient did not remember any trauma that could have explained his injury. He had no history of immunosuppression.

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**Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease**

**Synergistic antibacterial effects of analgesics and antibiotics against Staphylococcus aureus**

29 Dec 2019

Publication date: Available online 28 December 2019Source: Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious DiseaseAuthor(s): Dmitry Gil, Kathryn Daffinee, Renee Friedman, Bhavya Bhushan, Orhun K. Muratoglu, Kerry LaPlante, Ebru OralAbstractThe local use of analgesics and antibiotics is common during the treatment of periprosthetic joint infection (PJI).
Rapid identification of the vanA/vanB resistance determinant in Enterococcus sp. from blood cultures using the Cepheid Xpert vanA/vanB cartridge system

Publicaton date: Available online 27 December 2019
Source: Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease
Author(s): A Both, L Berneking, B Berinson, M Lütgehetmann, M Christner, M Aepfelbacher, H Rohde

Abstract
Especially in immunocompromised and intensive care patients VRE sepsis is associated with high mortality.

In vitro susceptibility testing of ceftobiprole against 880 European respiratory tract infection isolates of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus followed by whole genome sequencing of ceftobiprole-resistant isolates

Publication date: Available online 27 December 2019
Source: Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease
Author(s): Stephen Hawser, Nimmi Kothari, James A. Karlowsky, Tatiana Wiktorowicz, Kamal Hamed

Abstract
Ceftobiprole was active (MIC, ≤2 mg/L) against most isolates (99%)

Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal - ahead of print

Rickettsia mongolitimonae Encephalitis, Southern France, 2018
29 Dec 2019
M. Loarte et al.

Emergence of Chikungunya Virus, Pakistan, 2016–2017
29 Dec 2019
N. Badar et al.

Social Responses to Epidemics Depicted by Cinema
29 Dec 2019
Q. Han and D. R. Curtis

Cost-effectiveness of Screening Program for Chronic Q Fever, the Netherlands
29 Dec 2019
P. T. de Boer et al.

Etymologia: Pegivirus
29 Dec 2019
R. Henry

Human Alveolar Echinococcosis, Croatia
29 Dec 2019
D. Dušek et al.

Unique Clindamycin-Resistant Clostridioides difficile Strain Related to Fluoroquinolone-Resistant Epidemic BI/RT027 Strain
29 Dec 2019
A. M. Skinner et al.

European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

Impact of ribotype on Clostridioides difficile diagnostics
28 Dec 2019

Abstract
This study investigates the performance of diagnostic methods for detection of Clostridioides difficile infection in Sweden, including impact of PCR ribotype on diagnostic performance. Between 2011 and 2016, a total of 17,878 stool samples from 26 laboratories were tested by either well-type enzyme immunoassays (EIAs), membrane bound EIAs, cell cytotoxicity neutralization assay (CTA), or
Intestinal carriage of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase–producing Enterobacteriaceae at admission in a Portuguese hospital
24 Dec 2019
Abstract To evaluate the prevalence of extended-spectrum β-lactamase (ESBL)–producing Enterobacteriaceae fecal carriers at admission in a Portuguese hospital and to determine the epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance patterns of ESBL-producing isolates. During a 2-month period, rectal swabs were collected at hospital admission from 151 at-risk patients

Blastocystis, urticaria, and skin disorders: review of the current evidences
24 Dec 2019
Abstract Blastocystis is one of the most common intestinal protozoan parasites worldwide, which is linked to cutaneous lesions and urticaria. In a setting of systematic review, the data on the association of Blastocystis infection with cutaneous lesions were searched in order to summarize the main clinical symptoms, diagnostic methods, treatment, and outcome of the patients

Long-term methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia persisting for more than 2 weeks: risk factors and outcomes
23 Dec 2019
Abstract The clinical significance of long-term methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteremia remains unclear. We evaluated the clinical, microbiological characteristics, and clinical outcomes of long-term MRSA bacteremia

Health-related quality of life and its association with outcomes of outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy
23 Dec 2019
Abstract While health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is an important component of patient-centred care, few studies have looked at the association between HRQoL and outcomes while on OPAT. From 2014 to 2017, we conducted a prospective cohort study of all patients referred to Singapore General Hospital’s (SGH) OPAT service

Infection
Using the kinetics of C-reactive protein response to improve the differential diagnosis between acute bacterial and viral infections
24 Dec 2019
Abstract Purpose Differential diagnosis between acute viral and bacterial infection is an emerging common challenge for a physician in the emergency department. Serum C-reactive protein (CRP) is used to support diagnosis of bacterial infection, but in patients admitted with low CRP, its ability to discriminate between viral and bacterial infections is limited

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology - FirstView Article
Association between statewide adoption of the CDC’s Core Elements of Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs and rates of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia and Clostridioides difficile infection in the United States
20 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Impact of molecular testing on reported Clostridioides difficile infection rates
19 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Efficacy of a stewardship intervention focused on reducing unnecessary use of non–Clostridioides difficile antibiotics in patients with Clostridioides difficile infection
17 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
The little things matter—How peer audits contribute to CLABSI prevention
16 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
The holy grail of hand hygiene compliance: Just-in-time peer coaching that leads to behavior change
13 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Multidrug-resistant organisms on patients hands in an ICU setting
12 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Physician burnout and healthcare epidemiology: Dual implications worthy of greater scrutiny
12 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Antibiotic stewardship teams and Clostridioides difficile practices in United States hospitals: A national survey in The Joint Commission antibiotic stewardship standard era
11 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Clusters of nontuberculous mycobacteria linked to water sources at three Veterans Affairs medical centers
11 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Household carriage and acquisition of extended-spectrum β-lactamase–producing Enterobacteriaceae: A systematic review
11 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Screening of Clostridioides difficile carriers in an urban academic medical center: Understanding implications of disease
11 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Accuracy and reliability of electronic versus CDC surveillance criteria for non-ventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia
10 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Central venous catheter–related bloodstream infections in patients with hematological malignancies: Comparison of data from a clinical registry and a randomized controlled trial
10 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
Effects of daily treatment with acid suppressants for stress ulcer prophylaxis on risk of ventilator-associated events
10 Dec 2019
Published online by Cambridge University Press:
A family empowerment strategy is associated with increased healthcare worker hand hygiene in a resource-limited setting
10 Dec 2019
Corrigendum to “Indirect effects of paediatric conjugate vaccines on invasive pneumococcal disease in older adults” [Int J Infect Dis 86 (2019) 122–130]

29 Dec 2019

Weight gain and dyslipidemia among virally suppressed HIV-positive patients switching to coformulated elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide

29 Dec 2019
Publication date: Available online 26 December 2019Source: International Journal of Infectious DiseasesAuthor(s): Po-Hsien Kuo, Hsin-Yun Sun, Yu-Chung Chuang, Pei-Ying Wu, Wen-Chun Liu, Chien-Ching Hung
AbstractObjectiveTo evaluate the evolution of weight and lipid profiles before and after switch to coformulated elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (E/C/F/TAF) among virally successful treatment of meningococcal bacteremia using oral doxycycline: a case report

29 Dec 2019
Publication date: Available online 27 December 2019Source: International Journal of Infectious DiseasesAuthor(s): S. Berbescu, M. Matt, A. Dinh, S. Simeon, L. Noussair, L. Armand-Lefevre, B. Davido
AbstractWe report the case of an 18-year old immunocompetent man who presented to the hospital with fever, headaches, and arthromyalgia that progressed to an erythematous rash, with a history of a tick

Increasing prevalence of multidrug-resistant mcr-1-positive Escherichia coli isolates from fresh vegetables and healthy food animals in South Korea

24 Dec 2019
Publication date: Available online 23 December 2019Source: International Journal of Infectious DiseasesAuthor(s): Sung-Suck Oh, Jihyun Song, Junhee Kim, Jinwook Shin
AbstractColistin is a last-resort antimicrobial against multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacteria. The occurrence and spread of colistin resistance in humans and animals have been reported globally

Occurrence of occult hepatitis B virus infection associating with envelope protein mutations according to anti-HBs carriage in blood donors

24 Dec 2019
Publication date: Available online 23 December 2019Source: International Journal of Infectious DiseasesAuthor(s): Jiawen Wang, Panli Zhang, Jinfeng Zeng, Peng Du, Xin Zheng, Xianlin Ye, Weigang Zhu, Yongshui Fu, Daniel Candotti, Jean-Pierre Allain, Chengyao Li, Tingting Li
AbstractObjectivesOccult hepatitis B virus infection (OBI) carries a risk of HBV transmission and hepatocellular carcinoma

LIOFeron®TB/LTBI: A novel and reliable test for LTBI and tuberculosis

24 Dec 2019
Publication date: February 2020Source: International Journal of Infectious Diseases, Volume 91Author(s): Chiara Della Bella, Michele Spinicci, Heba F. Mustafa Alnwaisri, Filippo Bartalesi, Simona Tapinassi, Jessica Mencarini, Marisa Benagiano, Alessia Grassi, Sofia D’Elios, Arianna Troilo, Arailym Abilbayeva, Dinara Kuashova, Elmira Bitanova, Anel Tarabayeva, Eduard Arkadievich Shuralev,
Utility of DNA Next-Generation Sequencing and Expanded Quantitative Urine Culture in Diagnosis and Management of Chronic or Persistent Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms [Minireviews] 23 Dec 2019

Many patients suffer from chronic, irritative lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS). The evaluation and management of these patients have proven difficult with the use of standard diagnostic tools, including urinalysis and urine culture.

The Brief Case: Rat Bite Fever from a Kiss [The Brief Case] 23 Dec 2019

Impact of Fragmentation on Commutability of Epstein-Barr Virus and Cytomegalovirus Quantitative Standards [Virology] 23 Dec 2019

Despite the adaptation of international standards, quantitative viral load testing of transplant-associated viruses continues to be limited by interlaboratory disagreement. Studies have suggested that this disagreement and the poor commutability of standards may, in some cases, be linked to amplicon size and the fragmentation of circulating viral DNA.


Molecular surveillance of rifampin-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis can help to monitor the transmission of the disease. The Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra assay detects mutations in the rifampin resistance-determining region (RRDR) of the rpoB gene by the use of melting temperature (Tm) information from 4 rpoB probes which can fall in one of the 9 different assay-specified Tm windows.

Predominance of Th1 Immune Response in Pleural Effusion of Patients with Tuberculosis among Other Exudative Etiologies [Mycobacteriology and Aerobic Actinomycetes] 23 Dec 2019

Pleural tuberculosis (PITB), a common form of extrapolmonary TB, remains a challenge in the diagnosis among many causes of pleural effusion. We recently reported that the combinatorial analysis of interferon gamma (IFN-γ), IFN-γ-inducible protein 10 (IP-10), and adenosine deaminase (ADA) from the pleural microenvironment was useful to distinguish pleural effusion caused by TB (microbiologically).

Metagenomic Nanopore Sequencing of Influenza Virus Direct from Clinical Respiratory Samples [Virology] 23 Dec 2019

Influenza is a major global public health threat as a result of its highly pathogenic variants, large zoonotic reservoir, and pandemic potential. Metagenomic viral sequencing offers the potential for a diagnostic test for influenza virus which also provides insights on transmission, evolution, and drug resistance and simultaneously detects other viruses.

Performance of the BD Phoenix Automated Microbiology System for Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole Susceptibility Testing of Staphylococcus aureus [Letter To The Editor] 23 Dec 2019

Rapid Sequence-Based Characterization of African Swine Fever Virus by Use of the Oxford Nanopore MinION Sequence Sensing Device and a Companion Analysis Software Tool [Clinical Veterinary Microbiology] 23 Dec 2019

African swine fever virus (ASFV) is the causative agent of a severe and highly contagious viral disease of pigs that poses serious economic consequences to the swine industry due to the high mortality rate and impact on international trade.
A Novel TaqMan Assay for Detection of Rickettsia 364D, the Etiologic Agent of Pacific Coast Tick Fever [Chlamydiology and Rickettsiology]
23 Dec 2019
Pacific Coast tick fever is a febrile illness associated with the bite of Dermacentor occidentalis and results from an infection due to the intracellular pathogen Rickettsia 364D (also known by the proposed name "Rickettsia philipii")

Alinity m HR HPV Assay Fulfills Criteria for Human Papillomavirus Test Requirements in Cervical Cancer Screening Settings [Virology]
23 Dec 2019
The Alinity m HR HPV assay (Alinity) is a novel human papillomavirus (HPV) assay that individually identifies genotypes HPV16, HPV18, and HPV45 while reporting on 11 other high-risk HPV (hrHPV) genotypes in two aggregates: HPV31/33/52/58 and HPV35/39/51/56/59/66/68. The clinical performance of Alinity for screening for cervical cancer was evaluated in population-based settings

Multicenter Clinical Evaluation of Etest Meropenem-Vaborbactam (bioMerieux) for Susceptibility Testing of Enterobacterales (Enterobacteriaceae) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa [Bacteriology]
23 Dec 2019
Meropenem-vaborbactam (MEV) is a novel carbapenem–beta-lactamase inhibitor combination antibiotic approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of complicated urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis, in adults

Genotypic Characterization of Livestock-Associated Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Isolates of Clonal Complex 398 in Pigsty Visitors: Transient Carriage or Persistence? [Epidemiology]
23 Dec 2019
Livestock-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (LA-MRSA) of clonal complex (CC) 398 has become a rising issue for public health. While it is known that >80% of pig farmers are colonized with LA-MRSA, only a few studies have assessed the situation for humans with occasional livestock contact

Recovery of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria and Nocardiae Causing Skin/Soft Tissue Infections by Use of the Copan ESwab Collection and Transport System [Letter To The Editor]
23 Dec 2019

Comparing the Utilities of Different Multilocus Sequence Typing Schemes for Identifying Outbreak Strains of Mycobacterium abscessus subsp. massiliense [Mycobacteriology and Aerobic Actinomycetes]
23 Dec 2019
Outbreaks of infections by Mycobacterium abscessus, particularly subspecies massiliense, are increasingly reported worldwide. Several multilocus sequence typing (MLST) protocols for grouping international outbreak strains have been developed but not yet directly compared

Third-Generation Sequencing in the Clinical Laboratory: Exploring the Advantages and Challenges of Nanopore Sequencing [Minireviews]
23 Dec 2019
Metagenomic sequencing for infectious disease diagnostics is an important tool that holds promise for use in the clinical laboratory. Challenges for implementation so far include high cost, the length of time to results, and the need for technical and bioinformatics expertise

Point-Counterpoint: Should Serum {beta}-D-Glucan Testing Be Used for the Diagnosis of Pneumocystis jirovecii Pneumonia? [Point-Counterpoint]
23 Dec 2019
INTRODUCTION Despite the widespread use of prophylactic antibiotics in high-risk individuals, Pneumocystis jirovecii remains an important cause of pneumonia in immunocompromised patients. During the peak of the AIDS epidemic, many hospitals and
outpatient clinics were very proficient at collecting induced sputum specimens for the
diagnosis of Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (PJP)
Performance of the Revised Version of an Immunochromatographic
Assay for Detection of mecA- and mecC-Mediated Methicillin
Resistance in Staphylococci [Letter To The Editor]
23 Dec 2019
Reconstruction of Dispersal Patterns of Hypervirulent Meningococcal
Strains of Serogroup C:cc11 by Phylogenomic Time Trees
[Bacteriology]
23 Dec 2019
Neisseria meningitidis is one of the few commensal bacteria that can even cause large
epidemics of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). N. meningitidis serogroup C belonging to
the hypervirulent clonal complex 11 (cc11) represents an important public health threat
worldwide
Bacterial Load of Chlamydia trachomatis in the Posterior Oropharynx,
Tonsillar Fossae, and Saliva among Men Who Have Sex with Men with
Untreated Oropharyngeal Chlamydia [Chlamydiology and
Rickettsiology]
23 Dec 2019
The aim of this study was to determine whether Chlamydia trachomatis could be detected in
saliva and if infection is specific to an anatomical site in the oropharynx. Men who have sex
with men (MSM) who were diagnosed with oropharyngeal chlamydia at the Melbourne
Sexual Health Centre in 2017-2018 were invited to participate upon returning for treatment
Viral Load Measurements in Individuals with Hepatitis C Virus Infection:
on the European Association for the Study of the Liver
Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2018 [Letter To The
Editor]
23 Dec 2019
Line Immunoassay for Confirmation and Discrimination of Human T-
Cell Lymphotropic Virus Infections in Inconclusive Western Blot Serum
Samples from Brazil [Immunoassays]
23 Dec 2019
Difficulties in confirming and discriminating human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1)
and HTLV-2 infections by serological Western blot (WB) assays (HTLV Blot 2.4; MP
Biomedicals) have been reported in Brazil, mainly in HIV/AIDS patients, with a large number
of WB-indeterminate and WB-positive but HTLV-untypeable results
Genotyping of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Rifampin Resistance-
Associated Mutations by Use of Data from Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra
Enables Large-Scale Tuberculosis Molecular Epidemiology Studies
[Commentary]
23 Dec 2019
Molecular epidemiology studies of tuberculosis have been empowered in recent years by the
availability of whole-genome sequencing, which has allowed a new focus on the adaptive
significance of drug resistance mutations. Genome sequencing technology remains
expensive, however, limiting the potential for larger studies
Reply from Kahlmeter and Giske to Brecher, "EUCAST and CLSI Point-
Counterpoint on Susceptibility Breakpoints: Do Two "I Agree"s Miss the
Point?" [Letter To The Editor]
23 Dec 2019
Photo Quiz: Rapidly Progressive Pneumonia in a Resident of the U.S.
Midwest [Photo Quiz]
23 Dec 2019
Screening for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection by Use of a Fourth-Generation Antigen/Antibody Assay and Dried Blood Spots: In-Depth Analysis of Sensitivity and Performance Assessment in a Cross-Sectional Study [Immunoassays]
23 Dec 2019
We evaluated the performance of a fourth-generation antigen/antibody (Ag/Ab) assay for detecting HIV-1 infection on dried blood spots (DBS) both in a conventional laboratory environment and in an epidemiological survey corresponding to a real-life situation.

Are Bacteria Sensitive or Susceptible? A Micro-Comic Strip [Editorial]
23 Dec 2019

Correction for Cornu et al., "Evaluation of Mass Spectrometry-Based Detection of Panfungal Serum Disaccharide for Diagnosis of Invasive Fungal Infections: Results from a Collaborative Study Involving Six European Clinical Centers" [Author Correction]
23 Dec 2019

Editorial Board [Masthead]
23 Dec 2019

Evaluation of WASPLab Software To Automatically Read chromID CPS Elite Agar for Reporting of Urine Cultures [Bacteriology]
23 Dec 2019
Urine cultures are among the most common specimens received by clinical laboratories and generate a major share of the laboratory workload. Chromogenic agar can expedite culture results, but technologist review is still needed. In this study, we evaluated the ability of the WASPLab software to interpret urine specimens plated onto chromID CPS Elite (CPSE) agar.

Closing the Brief Case: Rat Bite Fever from a Kiss [The Brief Case]
23 Dec 2019

Evaluation of OMNIgene Sputum and Ethanol Reagent for Preservation of Sputum Prior to Xpert and Culture Testing in Uganda [Bacteriology]
23 Dec 2019
Xpert MTB/RIF (Xpert) and culture are the most reliable methods for tuberculosis diagnosis but are still poorly accessible in many low-resource countries. We aimed to assess the effects of OMNIgene Sputum (OM-S) and ethanol in preserving sputum for Xpert and OM-S for mycobacterial growth indicator tube (MGIT) testing over periods of 15 and 8 days, respectively.

Performance of a Novel Fluorogenic Assay for Detection of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae from Bacterial Colonies and Directly from Positive Blood Cultures [Bacteriology]
23 Dec 2019
Rapid and accurate detection of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) is critical for appropriate treatment and infection control. We compared a rapid fluorogenic assay using a carbapenem-based fluorogenic probe with other phenotypic assays: modified carbapenem inactivation method (mCIM), Carba NP test (CNP), and carbapenemase inhibition test (CIT).

Hash-Based Core Genome Multilocus Sequence Typing for Clostridium difficile [Bacteriology]
23 Dec 2019
Pathogen whole-genome sequencing has huge potential as a tool to better understand infection transmission. However, rapidly identifying closely related genomes among a background of thousands of other genomes is challenging.

Evaluation of PCR To Monitor Plasmodium falciparum Treatment Efficacy in a Nonendemicity Setting [Parasitology]
23 Dec 2019
Adequate clinical and parasitological response (ACPR) after malaria treatment remains challenging to assess in settings of malaria nonendemicity. Biological evaluation of
parasitological clearance relies on microscopic investigation of thick blood smears, which is a specific technique that not all diagnosis laboratories are able to perform.

Direct \(\beta\)-Lactam Inactivation Method: a New Low-Cost Assay for Rapid Detection of Carbapenemase- or Extended-Spectrum-\(\beta\)-Lactamase-Producing Enterobacterales Directly from Positive Blood Culture Bottles [Bacteriology]

23 Dec 2019

We validate and evaluate a new phenotypic assay, named the direct \(\beta\)-lactam inactivation method (dBLIM), for the rapid and simultaneous detection of carbapenemase or extended-spectrum-cephalosporinase activity directly from Enterobacterales (EB)-positive blood cultures (BCs).

Molecular Detection of Filamentous Fungi in Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Specimens in Invasive Fungal Wound Infections Is Feasible with High Specificity [Mycology]

23 Dec 2019

Trauma-related invasive fungal wound infections (IFIs) are associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Early identification and treatment are critical. Traditional identification methods (e.g., fungal cultures and histopathology) can be delayed and insensitive.

Prospective Evaluation of Molecular Assays for Diagnosis of Vaginitis [Bacteriology]

23 Dec 2019

Molecular tests to diagnose conditions involving the disruption of normal microbiota are difficult to optimize. Using Nugent-scored Gram stain (NS) as the reference standard, we evaluated the performance of 3 molecular assays for the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis (BV) and examined the impact of an incremental increase in bacterial targets.

Origin and Evolution of Hybrid Shiga Toxin-Producing and Uropathogenic Escherichia coli Strains of Sequence Type 141 [Epidemiology]

23 Dec 2019

Hybrid Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) and uropathogenic E. coli (UPEC) strains of multilocus sequence type 141 (ST141) cause both urinary tract infections and diarrhea in humans and are phylogenetically positioned between STEC and UPEC strains. We used comparative genomic analysis of 85 temporally and spatially diverse ST141 E

Prosthetic Valve Endocarditis with Bartonella washoensis in a Human European Patient and Its Detection in Red Squirrels (Sciurus vulgaris) [Bacteriology]

23 Dec 2019

Members of the genus Bartonella are fastidious Gram-negative facultative intracellular bacteria that are typically transmitted by arthropod vectors. Several Bartonella spp. have been found to cause culture-negative endocarditis in humans. Here, we report the case of a 75-year-old German woman with prosthetic valve endocarditis due to Bartonella washoensis.

False-Positive Results for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing in Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy [Virology]

23 Dec 2019

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell immunotherapy has been a major advancement in cancer therapeutics. Reprogramming of T cells is achieved by using gammaretroviral or lentiviral vectors, which may interfere with human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT).

EUCAST and CLSI Point-Counterpoint on Susceptibility Breakpoints: Do Two "I Agree"s Miss the Point? [Letter To The Editor]

23 Dec 2019
One Size Fits All? Application of Susceptible-Dose-Dependent Breakpoints to Pediatric Patients and Laboratory Reporting [Commentary]
23 Dec 2019
The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute antimicrobial and antifungal standards define a susceptible-dose-dependent (SDD) category for certain organisms and drug combinations. Reporting MICs within the SDD category suggests that treatment success is likely with increased drug exposure.

Reply from Kirn and Sharp to Brecher, 'EUCAST and CLSI Point-Counterpoint on Susceptibility Breakpoints: Do Two "I Agree"s Miss the Point? [Letter To The Editor]
23 Dec 2019

Answer to January 2020 Photo Quiz [Photo Quiz]
23 Dec 2019

Significant Improvement in Diagnosis of Hepatitis C Virus Infection by a One-Step Strategy in a Central Laboratory: an Optimal Tool for Hepatitis C Elimination? [Virology]
23 Dec 2019
The remarkable effectivity of current antiviral therapies has led to consider the elimination of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. However, HCV infection is highly underdiagnosed; therefore, a global strategy for eliminating it requires improving the effectiveness of HCV diagnosis to identify hidden cases.

Journal of Clinical Virology
How relevant is the HIV low level viremia and how is its management changing in the era of modern ART? A large cohort analysis
29 Dec 2019

Molecular and clinical characterization of human adenovirus associated with acute respiratory tract infection in hospitalized children
29 Dec 2019

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS MUCOCUTANEOUS TUMOURAL LESIONS – SYSTEMATIC REVIEW
23 Dec 2019

Journal of Hospital Infection
Management of peripheral venous catheters and implementation of guidelines in Germany: a national survey
27 Dec 2019
Due to their frequent use, peripheral venous catheters (PVCs) are relevant regarding catheter-related infections and their prevention. In 2017, revised national guidelines for the prevention of PVC-related infections were published in Germany.

Faecal Microbiota Transplantation for Recurrent Clostridioides difficile Infection: Experience with Lyophilized Oral Capsules
26 Dec 2019
Faecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) is a highly effective approach for refractory and recurrent Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI). Despite its excellent efficacy, FMT is not yet a routine procedure in most centres. There is very little experience with FMT based on lyophilized capsules, and data from European institutions are lacking.

Reply to letter to the Editor
I have read Houltz’s letter in response to the paper by Whyte et al published in the Journal of Hospital Infection [1] and discusses the MRC study of ultra clean ventilation [2]. Before replying to Houltz’s criticisms and request for more information, I would like to point out that the object of our article was not to address some of the shortcomings of the MRC study

A patient sink tap facilitating CPE transmission

Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriales (CPE) may colonise the gut, but can also carry multi-drug resistant markers often associated with increased mortality[1]. The incidence of CPE is increasing[2] with risk factors including prior hospitalisation (in hospitals where CPE is endemic), critical illness, use of invasive devices, exposure to broad spectrum antibiotics and international

I have, with great interest, read the article by Whyte and Lytsy [1]. The authors try to rehabilitate the MRC study, performed at 19 hospitals during 1974 - 1979 and

Laminar flow does not affect risk of prosthetic joint infection after primary total knee replacement in Asian patients

The role of laminar flow (LAF) is contradictory with several studies failing to replicate risk reduction. The 2016 World Health Organization guidelines identified this lack of good comparative studies.

Cross-sectional survey of viral testing on nasopharyngeal aspirates by laboratories in the UK in infants – is targeted testing the way forward?

Acute viral bronchiolitis is the most common cause of hospital admissions amongst infants in the United Kingdom (UK). Confirmation of RSV infection via nasopharyngeal aspirate (NPA) testing has been standard practice until recently. NICE guidance (NG9/2015) did not make explicit recommendations on whether to perform virology testing but gave strong indicators for a clinical diagnosis

Journal of Infection

Cerebrospinal fluid MinION sequencing of 16S rRNA gene for rapid and accurate diagnosis of bacterial meningitis

We read with interest recent articles in this journal regarding the utility of next-generation sequencing for the diagnosis bacterial meningitis.1,2 Bacterial meningitis causes substantial morbidity and mortality worldwide.3 Rapid identification of the microorganisms is essential for early initiation of appropriate antimicrobial therapy, thereby improving clinical outcome

The potential threat of avian influenza virus to horses - recalling the Chinese 1989-1990 equine influenza outbreaks

Recently, several studies in this journal have highlighted the threat of avian influenza virus (AIV) to humans, poultry, and other animals.1–6 In equines, there was only one reported influenza outbreak caused by AIV, which occurred in 1989-1990 in China. However, AIV still poses a potential threat to equines.

Detection of mobile colistin resistance gene mcr-9 in carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae strains of human origin in Europe

Dear editor,
Measles in pregnant women: a systematic review of clinical outcomes and a meta-analysis of antibodies seroprevalence
28 Dec 2019
Measles is a communicable disease caused by a RNA virus, member of the Morbillivirus genus in the family of Paramyxoviridae. Measles is usually transmitted through respiratory droplets to close contacts, but also through smaller particle aerosols remaining in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Nonindigenous East/Central/South African Genotype of Chikungunya Virus Identified in febrile returning travellers in Yunnan, China
28 Dec 2019
Dear Editor:
Management and control of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable severe pneumococcal disease at a shipyard in Norway.
28 Dec 2019
Dear editor,
Use of Xpert MTB/RIF in a Low Prevalence Setting in the Southwest of England
27 Dec 2019
We read with interest the recent article by Wang G and colleagues describing the higher sensitivity of Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra compared to Xpert MTB/RIF in the diagnosis of paucibacillary TB. We have performed a local study looking at the sensitivity and specificity of Xpert MTB/RIF in our local population

Prioritising Hepatitis C treatment in people with multiple injecting partners maximises prevention: a real-world network study
27 Dec 2019
In recent years treatment for Hepatitis C (HCV) has changed from interferon and ribavirin based regimes to directly acting antivirals (DAAs). DAAs lead to an effective cure (known as a sustained virological response (SVR)) in over 90% of cases and they have few side effects or contraindications

Severe influenza a cases requiring extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy, 2018-2019
25 Dec 2019
Several aspects of influenza have been highlighted recently, including its global, comparative seasonality, and issues around rapid point-of-care testing. In addition, the UK has a national surveillance programme, the UK Severe Influenza Surveillance System (USISS) to monitor and investigate severe cases of influenza across the country, including severe cases of influenza admitted to intensive care.

Lancet: Infectious Diseases

[Correspondence] Tuberculosis test results using fresh versus biobanked urine samples with FujiLAM
24 Dec 2019
We agree with John T Connelly and colleagues that assessment of analyte stability and matrix effects must be part of every assay validation. It is, however, essential that validation is done with the assay under consideration, as different lipoarabinomannan (LAM) assays use different reagents that bind to different LAM epitopes with different stabilities or availabilities.

[Correspondence] Measles outbreaks at mass gathering mostly occur at youth events
24 Dec 2019
Despite some concerns regarding the risk of a measles outbreak at the 2019 Hajj, not a single case was identified by the Saudi Ministry of Health surveillance system, as noted by Saber Yezli and colleagues. Although measles is potentially highly transmissible in crowded
settings, few documented outbreaks have been reported in the context of mass-gathering events.2

[Correspondence] Multigenic architecture of piperaquine resistance trait in Plasmodium falciparum
24 Dec 2019
William L Hamilton and colleagues1 and Rob W van der Pluijm and colleagues2 described the genomic evolution of Plasmodium falciparum malaria and the spread of resistance in this species to dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine in southeast Asia. Resistance in the region has been associated with crt polymorphisms,1–3 copy number variations in plasmepsins,1–5 and mdr1 genes.

[Correspondence] Preventing paralytic polio caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2
24 Dec 2019
Grace Macklin and colleagues reported the results of a systematic review on the effect of polio vaccine schedules on induction of humoral and intestinal immunity and concluded that the addition of one dose of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) for all birth cohorts protects against paralytic polio caused by poliovirus type 2.1

[Correspondence] Doripenem for treating nosocomial pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia
24 Dec 2019
We read with interest the Article by Marin Kollef and colleagues1 reporting the findings of the ASPECT-NP trial. High-dose ceftolozane–tazobactam was reported to be non-inferior to meropenem in the treatment of nosocomial pneumonia, including ventilator-associated pneumonia.

[Comment] Viral emergence and immune interplay in flavivirus vaccines
24 Dec 2019
Among arthropod-borne viruses, flaviviruses have had the strongest impact on public health in the past centuries, dating back to large yellow fever outbreaks recorded since the 17th century. Nowadays, dengue virus alone infects hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

[Newsdesk] Highlights from ASTMH 2019
24 Dec 2019
Between Nov 20 and Nov 24, National Harbor, MD, hosted the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene. Marco De Ambrogi reports.

[Newsdesk] Infectious disease surveillance update
24 Dec 2019
As of Dec 4, the Samoan Ministry of Health has reported 4052 cases of measles since the outbreak began in September. 60 measles-related deaths have been reported whilst 177 measles cases were hospitalised as of Dec 4, including critically ill patients such as children in intensive care unit (n=20) as well as pregnant women (two) and neonatal cases (two).

[Clinical Picture] Brucellosis mimicking herpes simplex virus encephalitis
24 Dec 2019
A 15-year-old boy was admitted to the medical emergency centre of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh (India) with remittent low-grade fever, backache of low intensity for 2 months, and altered sensorium for 1 day. On examination, he was conscious but drowsy. His vital signs were stable.

[Review] Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease: a systematic review of global incidence, prevalence, infectivity, and incubation
24 Dec 2019
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) is a fatal disease presenting with rapidly progressive dementia, and most patients die within a year of clinical onset. CJD poses a potential risk of iatrogenic transmission, as it can incubate asymptomatically in humans for decades before becoming clinically apparent.

[Comment] Preparedness for emerging epidemic threats: a Lancet Infectious Diseases Commission
24 Dec 2019
At any time, an emerging, lethal, and highly transmissible pathogen might pose a risk of being spread globally because of the interconnectedness of the global population. Emerging epidemic threats are occurring with increasing scale, duration, and effect, often disrupting travel and trade, and damaging both national and regional economies.

**[Correspondence] Naegleria fowleri in Pakistan**
24 Dec 2019
Naegleria fowleri is responsible for the disease called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). The infection is fatal in 98% of cases. The amoeba lives in warm, fresh water and enters the human brain through the nose, possibly during water activity or ablution for religious purposes. This amoeba is an emerging problem in Karachi, which is a major metropolitan city and coastal site of Pakistan.

**[Correspondence] 1 year after acute Zika virus infection in men**
24 Dec 2019
Sexual transmission of Zika virus and the congenital abnormalities linked to infection of pregnant women have substantially modified many paradigms of arbovirology.

**[Correspondence] 8-year M type surveillance of Streptococcus pyogenes in China**
24 Dec 2019
Scarlet fever has been resurgent in China for more than 8 years. With ever more regions reporting increasing incidence, control of the outbreak throughout the country is challenging without an available vaccine.

**[Comment] Is there a silver lining to the Zika virus epidemic in the Americas?**
24 Dec 2019
It is hard to find anything positive to say about an epidemic of an emerging virus that infects pregnant women, targets developing fetuses’ neural progenitor cells, and disrupts the sequence of neural development to cause a devastating syndrome resulting in lifelong disabilities.

**[Correspondence] Adaptive trials of new antimicrobials for infections with carbapenem-resistant, Gram-negative bacteria**
24 Dec 2019
We agree with, and would like to further elaborate on, Simone Lanini and colleagues’ proposal to use adaptive randomised controlled trials to improve research on infections with carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative bacteria.

**[Editorial] Dare we dream of the end of malaria?**
24 Dec 2019
The 2019 edition of WHO’s World Malaria Report included a special focus on pregnant women and children, two groups on which malaria can have a profound impact beyond the immediate effects of the disease.

**[Newsdesk] Nigeria’s widening tuberculosis gap**
24 Dec 2019
Nigeria is struggling with increasing incidence of tuberculosis cases and suboptimal coverage of diagnostic services. Paul Adepoju reports.

**[Newsdesk] The pitfalls of sanitation work**
24 Dec 2019
A WHO report identifies major health risks and stigma for sanitation workers in low and middle income countries. Talha Burki reports.

**[Newsdesk] Research brief**
24 Dec 2019
Like bombs scudding across the water surface to hit a battleship, malaria-vector mosquitoes bounce across the top of bednets as they probe for entry. With this knowledge — and with insecticide resistance compromising the effectiveness of insecticide-treated bednets — UK scientists have created the “Barrier Bednet” design.

**[Correspondence] Doripenem for treating nosocomial pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia — Authors’ reply**
24 Dec 2019
We thank Hung-Jen Tang and Chih-Cheng Lai for their interest in our Article.1 Contemporary non-inferiority clinical trials of hospital-acquired pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia assess two main efficacy endpoints: 28 day all-cause mortality and clinical response after the end of therapy

[Comment] Cover artist for 2020
24 Dec 2019
We announce with pleasure that Simone Rotella, a young Italian freelance artist, will be creating the cover images for The Lancet Infectious Diseases in 2020. We also take this opportunity to thank Bryce Gladfelter, our cover artist for 2019, for his imaginative and playful take on our Articles and wish him the best for his new role as cover artist for our sister journal, The Lancet Haematology.

[Media Watch] Stories of the 1918 influenza pandemic and its legacy
09 Dec 2019
A century has passed since the 1918 influenza pandemic, the deadliest epidemic in human history, that killed 50–100 million people in a matter of months, causing more deaths than World War 1. Today, with influenza vaccinations available and established health-care systems, we might feel that the events and stories of the 1918 pandemic are distant from our everyday lives.

[Corrections] Correction to Lancet Infect Dis 2019; 19: 988–1000
03 Dec 2019

[Media Watch] The HIV epidemic in China: the story of a silent plague
29 Nov 2019
Living in the Shadows of China's HIV/AIDS Epidemics: Sex, Drugs and Bad Blood, a book written by Shelley Torcetti, immediately absorbs with its tale of individuals living with HIV in China, who are still discriminated against, suffer stigmatisation, and are isolated in the shadow of the general population.

[Media Watch] You will learn anyway
29 Nov 2019
Few diseases are as political as HIV. Writing in 1987, 6 years after AIDS-related deaths started mounting and 2 years after President Reagan first mentioned the word AIDS in public, Randy Shilts, one of the USA's first openly gay journalists, asserted that “[t]he AIDS epidemic] was allowed to happen by an array of institutions, all of which failed to perform their appropriate tasks to safeguard

28 Nov 2019
Singer AC, Kirchhelle C, Roberts AP. (Inter)nationalising the antibiotic research and development pipeline. Lancet Infect Dis 2019; published online Nov 18. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(19)30552-3—In this Personal View, a reference to the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership as a push incentive on the first page has been removed, and two personal communications from Kevin

06 Nov 2019
Campbell JR, Menzies D. What makes a score a winner? Lancet Infect Dis 2019; published online Oct 30. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(19)30540-7—In this Comment, Matthew Saunders’ name has been corrected and the references renumbered. These corrections have been made as of Nov 6, 2019, and will be made to the printed version.

[Personal View] The public health crisis of underimmunisation: a global plan of action
06 Nov 2019
Vaccination is one of public health’s greatest achievements, responsible for saving billions of lives. Yet, 20% of children worldwide are not fully protected, leading to 1·5 million child
deaths annually from vaccine-preventable diseases. Millions more people have severe disabling illnesses, cancers, and disabilities stemming from underimmunisation.

[Articles] Quantifying risks and interventions that have affected the burden of lower respiratory infections among children younger than 5 years: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017

30 Oct 2019
Our findings show that there have been substantial but uneven declines in LRI mortality among countries between 1990 and 2017. Although improvements in indicators of sociodemographic development could explain some of these trends, changes in exposure to modifiable risk factors are related to the rates of decline in LRI mortality.

[Articles] A household-level score to predict the risk of tuberculosis among contacts of patients with tuberculosis: a derivation and external validation prospective cohort study

30 Oct 2019
This externally validated score will enable comprehensive biosocial, household-level interventions to be targeted to tuberculosis-affected households that are most likely to benefit.

[Comment] Trends in the global burden of paediatric lower respiratory infections

30 Oct 2019
As the leading cause of infectious deaths in children, reducing lower respiratory infections (LRIs) will be the key to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3.2. However, of the biggest infectious killers, LRI remains the condition with the least funding on a global level.

[Comment] Early childhood diarrhoea: from data to interventions

30 Oct 2019
The Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) project was originally commissioned by the World Bank in 1990, with the intent to define disease burdens and optimise interventions depending on local resources. The excessive uncertainty of results regarding certain countries due to absent or poor data was problematic and meant that those countries that would most benefit from the information could be.

[Articles] Quantifying risks and interventions that have affected the burden of diarrhoea among children younger than 5 years: an analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017

30 Oct 2019
Diarrhoea mortality has declined substantially since 1990, although there are variations by country. Improvements in sociodemographic indicators might explain some of these trends, but changes in exposure to risk factors—particularly unsafe sanitation, childhood growth failure, and low use of oral rehydration solution—appear to be related to the relative and absolute rates of decline in diarrhoea.

[Comment] What makes a score a winner?

30 Oct 2019
ECOG, CHAD, APACHE. These acronyms are part of the language of modern medicine, used daily by thousands of health professionals. Why are these clinical scores, used to categorise patients with cancer and cardiac and critical illnesses, so commonly used? In addition to their well established clinical validity, we believe the biggest reason is their simplicity: they are easy to remember and easy to.


29 Oct 2019
Patients newly diagnosed with tuberculosis were at a higher risk of death than were the source population, even after tuberculosis treatment. Post-tuberculosis sequelae and vulnerability are associated with excess mortality and must be addressed to mitigate the tuberculosis burden worldwide.

[Comment] Test-and-not-treat: importance for mass drug administration
The helminth Loa loa is endemic in much of west and central Africa. Symptoms of loiasis include transient localised angioedema and subconjunctival migration of adult worms; however, most residents of endemic areas have an asymptomatic infection and a high microfilarial count.

**Articles** Implications for annual retesting after a test-and-not-treat strategy for onchocerciasis elimination in areas co-endemic with Loa loa infection: an observational cohort study

Individuals treated with ivermectin do not need to be retested for L loa microfilaraemia before the next treatment, provided that they can be re-identified. This adjusted approach will enable substantial cost savings and facilitate reaching programmatic goals for elimination of onchocerciasis in areas that are co-endemic for loiasis.

**Comment** Tuberculosis: an instrument of early mortality in life course

The End TB Strategy is a commitment of WHO that has been endorsed by all WHO member states. Achieving tuberculosis incidence of less than 10 cases per 100 000 population, reducing the number of tuberculosis deaths by 95% compared with 2015, and to have no families facing catastrophic costs due to tuberculosis by 2035 are the desired goals.

**Articles** Association between HTLV-1 infection and adverse health outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis of epidemiological studies

There is a broad range of diseases studied in association with HTLV-1. However, the elevated risk for death among people with HTLV-1 is not explained by available studies of morbidity. Many of the diseases shown to be associated with HTLV-1 are not fatal, and those that are (eg, leukaemia) occur too rarely to account for the observed mortality effect.

**Comment** HTLV-1: the silent impact revealed

The 1983 recovery of a human retrovirus from a patient at risk of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome is regarded as one of the major medical discoveries of the 20th century. Many will recall the original name for HIV in North America was human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV) type III, raising the question of what happened to HTLV types I and II.

**Articles** Immunogenicity of chimeric haemagglutinin-based, universal influenza virus vaccine candidates: interim results of a randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 1 clinical trial

The tested chimeric haemagglutinin-based, universal influenza virus vaccine regimens elicited cross-reactive serum IgG antibodies that targeted the conserved haemagglutinin stalk domain. This is the first proof-of-principle study to show that high anti-stalk titres can be induced by a rationally designed vaccine in humans and opens up avenues for further development of universal influenza virus.

**Comment** Turning influenza vaccinology on its head to reveal the stalk

Inactivated influenza virus vaccines (IIVs) have been in use for more than 70 years with no major changes in the underlying technology. Limitations of these vaccines include the long production cycle, which requires strain selection well in advance of their use; provision of only moderate protection when vaccine strains match circulating strains; protection that wanes quickly; potential issues.

**Articles** Serological response to three alternative series of hepatitis B revaccination (Fendrix, Twinrix, and HBVaxPro-40) in healthy non-responders: a multicentre, open-label, randomised, controlled, superiority trial

16 Oct 2019
Revaccinating healthy non-responders with Fendrix or HBVaxPro-40 resulted in significantly higher proportions of responders and therefore indication for these vaccines should be expanded to enable revaccination of non-responders.

Alternative hepatitis B vaccine strategies in healthy non-responders to a first standard vaccination scheme
16 Oct 2019
Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a major public health problem with an estimated 257 million people with chronic HBV infection and around 650,000 annual deaths due to long-term HBV-related liver disease (cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma). Vaccination represents the cornerstone of public health measures to eradicate HBV.
A clinical trial (ANRS IPERGAY) among 232 men who have sex with men (MSM) using HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (HIV-PrEP) showed efficacy of postexposure prophylaxis with doxycycline in reducing chlamydia and syphilis.1 A survey showed high interest (84%) in trying doxycycline prophylaxis for prevention of STIs among MSM in the USA.

Cross-sectional study of patients tested for STIs using molecular methods in Brazil

STIs represent an important global public health problem due to the high morbidity and mortality associated with them, and also due to the involvement of more than one pathogen, which makes the diagnosis challenging and increases the cost associated with the treatment of these infections.1–3 According to WHO, more than 1 million STI cases are reported every day worldwide.

NIS Affiliation

PubMed: NIS affiliation


2018 UK national guideline for the management of infection with Neisseria gonorrhoeae.


Vaccine-derived rotavirus strains in infants in England.

Authors: Gower CM, Dunning J, Nawaz S, Allen D, Ramsay ME, Ladhani S Abstract
OBJECTIVE: To describe infants with acute gastroenteritis symptoms in primary and secondary care who have the Rotarix vaccine-derived G1P[8] rotavirus strain identified in their stools

Identification of binding residues between periplasmic adapter protein (PAP) and RND efflux pumps explains PAP-pump promiscuity and roles in antimicrobial resistance.


Noncytotoxic Pyrrolobenzodiazepine-Ciprofloxacin Conjugate with Activity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Related Articles Noncytotoxic Pyrrolobenzodiazepine-Ciprofloxacin Conjugate with Activity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis. ACS Omega. 2019 Dec 17;4(25):20873-20881 Authors:

Abstract The development of new antitubercular agents for the treatment of infections caused by multidrug-resistant (MDR) Mycobacterium Utilisation of the Prestwick Chemical Library to identify drugs that inhibit the growth of mycobacteria.

24 Dec 2019

Related Articles Utilisation of the Prestwick Chemical Library to identify drugs that inhibit the growth of mycobacteria. PLoS One. 2019;14(3):e0213713 Authors: Kanvatirth P, Jeeves RE, Bacon J, Besra GS, Alderwick LJ Abstract Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious bacterial disease that kills approximately 1.3 million people every year

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