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4 Treatment and Outcomes of Children with Febrile Urinary Tract Infection due to Extended
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6 Spectrum Beta-lactamase-producing Bacteria in Europe: TOO CUTE Study
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42 **Abbreviated title:** ESBL Febrile Urinary UTIs in Children: Treatment and Outcomes
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45 **Running Head:** TOO CUTE Study
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Objective

The prevalence of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBL-PE) is increasing globally. ESBL-PE are an important cause of urinary tract infections (UTIs) in children. We aimed to characterize the clinical presentation, treatment and outcomes of childhood UTI caused by ESBL-PE in Europe.

Design

Multi-center retrospective cohort study

Patients and Setting

Children 0-18 years of age with fever, positive urinalysis and positive urine culture for an ESBL-PE uropathogen, seen in a participating hospital from January 2016 to July 2017.

Main outcome measures

Primary outcome measure: day of defervescence was compared between a) initial microbiologically effective treatment (IET) versus initial microbiologically ineffective treatment (IIT), b) single initial antibiotic treatment versus combined initial antibiotic treatment.

Secondary outcome measures: clinical and microbiological failure of initial treatment

Results

We included 142 children from 14 hospitals in 8 countries. Sixty-one children had IET and 77 IIT. There was no statistical difference in time to defervescence for effective/ineffective groups ($p=0.722$) and single/combination therapy groups ($p=0.574$). Two out of 59 (3.4%) and 4/66 (6.1%) patients exhibited clinical failure during treatment ($p=0.683$) when receiving IET or IIT respectively. Eight of 51 (15.7%) receiving IET and 6/58 (10.3%) receiving IIT

1 patients (p=0.568) had recurring symptoms/signs suggestive of a UTI. Recurrence of a UTI
2 occurred 15.5 days (IQR 9.0 – 19.0) after the end of treatment.
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6 7 **Conclusions**

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9 Time to defervescence and clinical failure did not differ between IET/IIT groups. Non-
10 carbapenem beta-lactam antibiotics may be used for the empiric treatment of ESBL febrile
11 UTIs, until susceptibility testing results become available.
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INTRODUCTION

The extended-spectrum beta-lactamase producing enterobacteria (ESBL-PE) are recognized as a serious threat by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization^{1,2}. ESBL enzymes are capable of conferring bacterial resistance to commonly used antibiotics such as penicillins and cephalosporins³. Due to concern about high resistance rates to these antibiotics, carbapenems are often used as empiric therapy for severe infections caused by ESBL-PE's^{4,5}. Several studies have reported the growing prevalence of ESBL-PE infections worldwide⁶⁻⁸, including children with urinary tract infection (UTI)^{6,9,10}. A meta-analysis has shown that the estimated pooled prevalence of childhood UTIs caused by ESBL-PE was globally 14%¹⁰, for both community acquired and healthcare acquired infections. The prevalence of childhood ESBL-PE UTIs varies across regions with the lowest rate in the Americas (2%), 12% in Europe, 37% in South-East Asia, and the highest rate in Africa with 76%¹⁰. ESBL-PE UTIs are associated with longer hospital stays and higher costs in adults¹¹. International guidelines recommend a range of empiric options for UTI treatment in children, including amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (co-amoxiclav), cotrimoxazole, ciprofloxacin or 2nd or 3rd generation cephalosporins (2GC or 3GC) for oral and 3GC or aminoglycosides for intravenous treatment of febrile UTIs (fUTIs)¹²⁻¹⁴. However, ESBL-PEs often possess mechanisms which confer co-resistance to a number of the recommended first line antibiotics³. Despite international guidance, currently there are limited studies on evaluating clinical management of children with ESBL-PE UTIs. We conducted a European multicenter study to: a) characterize the clinical and microbiologic presentations of pediatric patients with ESBL-PE UTIs, b) describe treatment patterns, clinical and microbiologic outcomes.

METHODS

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7 *Study design and population*
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9 This was a multicenter, multinational, retrospective cohort study. Anonymous data were
10 collected using a web-based electronic form in REDCap. Demographic data, diagnosis,
11 comorbidity, medical history, antibiotic prescribing information (drug name, dose, route of
12 administration and dosing), clinical and microbiologic outcomes were recorded.
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21 *Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria*
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23 Children 0-18 years of age were included in the study if they were seen within a hospital setting
24 (inpatients, outpatients clinics or emergency departments) from 1st January 2016 to 31st July
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26 2017. We included patients with fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ at or prior to admission and positive urine
27 examination. Positive urine examination was defined by the presence of both “a” and “b”: a)
28 isolation of ESBL-producing bacteria either from spontaneously voided urine / midstream clean-
29 catch method with $\geq 10^5$ colony forming units (cfu) per 1 mL of urine OR suprapubic
30 aspirate/urinary catheter with $\geq 10^4$ cfu/mL of urine, b) either abnormal dipstick test (leucocyte
31 esterase >1+, or nitrite positive) or abnormal urine microscopy (WBCs > 5 per high-power field
32 in centrifuged or >10/mm³ in non-centrifuged samples). Patients were excluded from the study in
33 the presence of any other bacterial species $\geq 10^4$ cfu/mL within the same urine sample. Patients
34 were also excluded if they received antibiotics (other than prophylaxis) in the past 48 hours prior
35 to clinical diagnosis or if they had another concurrent infection necessitating antibiotic treatment.
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55 *Definitions*
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4 Patients were classified into two groups according to their initial antibiotic treatment: those who
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6 received microbiologically effective and those who received microbiologically ineffective
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8 treatment. Microbiologic effectiveness was defined as *in vitro* susceptibility of the pathogen to at
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10 least one of the initial choices of empiric antibiotic therapy. Microbiologic ineffectiveness was
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12 defined as *in vitro* resistance or intermediate sensitivity of the pathogen to each of the initial
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14 antibiotic(s) prescribed¹⁵. Switched treatment was defined as antibiotics given after initial
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16 antibiotics were changed. Switched treatment could either be empiric or targeted. Early clinical
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18 failure of the initial treatment was defined as the persistence/recurrence of fever or
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20 signs/symptoms suggestive of UTI during treatment. Late clinical failure was defined as the
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22 recurrence of signs/symptoms within one month after the end of treatment. Microbiologic failure
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24 during treatment or after treatment was defined as a persistent or recurrent positive urine culture.
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33 *Main Outcome Measures*

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36 The primary outcome measure was to assess the day of defervescence compared between a)
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38 initial microbiologically effective treatment versus initial microbiologically ineffective
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40 treatment, and b) single initial antibiotic treatment versus combined initial antibiotic treatment.

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43 The secondary outcome measures were clinical and microbiologic failure of the initial treatment.

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46 Patients were excluded from early clinical outcomes if the assessment was done earlier than 2
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48 days after starting treatment or if the timing of clinical assessment was uncertain.
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53 *Statistical analysis*

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4 We compared categorical variables with χ^2 or Fisher's exact test and continuous variables with
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6 Mann-Whitney *U* tests. A P value of <0.05 was considered significant for all tests. The analysis
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8 was performed using STATA version 14 (Stata Corp LP, College Station, TX, United States).
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10 11 12 13 14 *Ethical approval*

15 Each site was responsible to clarify the type of permission needed to participate in the study.
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17 Ethical approvals were obtained- where needed- either from the local Research and Development
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19 Department or the Institutional Review Board /Ethics Committee.
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25 26 **RESULTS**

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28 There were 14 hospitals from 8 European countries (United Kingdom, 3; Greece, 3; France, 2;
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30 Spain, 2; Italy, 1; Portugal, 1; Slovenia, 1; Lithuania, 1) participating in this study (see Table,
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32 Supplemental Digital Content 1).
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35 A total of 142 children were included (Figure 1), of which 57 (40.1%) were males. Median age
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37 was 1.1 years (interquartile range 0.5 – 4.0). Demographical, clinical and laboratory findings are
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39 shown in Table 1. Microbiologic effectiveness of the initial treatment was determined in 138/140
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41 patients, as 2 patients were treated with an antibiotic not tested in the antibiogram. Early or late
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43 clinical outcomes could not be assessed in two patients (autonomic dysregulation and palliative
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45 care pathway), thus they were excluded from outcomes analysis. Baseline characteristics of
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47 “effective” (n=61) and “ineffective group” (n=77) were compared. Patients in the “ineffective
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49 group” were younger in age (p=0.034), had fewer urinary tract (UT)-related (p=0.013), or other
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51 comorbidities (p<0.001), and lower rates of antibiotic prophylaxis (p=0.008) (Table 1).
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4 The most commonly identified ESBL-PE pathogen was *E. coli*, 122 (85.9%), followed by
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6 *Klebsiella* spp., 15 (10.6%), *Enterobacter* spp. 3 (2.1%), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* 1 (0.7%) and
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8 *Morganella morganii* 1 (0.7%). ESBL screening was carried out using European Committee on
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10 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) guidelines¹⁶ in 12/14 (85.7%) of participating
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12 centers and in 2/14 (14.3%) using Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)
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14 guidelines¹⁷. Production of ESBL was confirmed with the combination disk synergy test in 10/14
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16 (71.4%) of participating centers, in 2/14 (14.3%) using Vitek2 or in 2/14 (14.3%) using other
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18 tests (ABCD test, 1; MicroScan WalkAway, 1). Local phenotypic resistance of *E. coli* and
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20 *Klebsiella* spp. are shown in Table 2. No molecular typing data was available at any site.
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26 Thirty different initial regimens were identified in this population (see Table, Supplemental
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28 Digital Content 2). Initial treatment was empiric for 121 (85.2%) patients. A total of 124 (87.3%)
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30 patients were initially prescribed a single antibiotic, while 18 (12.7%) patients had a combination
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32 of two antibiotics. Seventy-six (53.5%) patients were initially prescribed a single, non-
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34 carbapenem beta-lactam agent, mostly co-amoxiclav (17, 12.0%) or cefotaxime (16, 11.3%),
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36 while 12 (8.5%) patients received a carbapenem alone. One hundred-one (71.1%) patients had
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38 initial intravenous treatment, 40 (28.2%) patients received only oral treatment, and 1 (0.7%) a
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40 combination of oral and intravenous antibiotics. Median duration of treatment was 10 days (IQR
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42 7.0 – 11.0).
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48 *Time to defervescence*

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50 The day of defervescence was available for 99 patients. There was no statistically significant
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52 difference (p=0.722) in time to defervescence between the effective (median 1.0 days, IQR 0 –
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54 2.0 days) and ineffective groups (median 1.0 days, IQR 0 – 2.0 days). Subgroup analysis
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56 revealed no difference in time to defervescence between patients with effective and ineffective
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4 treatment regarding age-groups, sex, co-morbidities, pathogens and initial type of treatment
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6 (Table 3).

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9 No significant difference in time to defervescence ($p=0.574$) was detected between the single
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11 therapy (median 1.0, IQR 0 – 2.0) and combination therapy groups (median 1.0, IQR 0 – 2.0).

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14 The two groups (single versus combined antibiotics) were similar in terms of age ($p=0.055$), sex
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16 ($p=0.199$), pathogens ($p=0.285$), UT-related ($p=0.129$) or other comorbidities ($p=0.797$), and
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18 effectiveness of treatment ($p=0.183$).

19 20 21 22 23 24 *Clinical Failure*

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26 Early clinical outcome was recorded for 59/61 (96.7%) and 66/77 (85.7%) patients receiving an
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28 initial effective or ineffective regimen, respectively. Two patients (3.4%) receiving initial
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30 effective treatment exhibited early clinical failure, whereas 4/66 (6.1%) with initial ineffective
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32 therapy had early clinical failure ($p=0.683$) (Table 1). No significant trends were identified in
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34 subgroup analysis among baseline characteristics between the two groups (Table 3). All
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36 characteristics and outcomes of patients treated with ineffective treatments are shown in
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38 Supplemental Digital Content (Table 3).

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43 Fourteen (14/113, 12.4%) children had late clinical failure 15.5 days (IQR 9-19) after the end of
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45 treatment. Among the 16 patients whose total treatment course included only ineffective
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47 therapies (either initial or switched treatment) and had full clinical follow-up, 2/16 (12.5%) had
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49 late clinical failure. No difference in late clinical failure ($p=1.000$) was found between patients
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51 having only microbiologically ineffective antibiotics (2/16, 12.5%) and those having at least one
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53 effective antibiotic (12/97, 12.4%) during their total course of treatment.
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4 *Microbiologic Failure*
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6 Among 43 patients having a repeated urine culture during treatment, 12 exhibited a
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8 microbiologic failure. A repeated urine culture was also collected after the end of treatment in 24
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10 children. In 17/24 patients the urine culture was positive. Among these patients, 9 had the same
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12 pathogen and 8 had either a new pathogen or the same pathogen but with a different
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14 susceptibility pattern.
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21 **DISCUSSION**
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23 *Main Findings*
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26 In our study, we did not observe any significant difference in time to defervescence and rates of
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28 clinical failure between patients receiving initial effective compared with ineffective treatment
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30 for ESBL UTIs. The great majority of patients (95.2%) had an adequate clinical and
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32 microbiologic response despite receiving antibiotics to which their UTI was phenotypically
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34 resistant to *in vitro*.
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41 *ESBL fUTIs pathogens and current treatment options*
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43 *E. coli* was the most common reported pathogen in our study. This is consistent with other
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45 studies^{15,18-20}. We observed high resistance rates (>50%) of *E. coli* to co-amoxiclav,
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47 cotrimoxazole and ciprofloxacin. Resistance rates were 10% for aminoglycosides and 50% for
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49 piperacillin-tazobactam. Resistance rates to fosfomycin, mecillinam, and temocillin were low
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51 (<10%). The resistance rates in our study are similar to other European cohort studies^{18,21-23}.
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4 Parenteral carbapenems are considered as the treatment of choice for invasive ESBL
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6 infections^{24,25}. However, due to the increased need for carbapenem-sparing strategies, the use of
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8 alternative agents is important. In our study, a wide variety of oral and intravenous antibiotics
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10 were used for the initial or targeted treatment of ESBL fUTIs, such as beta-lactam/beta-lactam
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12 inhibitor combinations, cephalosporins, aminoglycosides and quinolones.
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16 Piperacillin-tazobactam has been investigated for ESBL *E.coli* UTIs in adults¹⁹, while a recent
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18 multi-center study of ESBL fUTIs has shown similar clinical efficacy for children receiving
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20 amikacin or carbapenem monotherapy as initial empiric treatment¹⁸. Oral antibiotics, such as
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22 ciprofloxacin or cotrimoxazole have also been suggested for targeted treatment of ESBL fUTIs
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24 in children¹⁸. Finally, the combination of co-amoxiclav and cefixime²⁶ and older, off patent
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26 antibiotics (pivmecillinam, temocillin and fosfomycin) have investigated as potential ESBL-PE
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28 treatment options due to their favorable *in vitro* activity²¹. It should be noted that clinicians
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30 should take into account a patient's clinical condition, type of ESBL-PE strain and MIC while
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32 treating with a carbapenem-alternative⁴.
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41 *Outcomes and microbiologically ineffective treatments*

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43 The results of our study are similar to a French cohort study¹⁸, where children became afebrile in
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45 1.8 days (1.0 day in our study). The time to defervescence and length of hospital stay did not
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47 differ between effective or ineffective treatments¹⁸. In another pediatric cohort of non-resistant
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49 UTIs, no difference in fever duration was detected between effective (48 hours, IQR 24-240) and
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51 ineffective treatment groups (78 hours, IQR 48 - 132)¹⁵. A similar effect of ineffective initial
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53 therapy on the time to resolution of symptoms has been found in adult studies²⁷. Inappropriate
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4 empirical antibiotic therapy did not adversely affect clinical and microbiologic cure rate or UTI
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6 recurrence in a Korean cohort study of adults with acute ESBL pyelonephritis²⁸.
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9 In a multicenter study in the United States, 316 children with a UTI (63% of which were febrile)
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11 who received initially discordant antibiotics, only 2.2% required an escalation of therapy.
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14 However, patients with complicated backgrounds were excluded from this cohort, while the
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16 median of follow-up was 3 days. In our study, although most children became afebrile within 2
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18 days, recurrence of a UTI occurred in 14/113 (12.4%) children 15.5 days (IQR 9.0 – 19.0) after
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20 the end of treatment²⁹. A relapse of a UTI has been documented in 4/146 (2.7%) within 2 weeks
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22 after treatment in another study³⁰. The lower rate of relapse in this previous study could be due to
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24 lower rates of UT-related (29.5%) or other comorbidities (10.3%), or the shorter follow-up
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26 period (2 weeks versus 1 month)³⁰. In another study¹⁸, no recurrence was observed within 10
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28 days after the end of treatment. Whether this may be due to the short follow-up period is unclear.
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31 Furthermore, this difference may also be explained by a lower comorbidity rate (15.7%) in the
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33 French cohort than in our study (35.9%) and the more frequent use of combined antibiotics
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35 (40.2% versus 12.7%).
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41 In our study, 16 patients had exclusively ineffective treatments during their treatment course.

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43 These children had identical recurrence rates after the end of treatment with those treated with at
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45 least one effective antibiotic during their course. Our multi-center study supports the findings of
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47 a previous, smaller, single-center study³¹. The achieved concentration of antibiotics in the
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49 urinary tract may explain these results. Most antibiotics used to treat UTIs, such as beta-lactams
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51 and aminoglycosides, are renally excreted, thus antibiotic concentrations at the site of infection
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53 are higher than can be achieved in the serum or cerebrospinal fluid^{5,32}.
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4 *Strengths and limitations*
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7 To our knowledge, this is the first multicenter European study to explore ESBL fUTIs treatment
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9 patterns and clinical outcomes. Our study has shown the wide variation of antibiotics used as
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11 initial treatment for ESBL fUTIs. We stratified outcomes according to the microbiologic
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13 effectiveness of initial treatment given. We observed favorable initial clinical outcomes of
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15 ineffective antibiotics against ESBL fUTIs in children, as previously shown in childhood and
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17 adult studies^{15,28}.
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21 However, there are a number of limitations in our study. The main limitation is the lack of any
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23 systematic sampling method, which does not allow for results to be generalized to other
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25 populations. We also need to note the potential sampling bias. Misclassification of uropathogens
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27 or coding error may have affected patient's inclusion in the study. Another limitation is the noted
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29 differences between initial "effective" and "ineffective" antibiotic groups at their baseline
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31 characteristics, namely age and comorbidities. In this context, the comparison of outcome
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33 measures between these groups has to be interpreted with caution. Furthermore, patients were
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35 included only if they were seen and followed-up within the same hospital. This may have
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37 affected the clinical failure rates if children were treated for a recurrence in another hospital or in
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39 the community. Finally, no imaging data was available for these children and any evidence of
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41 renal scarring associated with ineffective treatment could not be determined.
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50 *Implications for future studies*
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53 Our study has shown a low rate (6.1%) of clinical failures with initial microbiologically
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55 ineffective treatment for ESBL febrile UTIs in children. As shown in the current and other
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57 studies¹⁸, most children have a clinical response regardless of the initial treatment given. As
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4 such, the estimated effect size between effective and ineffective groups is so low that the sample
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6 size required to power future trials would need to be very high in order to detect significant
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8 differences in outcomes³³. These data suggest that further randomized trials on ESBL febrile
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10 UTIs comparing the clinical efficacy of empiric prescribing strategies may not be straightforward
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12 or, indeed, feasible as the great majority of children become afebrile in less than two days¹⁸.
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14 Unlike adults where fever is not mandatory for patient's inclusion, as fever may be absent
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16 especially in the elderly³⁴, fever is currently the main diagnostic criterion, but not a suitable
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18 endpoint, for future pediatric UTI studies. Recent studies have evaluated the relapse rate of UTI
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20 after the ineffective treatment of an ESBL upper UTI in adults and children younger than 2 years
21
22 old, respectively^{28,30}. Larger-scale observational studies are needed to explore UTI relapse and
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24 selection of resistance in all age-groups after the treatment of resistant UTIs with ineffective
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26 regimens. Furthermore, potential long-term adverse events, such as renal scarring, should further
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28 be explored.
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38 **CONCLUSION**

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40 Time to defervescence and clinical failure did not differ among children receiving
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42 microbiologically effective or ineffective antibiotics for ESBL UTIs. Common beta-lactam, non-
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44 carbapenem, antibiotics may empirically be used for SBL febrile UTIs treatment, until
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46 susceptibility testing results become available. Future research should evaluate the continuation
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48 of microbiologically ineffective treatments after susceptibility results are available, as well as the
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50 possibility of long-term complications.
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4 **CONTRIBUTIONS**
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6 KV and RB conceptualized and designed the study and performed data management and
7
8 analysis. KV, RB, LF, JB and YS contributed to the design of data collection tools. KV and RB
9
10 wrote the manuscript. KV, RB, YH, JB, LF and MS interpreted the data and critically revised the
11
12 manuscript for important intellectual content. KV, EA, AIB, AnB, MC, RC, MDL, JK, AMC,
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14 TP, AR, ER, TPS, AV and EV contributed data voluntarily and critically revised the manuscript
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19 submission and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.
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9 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

10
11 JB's husband is a senior corporate counsel at Novartis International AG (Basel, Switzerland) and
12
13 holds Novartis stock and stock options. AV has collaborated with Pfizer and GSK in vaccine
14
15 conferences. TP is the clinical lead of a NHS diagnostic microbiology laboratory at South West
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Table 1. Study Demographics

Demographics/Characteristics	Overall (n=142)	Initial Effective (n=61)*	Initial Ineffective (n=77)*	p-value
Age in years (Median, IQR)	1.1 (0.5-4.0)	1.3 (0.7 – 5.0)	1.0 (0.3-2.0)	0.034
Sex				
Male	57 (40.1)	22 (36.1)	34 (44.2)	0.385
Female	85 (59.9)	41 (63.9)	43 (55.8)	
Temperature in °C (Median, IQR)	39.0 (38.4 – 39.5)	39.0 (38.4 – 39.5)	39.0 (38.4 – 39.5)	0.9182
Type of UTI				
Bacteraemic UTI	7 (4.9)	3/59 (5.1)	3/74 (4.1)	0.102
Catheter-related UTI	7 (4.9)	0/59 (0)	6/74 (8.2)	
Vesicostomy or ureterostomy related	5 (3.5)	4/59 (6.8)	1/74 (1.3)	
Kidney Stone Infection	1 (0.7)	0/59 (0)	1/74 (1.3)	
DMSA-confirmed UTI	5 (3.5)	2/59 (3.4)	3/74 (4.1)	
None of the above	117 (82.4)	52/59 (88.1)	63/74 (85.1)	
Medical History				
Urinary Tract (UT)-abnormality	54 (38.0)	31 (50.8)	22/75 (29.3)	0.013
Other comorbidity**	51 (35.9)	31 (50.8)	17 (22.1)	< 0.001
Critically ill/immunosuppressed	18 (12.7)	11/61(18.0)	5 (6.5)	0.058

Prophylactic antibiotics	27 (19.0)	18 (29.5)	8/75 (10.7)	0.008
History of recurrent UTIs	17 (12.0)	8 (13.1)	9 (11.7)	0.801
Pathogens				
<i>E. coli</i>	122 (85.9)	53 (86.9)	68 (88.3)	0.801
Non <i>E.coli</i>	20 (14.1)	8 (13.1)	9 (11.7)	
Laboratory markers				
CRP serum level (mg/L) (Median, IQR)	74.0 (32.0- 152.0)	46.7 (14.2- 126.0)	67.5 (17.4- 152.0)	0.723
Abnormal creatinine	22/97 (22.7)	11/41 (26.8)	10/53 (18.9)	0.455
Initial Treatment (route)				
Parenteral	101 (71.1)	46 (75.4)	52 (67.5)	0.500
Oral	40 (28.2)	15 (24.6)	24 (31.2)	
Parenteral and oral	1 (0.7)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	
No. of initial antibiotic(s) prescribed				
One antibiotic	124 (87.3)	51 (83.6)	71 (92.2)	0.180
> 1 antibiotics	18 (12.7)	10 (16.4)	6 (7.8)	
Outcomes				
Time to defervescence in days (Median, IQR)	1.0*** (0-2.0)	1.0 (0-2.0)	1.0 (0-2.0)	0.722
Early clinical failure	6/125(4.8)	2/59(3.4)	4/66 (6.1)	0.683
Late clinical failure	14/113 (12.4)	8/51 (15.7)	6/58 (10.3)	0.568
Microbiological failure	12/43 (27.9)	5/16 (31.3)	7/27 (25.9)	0.737
Complications****	5/137 (3.6)	5/61 (8.2)	0/72 (0)	0.019
Ward of Admission				

General Paediatrics	57 (40.1)	17/61 (27.9)	39/77 (50.7)	0.028
Outpatients Clinic	37 (26.1)	15/61 (24.5)	22/77 (28.6)	
Paediatric Surgical/Urology	11 (7.7)	7/61 (11.5)	4/77 (5.2)	
Paediatric Intensive Care Unit	8 (5.6)	5/61 (8.2)	2/77 (2.6)	
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	7 (4.9)	3/61 (4.9)	3/77 (3.9)	
Paediatric Infectious Diseases	4 (2.8)	3/61 (4.9)	1/77 (1.3)	
Haematology-Oncology	2 (1.4)	2/61 (3.3)	0/77 (0)	
Nephrology	2 (1.4)	2/61 (3.3)	0/77 (0)	
Other Special Wards	14 (9.9)	7/61 (11.5)	6/77 (7.7)	

NOTE: Values are listed as number (percentage) or “Median, IQR” or “Mean, SD” if continuous variable. Percentages are calculated with the total number of patients mentioned in the head of each column, except when specified.

Abbreviations: UTI, urinary tract infection; CRP, C reactive protein; SD, standard deviation; IQR, interquartile range

* One-hundred forty-two patients were included in the study. Two patients were excluded from outcomes analysis, while two more could not be classified as effective/ineffective as the initial antibiotic given was not tested in the antibiogram.

** cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurological, endocrine, metabolic, hematological, immune, perinatal or surgical comorbidities

*** on 99 patients, 45 (45.4%) effective and 54 (54.6%) ineffective

**** secondary sepsis, pyonephrosis, renal failure, admission to an intensive care unit and death after care was withdrawn

Table 2. Antimicrobial resistance rates of *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiellaspp* children with febrile ESBL UTIs.

Species	<i>E.coli</i>		<i>Klebsiellaspp</i>	
	I-R/total	% of Resistance	I-R/total	% of Resistance
Co-amoxiclav	66/119	55.5%	10/15	66.7%
Temocillin	3/33	9.1%	0/1	-
Mecillinam	2/39	5.1%	0/1	-
TZP	19/100	19.0%	6/13	46.1%
Cefoxitin	23/64	35.9%	4/9	-
Ertapenem	6/89	6.7%	0/9	-
Imipenem	1/92*	1.1%	0/11	0%
Nalidixic acid	24/34	70.6%	1/4	-
Ciprofloxacin	60/107	56.1%	9/15	60.0%
Trimethoprim	59/83	71.1%	4/7	-
Co-trimoxazole	71/110	64.6%	12/15	80.0%
Nitrofurantoin	3/101	3.0%	3/5	-
Gentamicin	37/120	30.8%	13/15	86.7%
Amikacin	14/98	14.3%	5/13	38.5%
Fosfomycin	5/59	8.5%	2/10	20.0%

Abbreviations: I, intermediate; R, resistant; TZP, piperacillin-tazobactam

*intermediate resistance reported

Table 3. Early clinical failure and time to defervescence in ESBL febrile UTIs

Patients' Characteristics	Early clinical failure				Time to defervescence (in days)		
	Total	IET	IIT	p-value	IET, Mean (SD)	IIT, Mean (SD)	p-value
Age							
<29 days	0/3 (0%)	0/1 (0%)	0/2 (0%)	1.000	-	-	-
1 month- 2 years	2/67 (3.0%)	0/25(0%)	2/42 (4.8%)	0.525	1.56 (1.34)	1.03 (0.85)	0.188
>2 years	4/55 (7.3%)	2/33(6.1%))	2/22 (9.1%)	1.000	1.23 (1.48)	1.58 (1.50)	0.309
Sex							
Male	2/55 (3.6%)	0/21 (0%)	2/34 (5.9%)	0.519	1.13 (1.02)	0.68 (0.69)	0.115
Female	4/70 (5.7%)	2/38 (5.3%)	2/32 (6.3%)	1.000	1.48 (1.57)	1.62 (1.29)	0.404
Co-morbidities							
UT-related	3/50 (6.0%)	1/31 (3.2%)	2/19 (10.5%)	0.549	1.40 (1.47)	0.91 (0.70)	0.462
Non UT-related	4/46 (8.7%)	2/30 (6.7%)	2/16 (12.5%)	0.602	1.30 (1.34)	1.24 (1.25)	0.936
Pathogens							

<i>E. coli</i>	4/107 (3.7%)	1/50 (2.0%)	3/57 (5.3%)	0.621	1.32 (1.38)	1.21 (1.16)	0.930
Non <i>E.coli</i>	2/18 (11.1%)	1/9 (11.1%)	1/9 (11.1%)	1.000	1.57 (1.62)	1.00 (1.15)	0.459
Initial Treatment (by route)							
IV/IM	2/91 (2.2%)	1/43 (2.3%)	1/48 (2.1%)	1.000	1.36 (1.25)	1.07 (0.90)	0.388
Oral (single)	4/33 (12.1%)	1/16 (6.3%)	3/17 (17.6%)	0.601	1.33 (2.34)	1.78 (1.99)	0.460
Initial treatment (by antibiotic class)							
Single	6/109 (5.5%)	2/49 (4.1%)	4/60(6.7%)	0.689	1.44 (1.46)	1.20 (1.19)	0.561
<i>Aminopenicillins</i> + <i>BLI</i> ¹	2/21 (9.5%)	1/14 (7.1%)	1/7 (14.3%)	1.000	1.43 (2.15)	1.17 (1.47)	0.940
<i>Cephalosporins</i> ²	2/43 (4.7%)	-	2/43 (4.7%)	-	-	1.25 (1.20)	-
<i>Aminoglycosides</i> ³	0/20 (0%)	0/16 (0%)	0/4 (0%)	1.000	1.79 (1.37)	1.50 (1.00)	0.726
<i>Carbapenems</i> ⁴	1/11 (9.1%)	1/11 (9.1%)	-	-	1.36 (1.29)	-	-
<i>Other</i> ⁵	1/14 (7.1%)	0/8 (0%)	1/6 (16.7%)	0.429	0.50 (0.58)	0.33 (0.58)	0.683
Combinations ⁶	0/16 (0%)	0/10	0/6	1.000	1.00	1.00 (0.71)	0.833

					(1.12)		
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¹ *Co-amoxiclav, piperacillin-tazobactam*

² *Cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, cefuroxime, cefixime, cefalexin*

³ *Gentamicin, amikacin*

⁴ *Ertapenem, imipenem/cilastatin, meropenem*

⁵ *Co-trimoxazole, Nitrofurantoin, ciprofloxacin, fosfomycin, amoxicillin*

⁶ *Ampicillin + cefotaxime, ampicillin + gentamicin, ampicillin + amikacin, co-amoxiclav + amikacin, ceftriaxone + amikacin, ceftazidime + amikacin, piperacillin-tazobactam + ciprofloxacin, piperacillin-tazobactam + amikacin, meropenem + Vancomycin, meropenem + amikacin, meropenem + gentamicin, imipenem/cilastatin + amikacin, ceftriaxone + oral ofloxacin*

Abbreviations: IET, Initial Effective Treatment; IIT, Initial Ineffective Treatment; BLI – beta-lactamase inhibitor; UT – urinary tract; SD, standard deviation

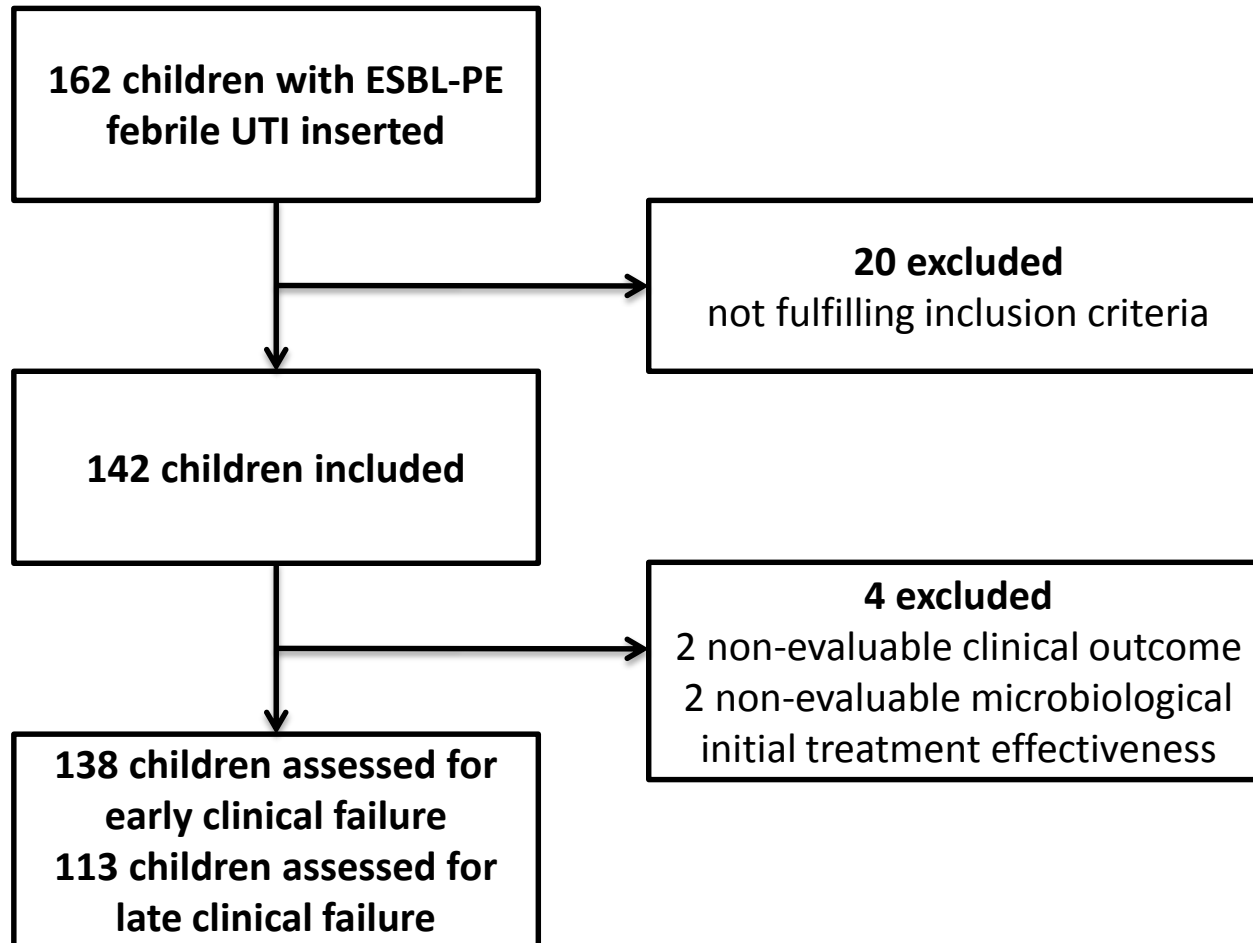


Figure 1. Formation of the cohort

Supplemental Table 1. Participating Centres and Records

Hospital	Country	Records (n=142)
University Medical Centre of Ljubljana	Slovenia	14
Vilnius University Children's Hospital	Lithuania	15
Great Ormond Street Hospital	United Kingdom	10
Alder Hey Children's Hospital	United Kingdom	16
St George's University of London	United Kingdom	5
Hôpital Robert Debré	France	14
Hôpital Louis Mourier	France	8
Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù	Italy	9
Hippokration Hospital	Greece	1
Agia Sophia Children's Hospital	Greece	17
University Hospital of Herakleion	Greece	7
Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre	Spain	10
Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga	Spain	8
Hospitais da Universidade de Coimbra	Portugal	8

Supplemental Table 2. Initial and Switched Regimens for ESBL febrile UTIs

Antibiotics	Initial N=142 (%)	Switched (1st) N=100	Switched (2nd) N=32	Switched (3rd) N=3	Switched (4th) N=1
Single treatments	124 (87.3)	95 (95.0)	29 (90.6)	-	-
Amoxicillin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Co-amoxiclav	17 (12.0)	21 (21.0)	6 (18.8)	-	-
Ampicillin-sulbactam	-	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Piperacillin-tazobactam	5 (3.5)	5 (5.0)	1 (3.1)	-	-
Pivmecillinam	-	2 (2.0)	-	-	-
Temocillin	-	2 (2.0)	-	-	-
Cefalexin	3 (2.1)	-	-	-	-
Cefuroxime	12 (8.5)	2 (2.0)	-	-	-
Cefixime	11 (7.8)	2 (2.0)	-	-	-
Cefotaxime	16 (11.3)	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Ceftriaxone	11 (7.8)	-	-	-	-
Ertapenem	1 (0.7)	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Imipenem/cilastatin	1 (0.7)	2 (2.0)	-	1	-
Meropenem	10 (7.0)	8 (8.0)	1 (3.1)	-	-
Gentamicin	16 (11.3)	5 (5.0)	-	-	-
Amikacin	7 (4.9)	10 (10.0)	1 (3.1)	1	-
Ciprofloxacin	4 (2.8)	11 (11.0)	2 (6.3)	-	-
Levofloxacin	-	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Trimethoprim	-	1 (1.0)	3 (9.4)	-	-

Co-trimoxazole	4 (2.8)	9 (9.0)	10 (31.3)	-	-
Nitrofurantoin	4 (2.8)	10 (10.0)	3 (9.4)	1	-
Fosfomycin	1 (0.7)	1 (1.0)	2 (6.3)	-	-
Combinations	18 (12.7)	5 (5.0)	3 (9.4)	-	-
Ampicillin + Cefotaxime	3 (2.1)	-	-	-	-
Ampicillin + Gentamicin	3 (2.1)	-	-	-	-
Ampicillin + Amikacin	1 (0.7)	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Piperacillin-tazobactam + Ciprofloxacin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Piperacillin-tazobactam + Amikacin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Co-amoxiclav + Amikacin	2 (1.4)	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Ceftriaxone + Amikacin	1 (0.7)	1 (1.0)	-	-	-
Cefoxitin + Amikacin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Ceftriaxone + Ofloxacin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Meropenem + Vancomycin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Meropenem + Amikacin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Meropenem + Gentamicin	1 (0.7)	2 (2.0)	-	-	-
Imipenem/cilastatin + Amikacin	1 (0.7)	-	-	-	-
Co-amoxiclav +	-	-	2 (6.3)	-	1

Cefixime					
Pivmecillinam + Nitrofurantoin	-	-	1 (3.1)	-	-

Supplemental Table 3. Characteristics and outcomes of patients treated with an initial ineffective treatment.

Antibiotic	Dose (mg/kg/24 h)	Route	Vulnerable	Pathogen	MIC	EUCAST breakpoints
Early clinical success						
Amikacin	15	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>16
Amoxicillin	47	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefalexin	-	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefalexin	-	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefalexin	22	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefixime	-	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>1
Cefixime	8	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	2	>1
Cefixime	8	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	>64	>1
Cefixime	8	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>1
Cefotaxime	196	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	147	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	200	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	150	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	-	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	-	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	155	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	147	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2

Cefotaxime	155	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	-	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	151	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	198	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	160	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	208	IV	Yes	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	200	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Cefotaxime	94	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Ceftriaxone	80.5	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	128	>2
Ceftriaxone	200	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	32	>2
Ceftriaxone	50	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Ceftriaxone	54	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Ceftriaxone	50	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Ceftriaxone	49	IM	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Ceftriaxone	83.9	IV	No	<i>Klebsiellapneumonia</i> <i>e</i>	128	>2
Ceftriaxone	50	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>2
Ceftriaxone	78	IV	No	<i>Enterobacteraeroge</i> <i>nes</i>	8	>2
Cefuroxime	150	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	31	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	31	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	32	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	50	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	

Cefuroxime	94	IV	Yes	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	147	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	89	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	142	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Cefuroxime	-	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Ciprofloxacin	30	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	> 4	>0.5
Ciprofloxacin	30	IV	Yes	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>0.5
Co-amoxiclav	120	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>8
Co-amoxiclav	101.3	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	16	>8
Co-amoxiclav	-	IV	No	<i>Klebsiellapneumonia</i> <i>e</i>	-	>8
Co-amoxiclav	Adult dosing	Oral	No	<i>Morganellamorganii</i>	≥ 32	-
Co-trimoxazole	46	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>4
Gentamicin	4.8	IV	Yes	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>4
Gentamicin	6.4	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>4
Gentamicin	4	IM	No	<i>Klebsiellapneumonia</i> <i>e</i>	-	>4
Nitrofurantoin	7	Oral	No	<i>Klebsiellapneumonia</i> <i>e</i>	-	
Piperacillin- tazobactam	209	IV	Yes	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>16
Piperacillin- tazobactam	350	IV	No	<i>Klebsiellapneumonia</i> <i>e</i>	32	>16

Ampicillin &Cefotaxime	209 & 209	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	Na
Ampicillin &Cefotaxime	207 & 207	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	Na
Ampicillin &Cefotaxime	200 & 150	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	(-) & 64	Na
Ampicillin & Gentamicin	205 & 5	IV	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	Na
Ampicillin & Gentamicin	153.2 & 3.9	IV	No	<i>Klebsiellaoxytoca</i>	(-) & \geq 16	Na
Ceftriaxone &Ofloxacin	Adult dosing	IV & oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	Na
Early clinical failure						
Cefixime	7.8	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	24	>1
Cefuroxime	29	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	
Co-amoxiclav	88.2	IV	No	<i>Klebsiellapneumonia</i> <i>e</i>	> 32	>8
Co-trimoxazole	23	Oral	No	<i>E. coli</i>	-	>4

Vulnerable patients: critically ill, immunocompromised

Abbreviations: Na, not applicable