

Introduction

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A Pfizer Education Grant made possible that a multidisciplinary group of Spanish physicians with a common interest in infectious diseases met to discuss what they considered the most relevant articles published in the medical literature in the previous year in 5 selected topics.

The meeting started with Emilia Cercenado and Javier Garau, who lead a group of discussion that updated the topic of bacterial pathogens, their virulence and antimicrobial resistance mechanisms. They reviewed the state of the art of the topic and also commented in depth a selected set of papers. Each article was analyzed and discussed by one of the members of the panel. Discussion included infections produced by community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and small colony variants of *S. aureus*, infections produced by multiresistant coagulase-negative staphylococci, pneumococcal infections, human listeriosis, meningococcal disease, *Haemophilus influenzae*, pertussis, *Escherichia coli*, ESBL-producing organisms, and infections due to non-fermenting Gram negative rods.

The second topic was led by Miguel Salavert and Julián Torre-Cisneros and was an update on intraabdominal and post-surgical infections. They stressed the importance of establishing a prompt diagnosis, avoiding treatment delays to decrease mortality. The selected articles for discussion were divided in the following topics: basic investigation and pathogenesis, risk factors for infection, epidemiology, activity of antimicrobials and resistance, antibiotic therapy and trials, surgical techniques and complications, intra-abdominal abscesses, cholangitis and cholecystitis, pancreatitis and transplantation of intra-abdominal organs.

A third topic consisted of the Update on infections in ICU patients and was led by Francisco Álvarez-Lerma and Jesús Rodríguez-Baño. The team discussed mainly the topics of severe community-acquired pneumonia, health-care associated pneumonia, nosocomial pneumonia, bloodstream infections and catheter-related infections, staphylococcal infections in the ICU, early identification of patients at risk of invasive fungal infections, as

well as preemptive treatment of these infections in selected patients. Duration of antimicrobial therapy in different settings was also a topic of the discussion particularly in the case of bacteremia, abscesses and empyema. Other topics were the strategies in antibiotic policy to decrease the selection of multiresistant pathogens and sepsis and septic shock. Finally, a space was dedicated to the prevention of nosocomial infections in Intensive Care Units.

The fourth topic assessed the latest developments in fungal lung infection in solid organ transplantation and was conducted by Amparo Solé and Juan Luis Rodríguez-Tudela. They reviewed the highlights in topics like the changing spectrum of invasive fungal infections, risk factors, antifungal prophylaxis, and treatment in patients after solid organ transplantation. Invasive fungal infections are the third cause of infection in SOT with an incidence of 5 to 42% depending on the transplanted organ.

Finally, the fifth topic was an update on pulmonary infections in patients with hematologic malignancies and hematopoietic stem cell recipients that was led by Miguel Ángel Sanz and Isidro Jarque. One of the members of the group discussed the content of each of the selected papers, with a critical review by other members of the panel. After a review of the state of the art, papers from the fields of viral and fungal infections were discussed by the group and classified in areas such as: CT diagnosis, serological markers, fungal infections, antifungal therapy, *Pneumocystis* infections, infection by community respiratory viruses, and infections in pediatric patients.

The present monographic issue of ENFERMEDADES INFECCIOSAS Y MICROBIOLOGÍA CLÍNICA tries to offer the results of that meeting to all of those with interest in the field of infectious diseases. The opinions presented are the independent opinions of the signing authors and their free interpretation of these contributions to the literature.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the group for taking part in it and to Pfizer Spain for their unrestricted educational grant that made possible this second "Update on Infectious Diseases".

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