

Comparative Prevalence of Antimicrobial Resistance in Community-acquired Lower Respiratory Tract *Streptococcus pneumoniae* from Countries of the UK, and from Eire

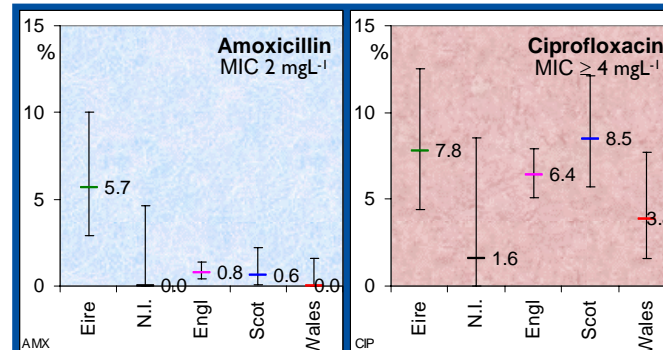
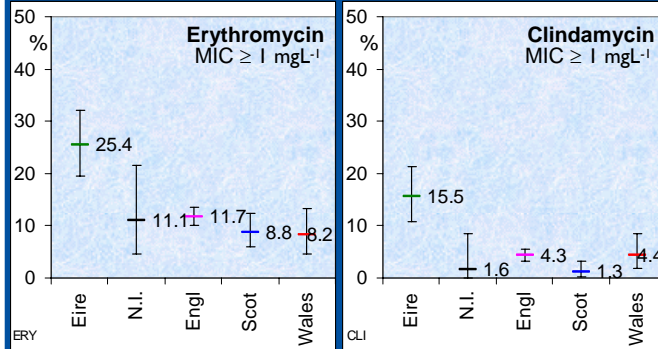
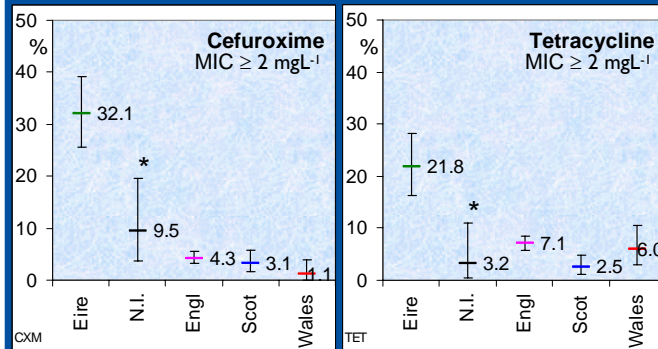
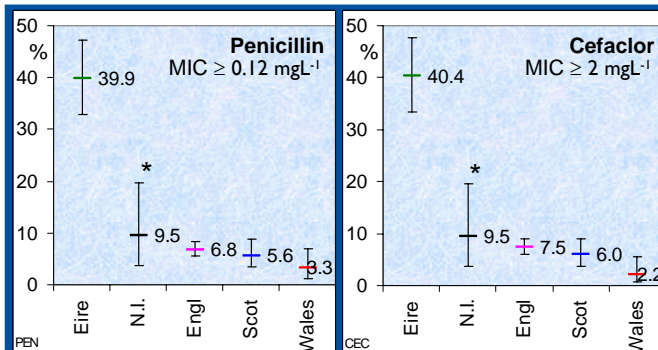
R. Reynolds¹, D. Felmingham² & The BSAC Extended Working Party on Respiratory Resistance Surveillance¹ ¹British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, Birmingham, B1 2JS ²GR Micro Limited, London, NW1 3ER

Background: Previous studies have reported high prevalence of penicillin non-susceptible isolates of *S. pneumoniae* from all Ireland (N. Ireland and Eire) whilst in countries of Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) non-susceptible strains have been isolated less frequently. N. Ireland has not previously been studied separately: it is of particular interest as it is geographically close to Eire but has a National Health Service in common with Great Britain.

Methods: During 3 winter seasons (1999-2002), more than 20 laboratories throughout the UK (Great Britain and N. Ireland) and Eire collected a total of 2027 *S. pneumoniae* isolates from patients with community-acquired lower respiratory tract infections as part of the BSAC Resistance Surveillance Programme. MICs were determined and interpreted using BSAC methodology in a central laboratory. Resistance rates were compared by the exact binomial method, corrected for multiple tests.



Results: Resistance to moxifloxacin and cefotaxime was $\leq 1\%$ and resistance to trimethoprim was 100% in all countries, so comparisons between countries were not possible for these agents. Resistance rates for other antimicrobials are shown in the graphs, with 95% confidence intervals.



Results: For ciprofloxacin, there was no significant difference in resistance rate between England and any other country. For all other antimicrobials, resistance was significantly more likely in Eire than in England (adjusted $p < 0.01$) but resistance in Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland was not significantly different from that in England.

Conclusion: These results indicate that high rates of antimicrobial resistance are a feature of isolates of *S. pneumoniae* from Eire rather than all Ireland. Isolates from N. Ireland follow a pattern similar to those from centres in Great Britain.

Acknowledgements

Working Party Members (Sept 2003): A. MacGowan¹ (Chair), J. Booth², D. Brown³, S. Coles⁴, D. Felmingham⁵, I. Harding⁶, D. Livermore⁷, D. Lofland⁸, V. Reed⁶, R. Reynolds¹, J. Shackcloth⁵, C. Thomson², A. White⁹, R. Wise¹⁰.
Isolate ID & Susceptibility Testing: M. Robbins⁵, L. Williams⁵.

¹North Bristol NHS Trust; ²Bayer; ³Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge; ⁴Abbott Laboratories; ⁵GR Micro Ltd; ⁶Micron Research Limited; ⁷Health Protection Agency; ⁸GeneSoft; ⁹GlaxoSmithKline; ¹⁰City Hospital, Birmingham.

Collecting Laboratories: *England:* City Birmingham; Southmead Bristol; Addenbrooke's Cambridge; St. James's Leeds; Royal Leicester; University of Liverpool; St. Bartholomew's and Royal London; UCH London; Freeman Newcastle; Royal Victoria Newcastle; Derriford Plymouth; Hope Salford; Southampton General. *Ireland:* Royal Belfast; Beaumont Dublin; Meath Adelaide Dublin; St. Vincent's Dublin; UCH Galway; Ulster Dundonald. *Scotland:* Royal Aberdeen; WGH Edinburgh; SGH Glasgow. *Wales:* UHW Cardiff; Wrexham Maelor. (Not all laboratories contributed in all years.)

Sponsored by: Abbott
Aventis (1999-2000)
Bayer
GlaxoSmithKline

Supported by: BSAC

Central Laboratory: GR Micro Ltd., London

Number of isolates

England	1269
Wales	183
Scotland	319
N. Ireland	63
Eire	193

Significant differences:

	Eire - England
	Eire - N. Ireland
	none

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Correspondence: Dr. R. Reynolds, BSAC Resistance Surveillance Co-ordinator
Department of Medical Microbiology, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, BS10 5NB, England.

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