

Spread of superbugs

- Harder to treat
- Resistant strains
- May also have more side effects
- Dominate in hospital settings

Clostridium difficile

- The overuse and misuse of antibiotics kills the normal flora of bacteria in the body. This causes C.difficile to take over and release toxins.
- Strains acquiring antibiotic resistance killed 5X more than MRSA in 2007.
- In 2004 Reporting of such cases became mandatory

Glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE)

- E. faecalis (more prevalent) and faecium cause 95% of the infections in mainly the young (<1y) and the elderly i.e. immunocompromised
- Found in digestive system and urinary tract
- Cause wound infections, pelvic/abdominal infections, bacteraemia (presence of bacteria in the blood)
- Resistant to many antibiotics – resistance acquired by conjugation – they acquire a Beta lactamase

Resistance shown by enterococci

- VAN-A VRE- resistant to both vancomycin and teicoplanin
- VAN-B VRE – resistant to vancomycin but sensitive to teicoplanin
- VAN-C VRE – partially resistant to vancomycin and sensitive to teicoplanin

Carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae

- Gram negative bacilli
- Part of gut flora, also found in soil and water
- Becoming resistant to most antibiotics

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Page 2 of 2