

Is Central venous catheter Tip Colonization (CTC) diagnosed at central venous catheter (CVC) removal an indication for antibiotic treatment ?

Is *isolated* Central venous catheter Tip Colonization (CTC) diagnosed at central venous catheter (CVC) removal *bloodstream* infection (BSI) an indication for antibiotic treatment ?

Is isolated Central venous catheter Tip Colonization (CTC) diagnosed at central venous catheter (CVC) removal associated with a high risk for subsequent bloodstream infection (sBSI) ?

Is isolated Central venous catheter Tip Colonization (CTC) diagnosed at central venous catheter (CVC) removal associated with a high risk for subsequent bloodstream infection (sBSI) / distal focus of infections attributed to the hematogenous spread ?

## Background

- Definitions
- Main limits of studies

## Literature review / impact of antibiotics administered at or after CVC removal

- Overall epidemiology of CTCs
- Epidemiology of CTCs due to
  - Staphylococcus aureus*
  - Acinetobacter baumannii*
  - Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
  - Candida spp*

## Guidelines / Conclusion

# Isolated central venous catheter tip colonized (CTC) and subsequent bloodstream infection (sBSI)

## **Central venous catheter tip colonized (CTC) = CVC removal**

- Semiquantitative  
Maki roll Maki-roll catheter-tip culture  
≥15 cfu/catheter-tip as a cutoff – exoluminal –
- Quantitative, vortex / sonification – exoluminal and endoluminal -  
≥1000 cfu/catheter tip as a cutoff - exoluminal and endoluminal -
  - Vortex, Brun Buisson, Arch Intern Med 1987 with 1000 cfu/catheter tip as a cutoff
  - Sonification, Sheretz, J Clin Microbiol 1990 (threshold  $10^2 > 10^3$  cfu/ml? )
  - Combined both sonification & vortex (threshold?)

Isolated CTC, without concomitant BSI (CRBSI)

*Positive blood culture obtained from CVC - with concomitant negative peripheral blood cultures by venipuncture: blood culture contamination or CTC ?*

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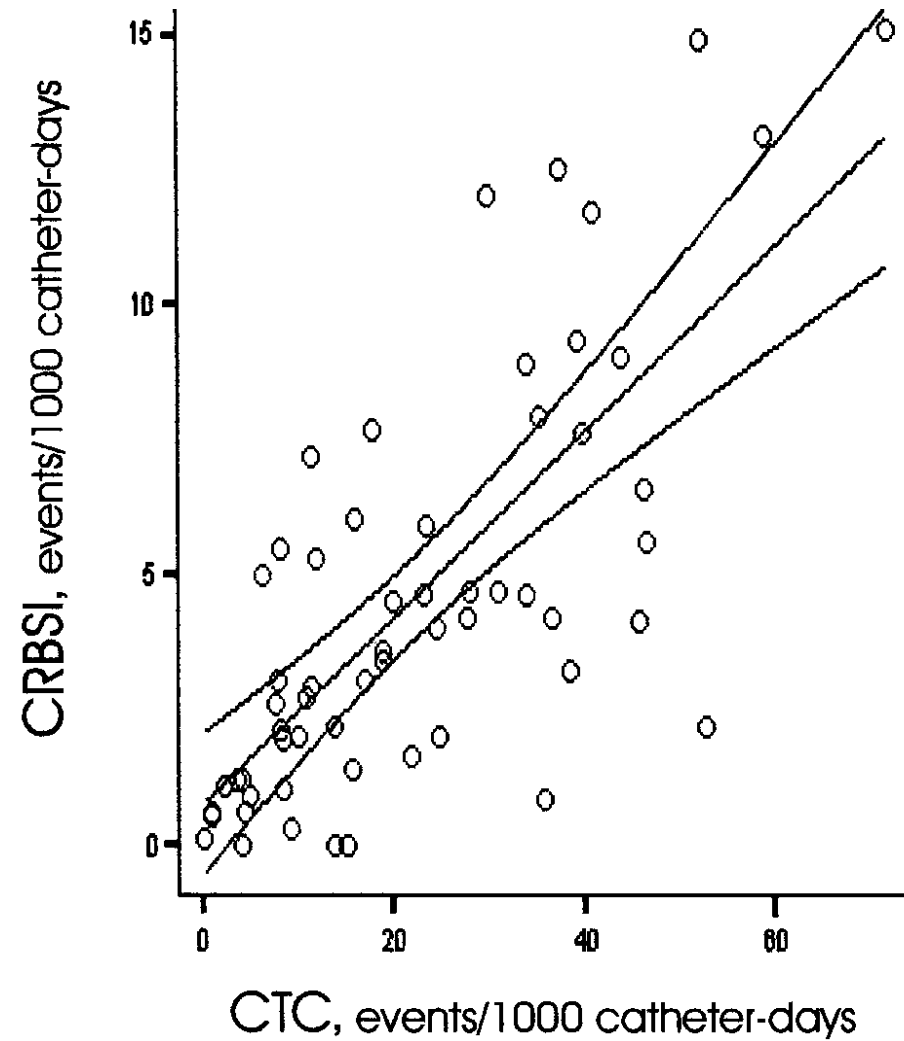
# Isolated central venous catheter tip colonized (CTC) and subsequent bloodstream infection (sBSI)

## **Subsequent (secondary) bacteriemia (sBSI)**

- BSI due to the microorganism of the positive catheter culture
  - Phenotypical methods, same species
  - Identical antimicrobial susceptibility profile
  - Identical strain based on molecular methods
- Exclusion
  - Patients with concurrent / concomitant bacteremia (CRBSI) (!)

# Catheter Colonization and BSI

17% of patients with positive catheter cultures had CRBSI



**Figure 2.** Linear regression of catheter tip colonization (CTC) and catheter-related bloodstream infection (CRBSI), with mean 95% prediction intervals. Incidence of  $BSI = 0.73 + 0.17 \times \text{incidence of CTC.}$

# Isolated central venous catheter tip colonized (CTC) and subsequent bloodstream infection (sBSI)

## **Subsequent (secondary) bacteriemia (sBSI)**

- BSI due to the microorganism of the positive catheter culture
- Exclusion
  - Patients with concurrent / concomitant bacteremia (CRBSI) (!)
  - sBSI diagnosed >24 h after CVC removal, distinction between CRBSI and sBSI (day-2)?
  - cBSI diagnosed  $\geq 24/48$ h BEFORE CVC removal

## **Other focus of infections attributed to the hematogenous spread of the strain isolated from CTC**

Septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, soft tissue abscess, infective endocarditis, septic thrombophlebitis, septic pulmonary embolism, or septic endophthalmitis  
UTI?

The precise risk of a subsequent BSI in cases of isolated CTC is uncertain

No RCT has identified ICU patients at increased risk of sBSI after a CTC

Single center observational retrospective studies, not specifically carried out in ICUs

Most studies focused on a single etiologic agent

Indications for CVC removal not systematically reported and differ between studies

- CVC tip cultures systematically performed or for suspected CVC infection
- Differences in definition of suspected CVC infection

Presence of SIRS criteria or local signs not predictive of subsequent infections in ICU cohorts

Other focus of infection, previous CVC infection

Systematic clinical surveillance / monitoring in patients after CVC removal

Follow-up systematic / duration

- The longer the follow-up, the lower the relationship between isolated CTC and subsequent infection?

# How to cope with isolated CTC at the bedside

Clinical surveillance and follow-up

Watchful waiting

Work-up

- Blood cultures (BCs)
- PCT, BD glucan
- Venous ultrasound examination
- Echocardiography

Systematic antibiotics

Duration of antibiotics

Arterial catheter

# Development of bacteraemia or fungaemia after removal of colonized central venous catheters in patients with negative concomitant blood cultures

Variable	Cases without subsequent BSI (n = 304)	Cases with subsequent BSI (n = 8)	p <sup>a</sup>
Duration of hospital stay after CVC removal, median days (IQR)	24 (11–48)	24 (15–78)	0.20
Duration of catheter use, median days (IQR)	10 (6–16)	11 (6–18)	0.82
Type of catheter (%)			
Non-tunnelled	279 (92)	8 (100)	1.00
Tunnelled	25 (8)	0 (0)	
Catheter insertion site (%)			
Internal jugular vein	200 (66)	5 (63)	0.07
Subclavian vein	88 (29)	1 (12)	
Femoral vein	16 (5)	2 (25)	
Haemodialysis catheter (%)	29 (10)	2 (25)	0.18
Exit-site or tunnel infection (%)	15 (5)	1 (13)	0.35
Body temperature >38°C (%)	211 (69)	5 (63)	0.71
Duration of fever before CVC removal, median days (IQR) <sup>c</sup>	1 (0–3)	4 (1–9)	0.34
Receipt of parenteral nutrition (%)	183 (60)	6 (75)	0.49
Immunosuppressive therapy (%)	46 (15)	0 (0)	0.61
Systemic corticosteroid use (%)	89 (29)	1 (13)	0.45
Antibiotic treatment (%)	148 (49)	1 (13)	0.07
28-day mortality rate (%)	60 (20)	2 (25)	0.67

sBSI positive BCs between 2 and 28 days after CVC removal

13 292 CVC tip cultures , 1961 CTCs, 312 included

sBSI, 8/312 (2.6%; 95% CI 1.2–5.1)

Organism	Underlying conditions	Onset of BSI after CVC removal, days	Appropriate antibiotics
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	ICH	9	No
<i>S. aureus</i>	Pneumonia ARDS	3	Yes
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	CAD (3VD)	24	No
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	ESLD	16	No
<i>E. faecium</i>	ALF	4	No
<i>Candida albicans</i>	Necrotizing pancreatitis	13	No
<i>C. albicans</i>	CAD (3VD)	9	No
Non- <i>albicans</i> <i>Candida</i>	Acute mesenteric ischaemia	11	No

### sBSI

- *S. aureus* 2/58 (3.5%; 95% CI 0.3–12.4),
- Enterococcus 1/11 (9.1%; 95% CI 0–39.9)
- *P. aeruginosa* 2/17 (11.8%; 95% CI 2.0–35.6)
- Candidaemia 3/39 (7.7%; 95% CI 1.9–21.0)

# Single ICU, retrospective study, 109 patients with 138 CTCs, 149 microorganisms

	No.		No.
Causative micro-organisms	149		
Gram-positive cocci	81	Catheter types	
Methicillin-sensitive	3	Central venous	61
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>		Dialysis	39
Methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i>	3	Arterial	38
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	22	Emergency insertion	4
<i>Staphylococcus warneri</i>	5	Guidewire exchange	8
<i>Staphylococcus hominis</i>	1	Reasons for removal	
<i>Staphylococcus capitis</i>	1	No longer needed	72
Coagulase-negative	33	Suspicion of infection	54
<i>Staphylococcus spp.</i>		Dysfunction	12
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	13	Duration of catheter placement, days <sup>a</sup>	9 ± 5
Gram-negative bacilli	66		
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	25		
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	12		
<i>Enterobacter spp.</i>	7		
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	5		
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	5		
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	5		
<i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>	3		
<i>Providencia rettgeri</i>	2		
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	2		
Fungi	2		
<i>Candida albicans</i>	2		

sBSI, identification of CTC causative organism in BCs taken between day 3 and day 30

87 microorganisms different from CNS;

- 66 GNB
- 13 enterococci, 6 *S aureus*
- 2 *Candida spp*



## CTC is associated with a low risk of sBSI in ICU patients

	Patient 1	Patient 2
Type of catheter	Central venous	Central venous
Insertion site	Femoral	Internal jugular
Number of lumens	3	2
Cause of removal	No longer needed	Suspicion of infection
Results of positive catheter culture	<i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>
Etiological organism <sup>a</sup>	<i>Escherichia coli</i> 1/5	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> 1/22
Antibiotics at catheter removal	No	Yes <sup>b</sup>
Timing of subsequent bacteremia <sup>c</sup>	5 days	4 days
Alive at hospital discharge	Yes	Yes

sBSI: 2/138; 87 microorganisms different from CNS, 1/87

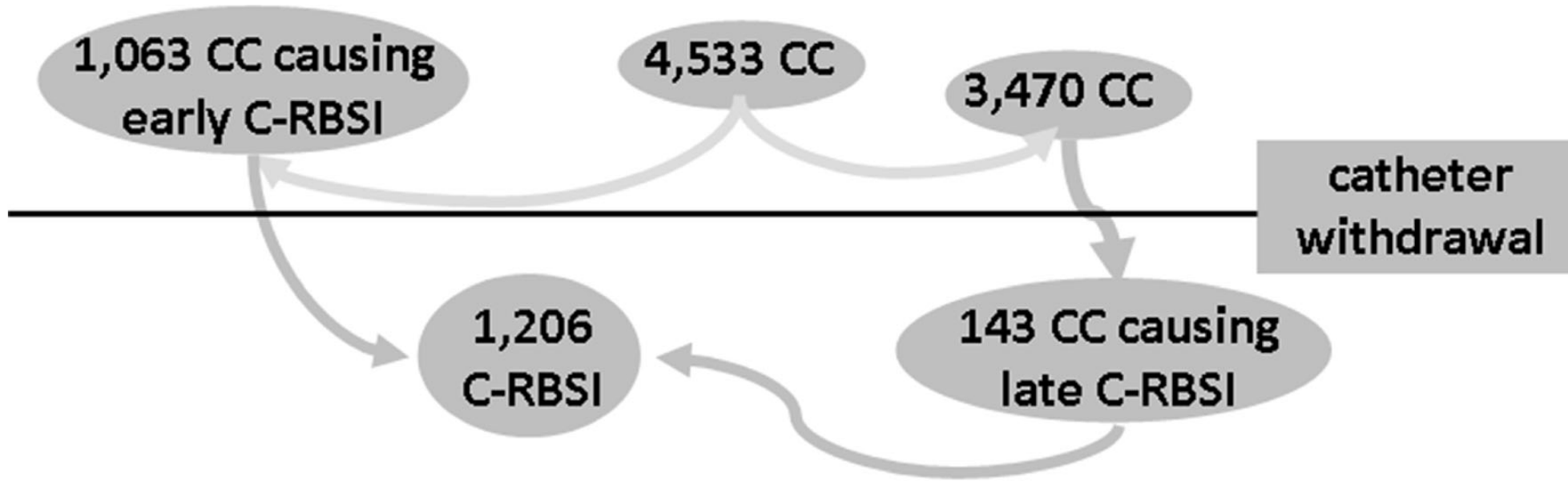
In 8 patients, 2 sBSI and 6 nosocomial pneumonia;

Subsequent nosocomial infection 0/23 with active antibiotics and in 8/121 without (P=0,36)

In 5 cases of CTC with CNS, AB susceptibility was not available.

CVC tips cultured: 17,981; CTC: 4,533 (25.2 %); Total C-RBSI: 1,206 (26.6 %)

- Late C-RBSI, 143/1206 (11.9 %)
- Late CRBSI, 4.1 % of CTCs without early C- RBSI episodes (3,470)



CTCs between 2003 and 2010 in patients without bacteremia

Early C-RBSI, positive blood cultures obtained  $\leq 24$  h after CVC withdrawal (concomitant BSI, CRBSI)

Late C-RBSI, positive blood cultures obtained  $\geq 24$  h after **CVC withdrawal** (= sBSI)

Short term, long-term CVCs and, artery catheters

Follow-up, (10 days?)

**Table 1** Risk of late C-RBSI according to the etiology of the colonized catheters

Microorganism	CC without associated C-RBSI, <i>n</i> (%)	CC from late C-RBSI episodes, <i>n</i> (%)	Risk (%)
Gram-positive	4,112 (78.2)	87 (60.0)	2.1
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	2,336 (44.4)	47 (32.4)	2.0
CoNS	684 (13.0)	0 (0.0)	0.0
MRSA	233 (4.4)	23 (15.9)	<b>9.9</b>
MSSA	88 (1.7)	11 (7.6)	<b>12.5</b>
Other Gram-positive	771 (14.7)	6 (4.1)	0.8
Gram-negative	679 (12.9)	29 (20.0)	4.3
Fungi	469 (12.9)	29 (20.0)	6.2
Total	5,260	145	

5260 microorganisms isolated from 3470 CTCs without concomitant BSI,

**Table 2** Characteristics of late and early C-RBSI episodes

Characteristics	Overall	Late C-RBSI	Early C-RBSI	<i>p</i> -Value
No. of patients	286	143	143	–
Age, years (median, IQR)	45.63 (0.07–69.00)	36.71 (0.06–68.79)	49.74 (0.13–69.00)	0.204
Male sex, no. (%)	188 (65.7)	96 (67.1)	92 (64.3)	0.884
No. (%) of deaths	70 (24.5)	43 (30.1)	27 (18.9)	<b>0.030</b>
Time to obtain BCs (mean, SD)	0.94 (4.944)	3.89 (5.39)	–1.94 (1.97)	<0.001
Overall time to obtain BCs, no. (%)				

Risk factors associated with late C-RBSI by comparing late episodes with a selected group of early C- RBSI episodes that had occurred close together in time.

No statistically significant differences in demographics between the groups.

ARTICLE

# **The risk of catheter-related bloodstream infection after withdrawal of colonized catheters is low**

**M. Guembe • M. Rodríguez-Créixems •  
P. Martín-Rabadán • L. Alcalá • P. Muñoz • E. Bouza**



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Research note

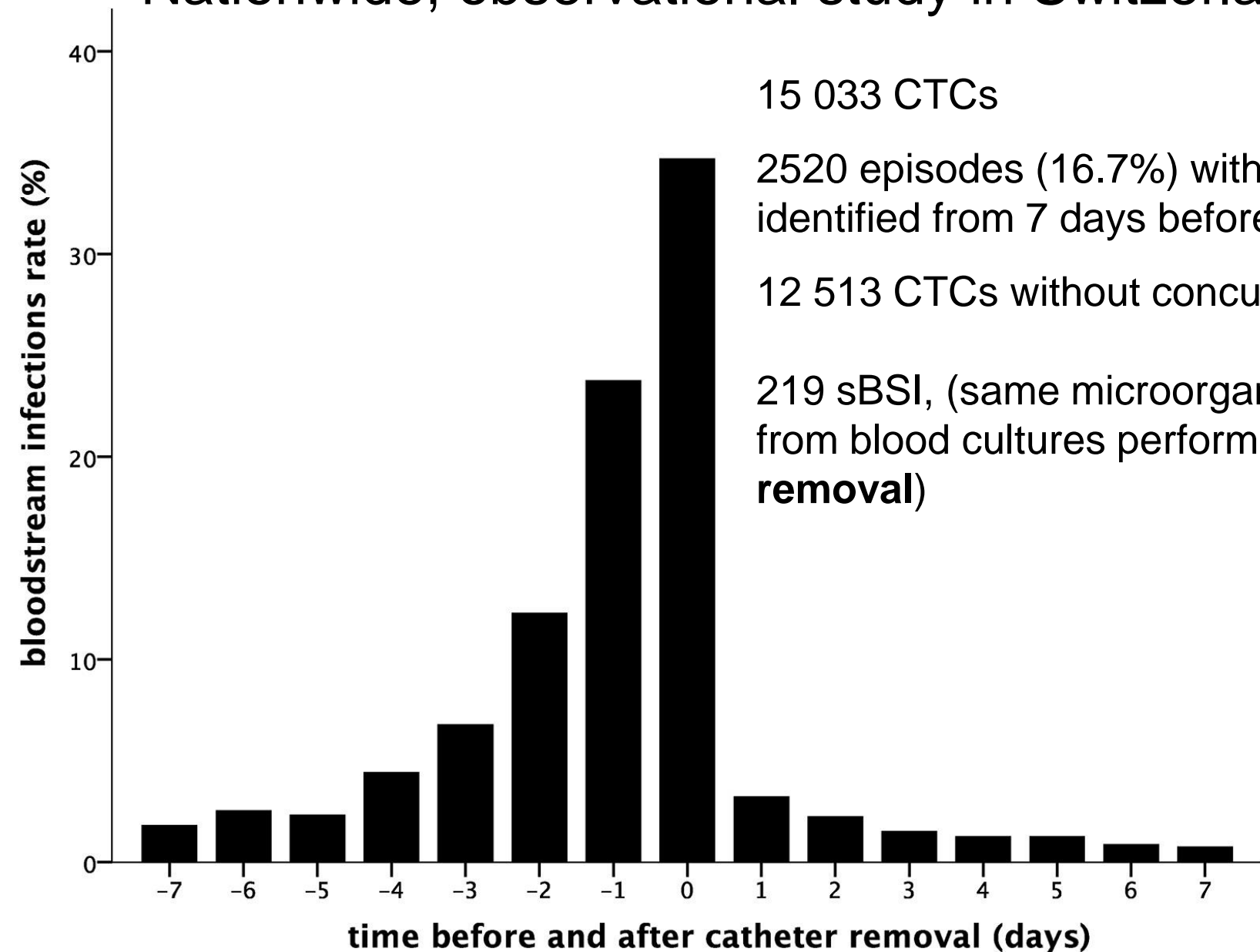
## Low incidence of subsequent bacteraemia or fungaemia after removal of a colonized intravascular catheter tip

N. Buetti <sup>1,\*</sup>, E. Lo Priore <sup>1</sup>, A. Atkinson <sup>1</sup>, A. Kronenberg <sup>2</sup>,  
J. Marschall <sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Swiss Centre for Antibiotic Resistance (ANRESIS)

<sup>1</sup>) *Department of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital Bern, Bern, Switzerland*

<sup>2</sup>) *Institute for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland*

# Nationwide, observational study in Switzerland from 2008 to 2015



15 033 CTCs

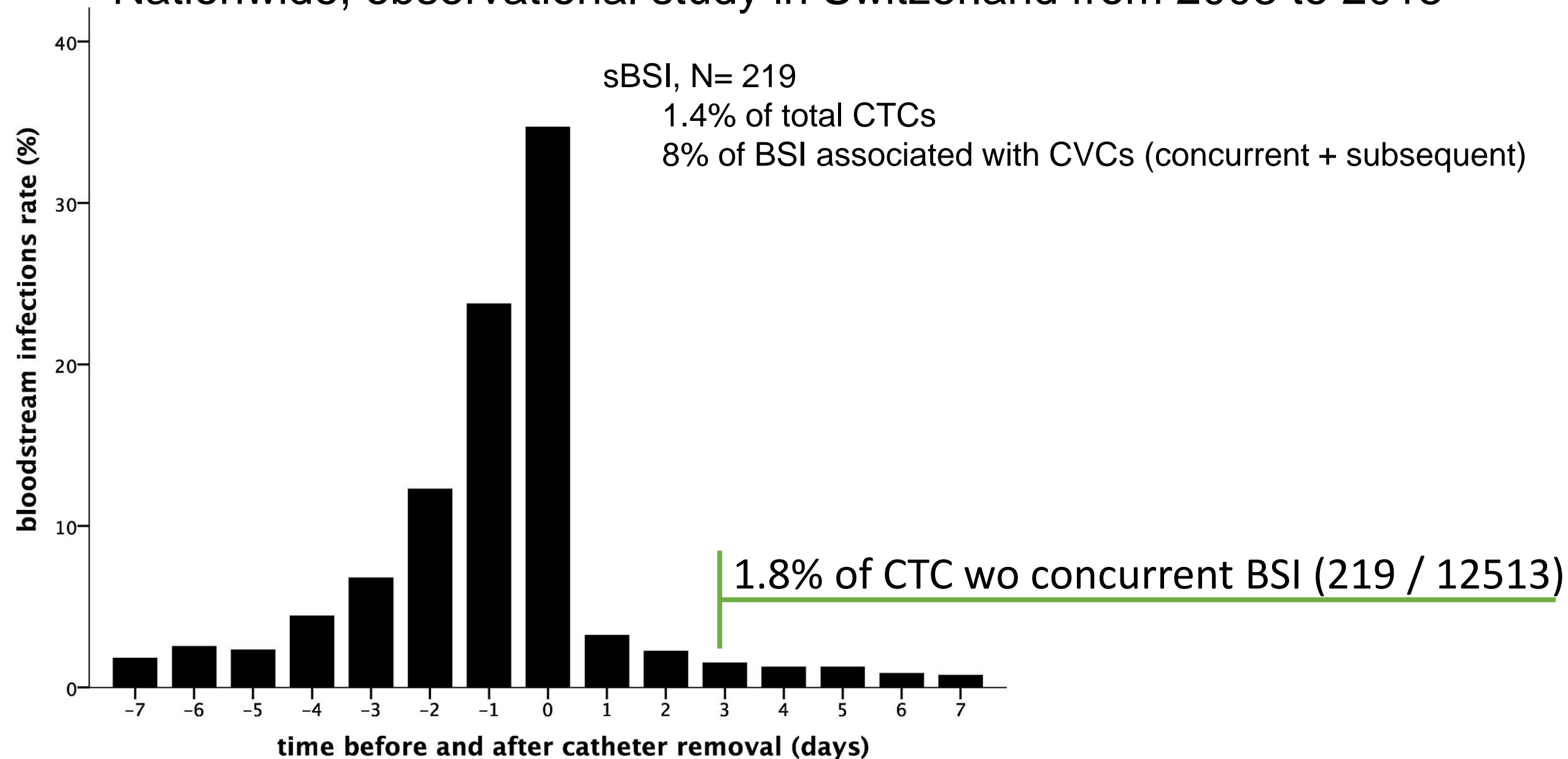
2520 episodes (16.7%) with concurrent BSI (same microorganism identified from 7 days before to 2 days after CVC removal)

12 513 CTCs without concurrent BSI

219 sBSI, (same microorganism recovered from the CVC tip and from blood cultures performed **> 2 days up to 7 days after CVC removal**)

sBSI, Same microorganism recovered from the CVC tip and from blood cultures performed > 2 days up to 7 days after CVC removal,

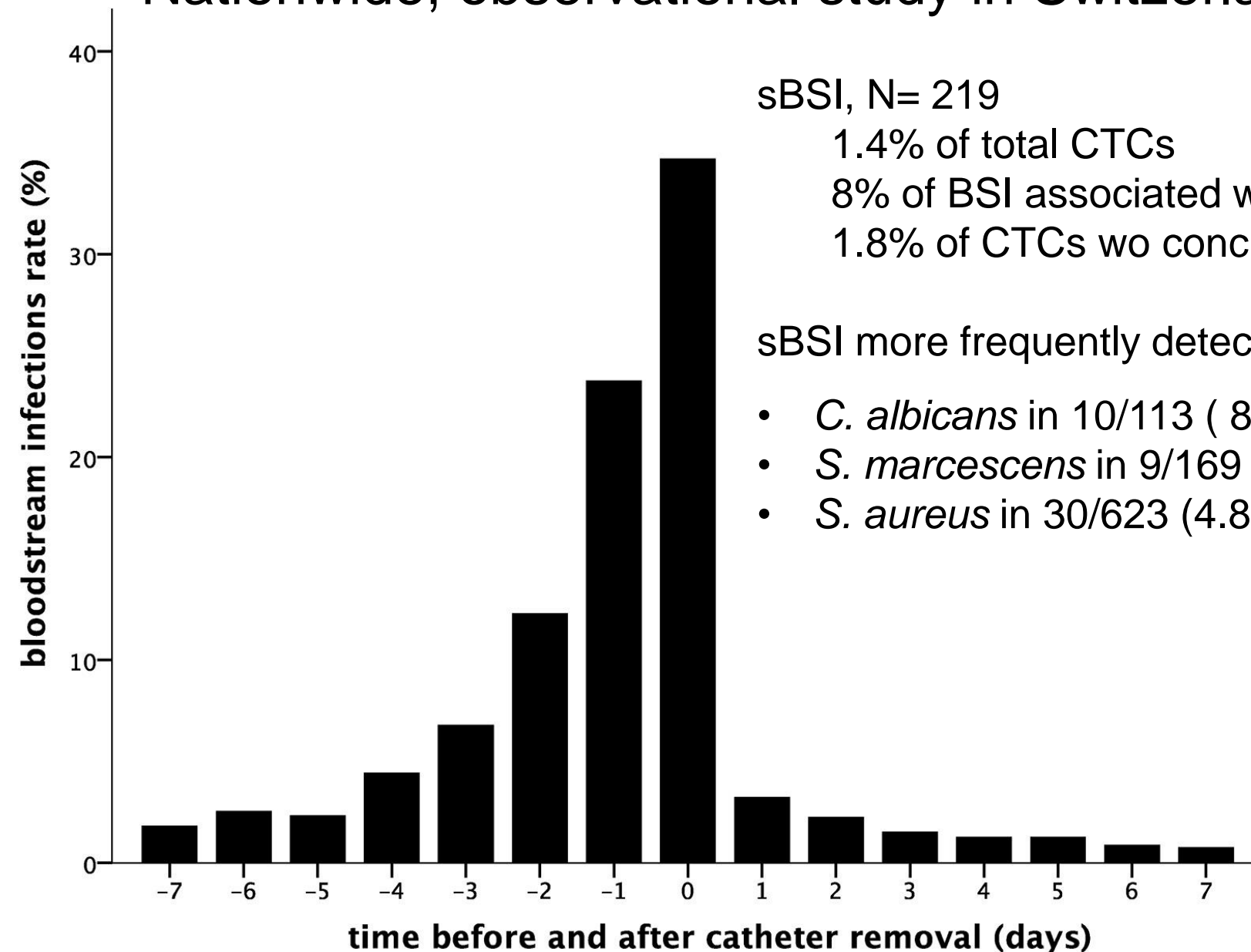
# Nationwide, observational study in Switzerland from 2008 to 2015



sBSI, Same microorganism recovered from the CVC tip and from blood cultures performed > 2 days up to 7 days after CVC removal,



# Nationwide, observational study in Switzerland from 2008 to 2015



sBSI, N= 219

1.4% of total CTCs

8% of BSI associated with CVCs (concurrent + subsequent)

1.8% of CTCs wo concurrent BSI

sBSI more frequently detected after identification on CTC of

- *C. albicans* in 10/113 ( 8.8%)
- *S. marcescens* in 9/169 (5.3%)
- *S. aureus* in 30/623 (4.8%)

sBSI, Same microorganism recovered from the CVC tip and from blood cultures performed > 2 days up to 7 days after CVC removal,

Microorganism distribution of positive catheter tip culture and subsequent bloodstream infection (sBSI)

	Total <sup>a</sup> N (%)	sBSI N (%)	sBSI/pathogen
Enterobacteriaceae	1552 (12.4)	40 (18.3)	2.6% (1.8–3.4)
<i>S. marcescens</i>	169 (1.4)	9 (4.1)	5.3% (1.9–8.7)
Gram-negative non-fermenters	431 (3.4)	8 (3.7)	1.9% (0.6–3.1)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	297 (2.4)	7 (3.2)	2.4% (0.7–4.1)
<i>S. aureus</i>	623 (5.0)	30 (13.7)	4.8% (3.1–6.5)
CoNS	8518 (68.1)	116 (53.0)	1.4% (1.1–1.6)
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp	51 (0.4)	0 (0)	0%
<i>Enterococcus</i> spp	733 (5.9)	12 (5.5)	1.6% (0.7–2.5)
Anaerobes	12 (0.1)	0 (0)	0%
Fungi	172 (1.4)	12 (5.5)	7.0% (3.2–10.8)
<i>Candida albicans</i>	113 (0.9)	10 (4.6)	8.8% (3.5–14.0)
Other	421 (3.4)	1 (0.5)	0.2% (-0.2–0.6)
Total	12513 (100.0)	219 (100.0)	1.8% (1.6–2.0)

CoNS, coagulase-negative staphylococci spp species; sBSI, subsequent bacteraemia or fungaemia; CI, confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup> Without episodes of bacteraemia 7 days before and 2 days after catheter removal.

## sBSI more frequently detected after identification on CTC of

- *C. albicans* in 10/113 ( 8.8%)
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# Isolated CTC and sBSI in ICUs

	<u>sBSI·N·(%)</u>	<u>without sBSI·N·(%)</u>	<u>p-value</u>	<u>Total*</u>
<b>Department<sup>1</sup></b>				
...ICU	92·(42.4)	2849·(23.9)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	2941
...Non-ICU	125·(57.6)	9055·(76.1)		9180

Among episodes of catheter colonization with sBSI, 42.4% of cases were from ICU (vs. 23.9% in those without sBSI,  $p < 0.001$ )

sBSI, isolating the same microorganism as the one recovered from the CVC tip from blood cultures performed > 2 days up to 7 days after CVC removal

# Isolated CTC and sBSI in ICUs

	Total*	sBSI	sBSI/pathogen isolated from catheter tip (95% CI)
<b><i>Enterococcus</i> spp</b>	252	4	1.6% (0.5-4.2)
<b>Enterobacteriaceae</b>	412	19	4.6% (3.3-7.2)
<i>S. marcescens</i>	40	4	10.0% (3.3-24)
<b>Fungi</b>	29	8	27.6% (11.3-43.9)
<i>C. albicans</i>	22	8	36.4% (18-59.2)
<b>Gram-negative non-fermenters</b>	133	4	3.0% (1-8)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	81	4	4.9% (1.6-12.8)
<b><i>S. aureus</i></b>	88	7	8.0% (3.5-16.2)
<b>CoNS<sup>1</sup></b>	1925	49	2.5% (1.9-3.3)
<b>Anaerobes</b>	1	0	0%
<b>Other</b>	101	1	1% (0-6.2)
<b>Total</b>	2941	92	3.1% (2.5-3.8)

Isolated CTC with *Staphylococcus aureus* and sBSI

# Preventing *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia and Sepsis in Patients With *Staphylococcus aureus* Colonization of Intravascular Catheters

*A Retrospective Multicenter Study and Meta-Analysis*

450 patients with an IV catheter colonized with *S. aureus* during the 6-year study period.

Follow-up = 6 months.

256 (57%) excluded because of *S. aureus* BSI between 7 days prior **until 24 h after CVC** removal

-> 192 patients included

Median duration of catheter insertion = 7 days.

74 antibiotics active against the cultured *S. aureus* within 24 hours

-> 18/192 (9%) sBSI at 10.7 days (range, 2-65 d) after CVC removal

Abs 3/74 (4%) vs no Abs 15/118 (13%), OR = 4.2; 95% CI, (1.1-15.6)

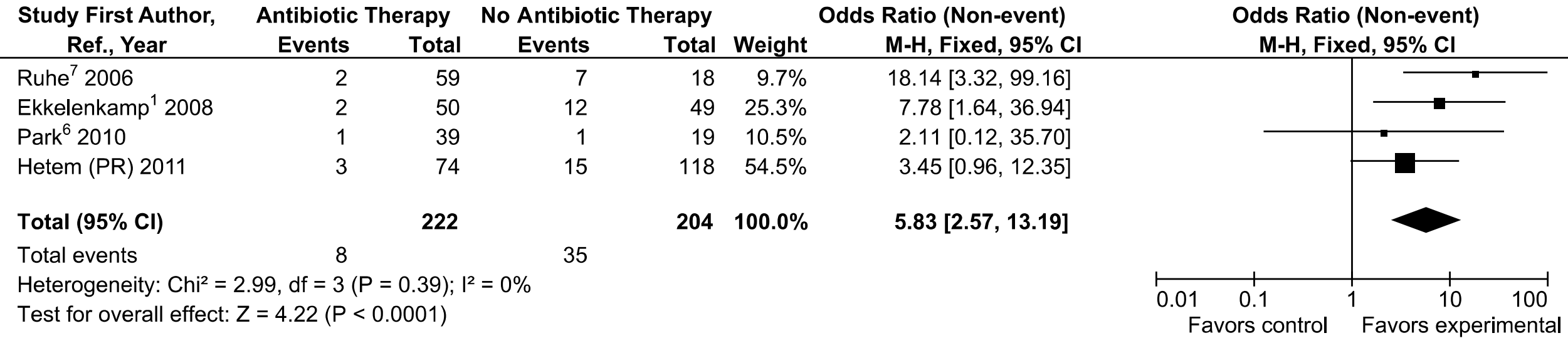
Isolated CTC with *Staphylococcus aureus* and sBSI ( >48 hrs after CVC removal)  
 - cohorts reported by Ekkelenkamp and Hetem combined -

**TABLE 3.** Risk Factors for Subsequent *S. aureus* Bacteremia in Patients With *S. aureus* Colonization of IV Catheters, Combined Analysis\*

Variable	Patients Without Subsequent SAB	Patients With Subsequent SAB After 48 h	Univariate Analysis		Multivariate Analysis	
	No. (%) (n = 259)	No. (%) (n = 32)	P	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)
No antibiotic therapy within 24 h	140 (54)	27 (84)	0.001	4.59 (1.71–12.35)	0.001	5.4 (2.0–15.1)
Documented exit-site infection	85 (33)	17 (53)	0.023	2.32 (1.11–4.87)	0.003	3.31 (1.5–7.4)
Corticosteroid therapy	46 (18)	12 (37)	0.007	2.87 (1.30–6.32)	0.013	2.9 (1.3–6.6)
Immunosuppressive therapy (all)	63 (24)	15 (47)	0.007	2.74 (1.30–5.81)	0.61	1.4 (0.3–5.6)

\*Combining results from present report and results of the study by Ekkelenkamp et al.<sup>1</sup>

# Protective effect of prophylactic antibiotic therapy for CTC with *S. aureus* to prevent subsequent *S. aureus* bacteremia, (> 24 h after CVC removal)



In the studies by Ruhe and Park, Abs were initiated within 48 hours

In the studies by Ekkelenkamp and Hetem, Abs were initiated within 24 hours.



# Significance of the isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus* from a central venous catheter tip in the absence of concomitant bacteremia: a clinical approach

Group 1, 67 patients with *S aureus* CTC with CRBSI (positive BCs drawn  $\leq$  48 h since the catheter removal yielding *S. aureus* with identical antimicrobial susceptibility profile)

Group 2, 46 patients with *S aureus* CTC without CRBSI (negative BCs drawn  $\leq$  48 h since the catheter removal)

Subsequent infection: 17/113 (15%) (> **48** h after CVC removal due to *S. aureus* of CTC with identical antimicrobial susceptibility profile)

14/113 (12.4%) sBSI > 48 h after CVC removal

Hematogenous dissemination in 6 /113 patients

- 4 septic arthritis
- 2 septic pulmonary
- 1 infective endocarditis
- 1 cerebral abscess
- 1 splenic abscess
- 1 septic endophthalmitis

**Table 1** Patients with a CVC tip culture positive for *Staphylococcus aureus*

	All patients ( <i>n</i> = 113)	Group 1 (BC <sup>g</sup> positive for <i>S. aureus</i> ) ( <i>n</i> = 67)	Group 2 (BC <sup>g</sup> negative for <i>S. aureus</i> ) ( <i>n</i> = 46)	<i>p</i> -Value <sup>a</sup> <b>G1 vs G2</b>
Temperature $\geq 38.0$ °C ( <i>n</i> [%])	100 (88.5)	60 (89.6)	40 (86.9)	0.671
Local signs of thrombophlebitis ( <i>n</i> [%])	39 (34.5)	29 (43.3)	10 (21.7)	<b>0.018</b>
Treatment and endpoint				
Appropriate antibiotic therapy ( <i>n</i> [%])	84 (74.3)	57 (85.1) <sup>f</sup>	31 (67.4)	<b>0.026</b>
Delayed <i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia and/ or hematogenous dissemination ( <i>n</i> [%])	17 (15.0)	17 (25.4)	0 (0.0)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Delayed <i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia ( <i>n</i> [%])	14 (12.5)	14 (20.9)	0 (0.0)	<b>0.001</b>
Delayed hematogenous dissemination ( <i>n</i> [%]) <sup>e</sup>	6 (5.3)	6 (9.0)	0 (0.0)	0.080
Death by any cause 6 months after removal of the catheter	21 (18.6)	14 (20.9)	7 (15.2)	0.446

	All patients ( <i>n</i> = 113)	Group 1 (BC <sup>g</sup> positive for <i>S. aureus</i> ) ( <i>n</i> = 67)	Patients in Group 2 that received antibiotic therapy <sup>b</sup> ( <i>n</i> = 31)	Patients in Group 2 that did not receive antibiotic therapy <sup>b</sup> ( <i>n</i> = 15)	<i>p</i> -Value <sup>c</sup> <b>G1 vs G2 wo ABs</b>
Temperature $\geq 38.0$ °C ( <i>n</i> [%])	100 (88.5)	60 (89.6)	29 (93.5)	11 (73.3)	0.110
Local signs of thrombophlebitis ( <i>n</i> [%])	39 (34.5)	29 (43.3)	8 (26.7%)	1 (6.7)	<b>0.008</b>
Treatment and endpoint					
Appropriate antibiotic therapy ( <i>n</i> [%])	84 (74.3)	57 (85.1) <sup>f</sup>	31 (100)	0 (0.0)	–
Delayed <i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia and/ or hematogenous dissemination ( <i>n</i> [%])	17 (15.0)	17 (25.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	<b>0.033</b>
Delayed <i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia ( <i>n</i> [%])	14 (12.5)	14 (20.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0.062
Delayed hematogenous dissemination ( <i>n</i> [%]) <sup>e</sup>	6 (5.3)	6 (9.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0.334
Death by any cause 6 months after removal of the catheter	21 (18.6)	14 (20.9)	6 (19.4)	1 (6.7)	0.283

	All patients (n = 113)	Group 1 (BC <sup>g</sup> positive for <i>S. aureus</i> ) (n = 67)	Patients in Group 2 that received antibiotic therapy <sup>b</sup> (n = 15)	Patients in Group 2 that did not receive antibiotic therapy <sup>b</sup> (n = 15)	p-Value <sup>c</sup> <b>G1 vs G2 wo ABs</b>
Temperature $\geq 38.0$ °C (n [%])	100 (88.5)	60 (89.6)	11 (73.3)	11 (73.3)	0.110
Local signs of thrombophlebitis (n [%])	39 (34.5)	29 (43.3)	1 (6.7)	1 (6.7)	<b>0.008</b>
Treatment and endpoint					
Appropriate antibiotic therapy (n [%])	84 (74.3)	31 (46.3)	<b>31 (100)</b>	0 (0.0)	–
Delayed <i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia and/ or hematogenous dissemination (n [%])	14 (12.5)	14 (25.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	<b>0.033</b>
Delayed <i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia (n [%])	14 (12.5)	<b>14 (20.9)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0.062</b>
Delayed removal of the catheter (n [%]) <sup>e</sup>	6 (5.3)	6 (9.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0.334
Death due to cause 6 months after removal of the catheter	21 (18.6)	14 (20.9)	6 (19.4)	1 (6.7)	0.283

CTC à *S aureus* isolé et hémocultures prélevées et négatives pendant les 48 h suivant le retrait même en cas de suspicion d'infection -> AB ?

R3.12—The duration of the antibiotic therapy for documented catheter colonization without bacteremia depends on the species identified and the clinical setting in which the catheter was removed.

No treatment is required in the absence of signs of infection

The clinical surveillance, with blood cultures even in the absence of fever, is required in the case of colonization by *Staphylococcus aureus*

**Table 3 Unexplained fever, catheter removed and positive microbiology (EXPERT OPINION)**

Catheter removed in a context of fever and positive microbiology	Antibiotics and duration
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , Negative blood culture	3–5 days
Positive blood culture with no remote complications	14 days
Positive blood culture with remote complications	4 to 6 weeks

-> Venous US, echocardiography

Isolated CTC with Gram negative bacteria and sBSI

ARTICLE

# **Bacteremic complications of intravascular catheter tip colonization with Gram-negative micro-organisms in patients without preceding bacteremia**

**A. van Eck van der Sluijs · J. J. Oosterheert ·  
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Edgar J. G. Peters**

# Bacteremic complications of intravascular catheter tip colonization with Gram-negative micro-organisms in patients without preceding bacteremia

BSI, positive BC **from 48 hrs before** to 90 days after catheter removal

BSI isolate identical (same species and same antibiotic resistance pattern) to that of the CVC tip.

BC(s) positive later than the catheter tip culture

Median time from CVC removal to sBSI = 4 days (IQR: 3–9 days).

213 CTCs in 181 patients, sBSI with GNB in 40 (19%) cases (CRBSI & sBSI)

No positive blood cultures with the same micro-organism after 10 days following catheter removal.



# Isolated CTC with Gram negative bacteria and sBSI

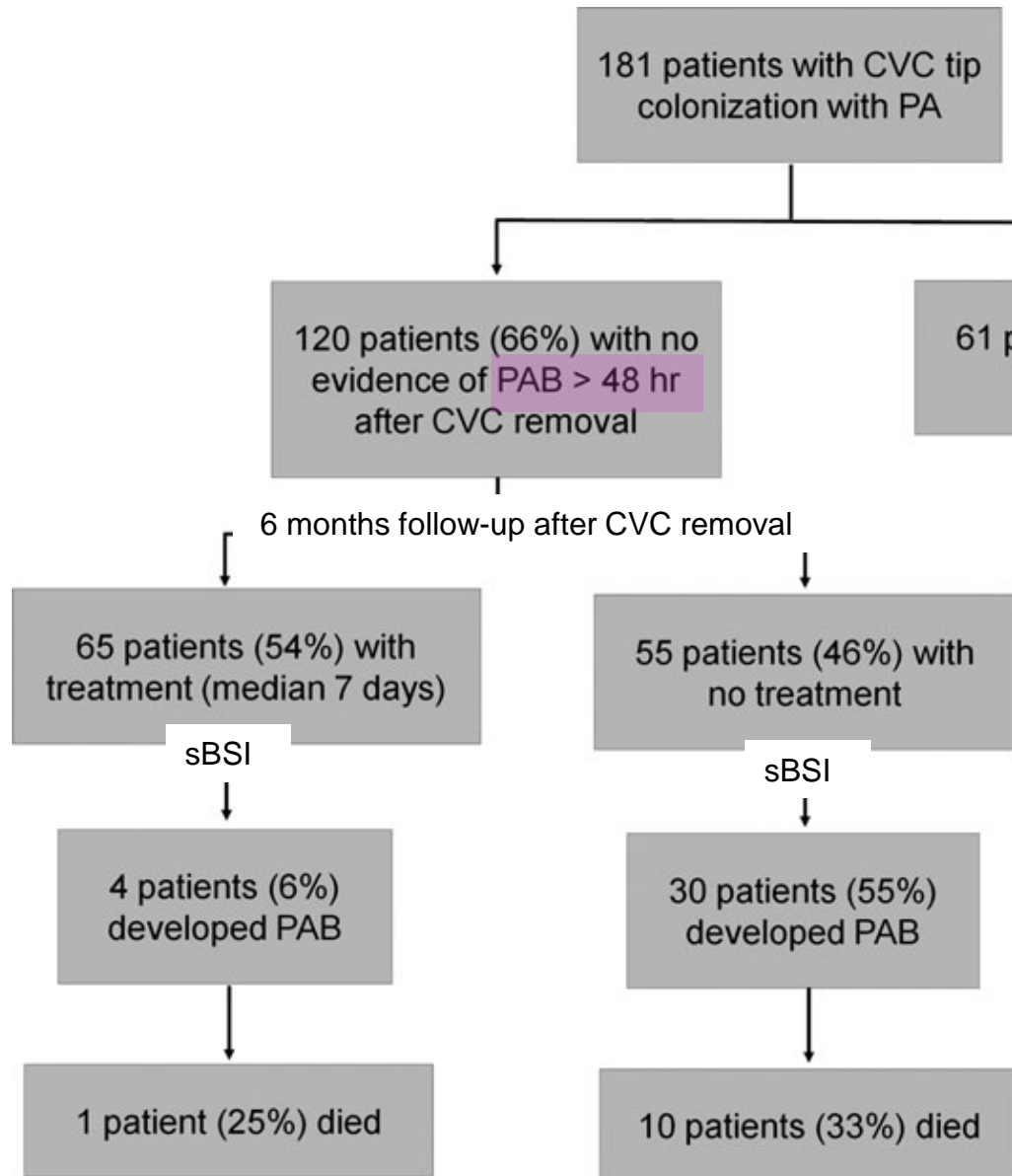
	No subsequent GNB ( <i>n</i> =173)	Subsequent GNB ( <i>n</i> =40)	<i>p</i> -value	OR of difference (95% CI), univariate analysis
Immunosuppressive medication	129 (75)	33 (83)	0.05	0.38 (0.14–1.04)
Jugular vein*	51 (30)	5 (13)	0.05	0.38 (0.14–1.04)
Artery*	8 (5)	7 (18)	0.006	5.02 (1.68–14.99)
PICC	4 (2)	5 (13)	0.04	6.04 (1.54–23.62)
Tunneled	8 (5)	3 (8)	0.46	1.67 (0.42–6.61)
Catheter exit site infection <sup>a</sup>	34 (20)	3 (8)	0.12	0.38 (0.11–1.35)
SIRS	67 (39)	14 (35)	0.40	0.73 (0.36–1.51)
Antibiotic treatment <sup>b</sup>	147 (85)	37 (93)	0.085	5.54 (0.72–42.42)
Appropriate antibiotic treatment 24 h before to 48 h after catheter tip culture	58 (34)	16 (40)	0.44	1.32 (0.65–2.68)
No antibiotic treatment 24 h before to 48 h after catheter tip culture	26 (15)	3 (8)	0.21	0.45 (0.13–1.60)
SDD*	33 (19)	15 (38)	0.012	2.55 (1.21–5.36)

In the multivariate logistic regression analysis,

Arterial catheter (*p* = 0.048, OR = 3.67, 95% CI: 1.01–13.26)

SDD (*p* = 0.033, OR = 2.47, 95% CI: 1.07–5.69)

# CTC with *P.aeruginosa* is associated with a 28% incidence of sBSI



IV antibiotics  $\geq 3$  days for which the isolated strain was susceptible (timing?)

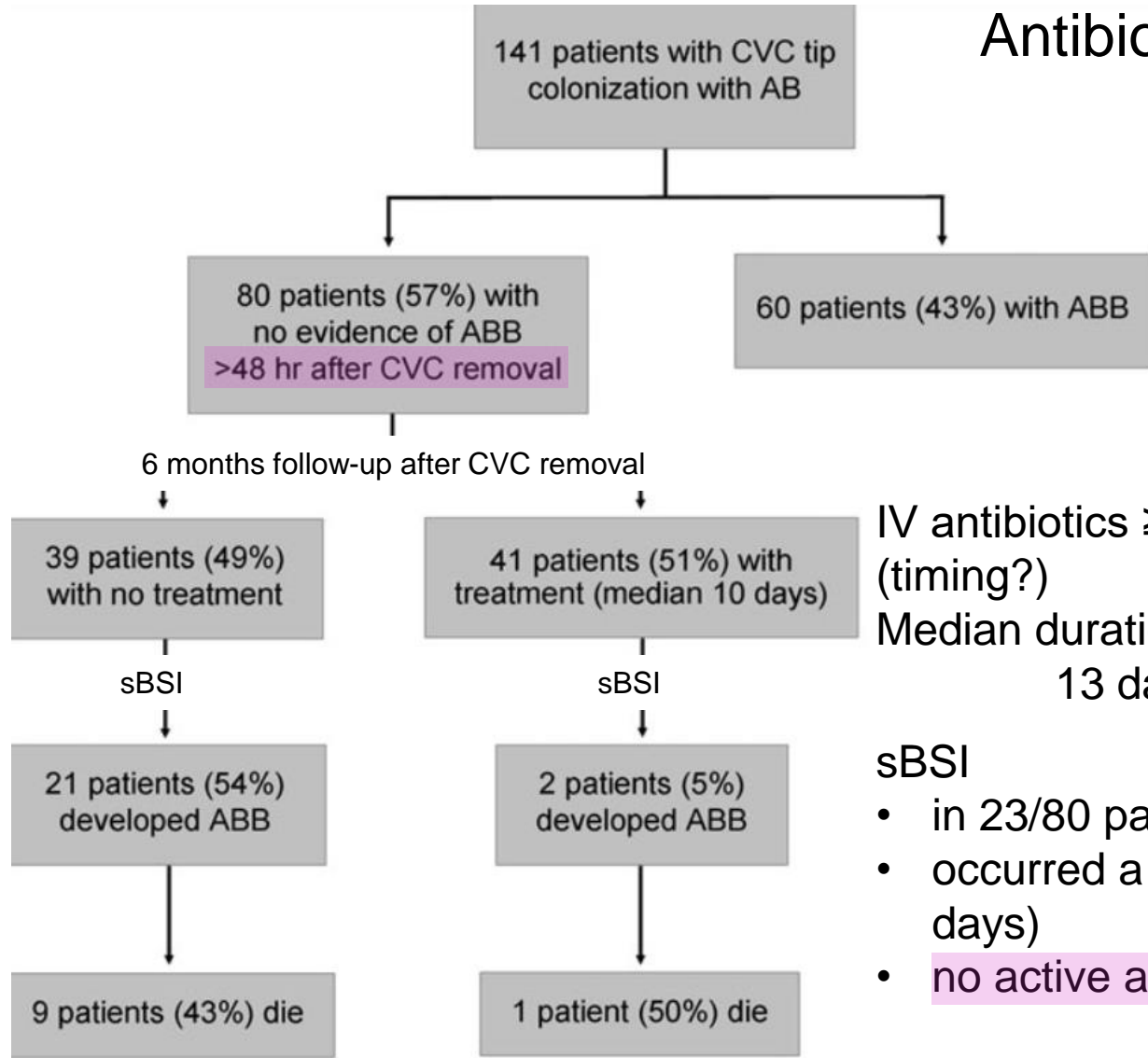
Median duration of catheterization, 16 days with antibiotics vs 15 without ( $P = 0.79$ )

sBSI

- in 34/120 patients (28%),
- occurred a median of 8 days after CVC removal (range, 3–24 days)
- no active Abs, RR = 8.86; 95% CI, 3.3–23.6 ( $P=0.001$ )

# CTC with MDR *A. baumannii* was associated with a 28.8% incidence of sBSI

Antibiotics associated with 91% lower risk of sBSI



IV antibiotics  $\geq 3$  days for which the isolated strain was susceptible (timing?)

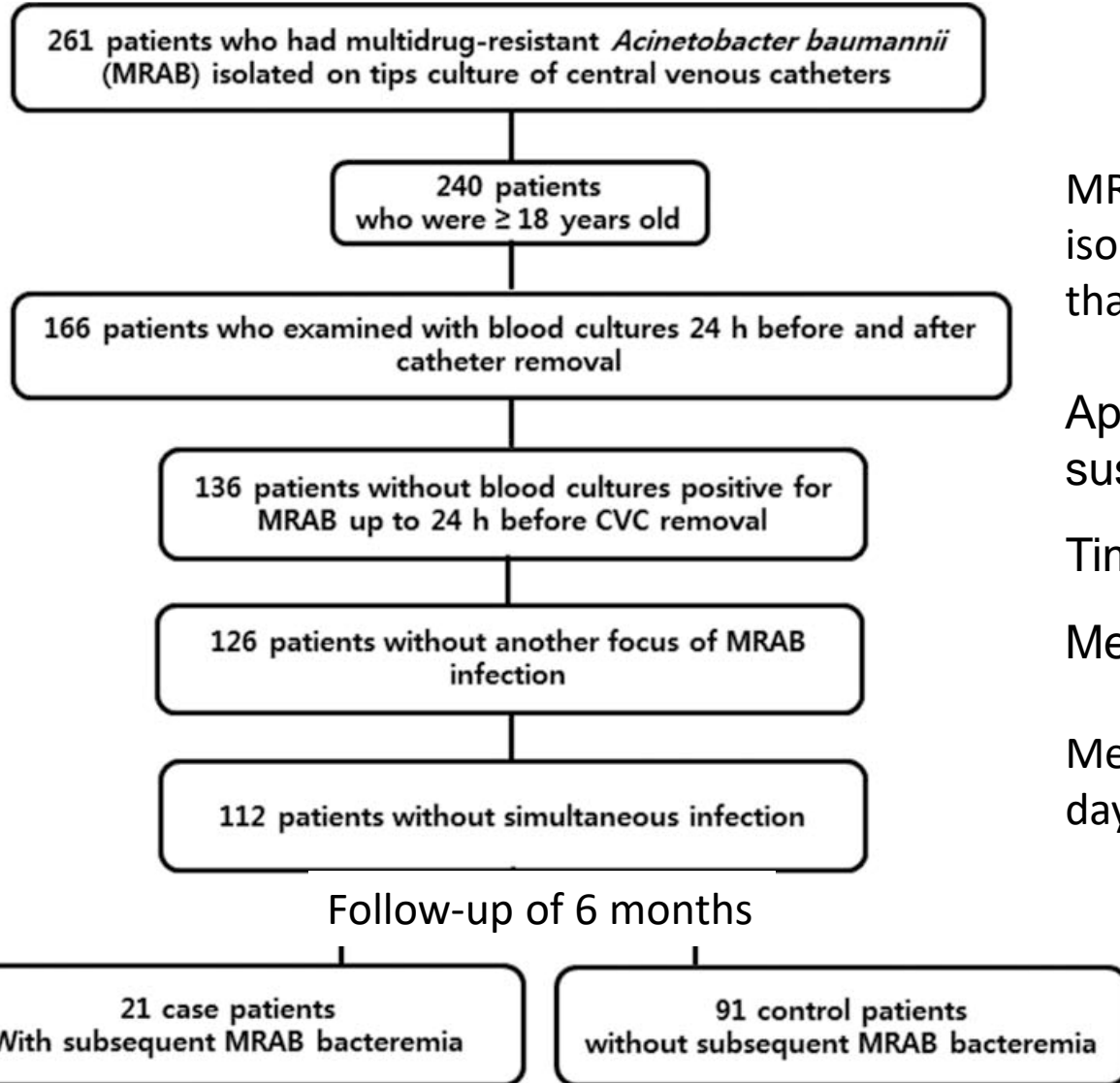
Median duration of catheterization:

13 days with AB vs 12 without (P = 0.79)

sBSI

- in 23/80 patients (28%),
- occurred a median of 10 days after CVC removal (range, 3–30 days)
- no active antibiotics RR = 22.54; 95% CI, 2.7–42.8 (P < 0.001)

# CTC with MDR *A. baumannii* was associated with a 18.8% incidence of sBSI



## ICU setting

MRAB sBSI  $\geq 1$  positive BC **within 6 months of CVC removal** with an isolate that demonstrated an antibiotic resistance pattern identical to that of the CTC

Appropriate Abs, IV ABs  $\geq 3$  days to which the MRAB strain was susceptible

Timing  $\leq 3$  d of removal in 8/112 with ABs

Median duration of catheterization (9 sBSI vs 11 days no-sBSI)

Median time from CVC removal until sBSI = 7.0 days (IQR, 4.0–12.0 days)

# CTC with MDR *A. baumannii* was associated with a 18.8% incidence of sBSI

Table I. Clinical and demographic characteristics of 112 patients with a positive central venous catheter tip culture caused by multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*, without concurrent bacteremia.

Variables <sup>a</sup>	All (N = 112)	No subsequent bacteremia (n = 91, 81.2%)	Subsequent bacteremia (n = 21, 18.8%)	p-Value <sup>b</sup>
Duration of intravascular catheter in situ, days, median	11 (7.0–17.0)	11 (8.0–18.0)	9.0 (7.0–15.0)	0.455
Prior antibiotic use, n (%)	120 (91.1)	81 (89.0)	21 (100)	0.204
Clinical severity at the time of catheter removal				
Catheter exit site infection [6], n (%)	5 (4.5)	4 (4.4)	1 (4.8)	1.000
Systemic inflammatory response syndrome, n (%)	89 (79.5)	68 (74.7)	21 (100)	0.006
APACHE II score, <sup>f</sup> mean (SD)	15.3 (6.6)	15.1 (6.7)	15.9 (6.1)	0.647
Laboratory results at the time of catheter removal				
C-reactive protein, mg/l, median (IQR)	15.7 (6.7–51.3)	14.5 (6.5–42.7)	91.7 (51.4–254.3)	0.010
WBC > 12,000/μl, n (%)	39 (34.8)	30 (33.0)	9 (42.9)	0.391
Albumin < 3.0 mg/dl, n (%)	71 (63.4)	59 (64.8)	12 (57.1)	0.510
Antibiotic treatment for CVC tip colonization caused by MRAB, n (%)				
Antibiotic treatment	8 (7.1)	6 (6.6)	2 (9.5)	0.643

# CTC with MDR *A. baumannii* was associated with a 18.8% incidence of sBSI

Table II. Multivariable Firth logistic regression analysis of predictive factors associated with subsequent bacteremia due to multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*.<sup>a</sup>

Variables	OR	95% CI	<i>p</i> -Value
Gender, male sex	3.16	0.95–10.49	0.061
C-reactive protein $\geq 40$ mg/l	18.11	2.22–148.07	0.007
Prior receipt of carbapenems	7.04	1.43–34.77	0.017
Prior receipt of corticosteroids	6.67	1.19–37.44	0.031
Prior MRAB colonization at a site other than the catheter	0.10	0.03–0.39	0.001

**R3.12—The duration of the antibiotic therapy for documented catheter colonization without bacteremia depends on the species identified and the clinical setting in which the catheter was removed.**

**No treatment is required in the absence of signs of infection**

**The clinical surveillance, with blood cultures even in the absence of fever, is required in the case of colonization by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and other non-fermenting Gram-negative bacilli**

<b>Catheter removed in a context of fever and positive microbiology</b>	<b>Antibiotics and duration</b>
<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , enterococci, coagulase-negative <i>Staphylococcus</i>	
Negative blood culture	No antibiotics <sup>a</sup>
Positive blood culture with no distant complications	7 days
Positive blood culture with remote complications	4 to 6 weeks
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	
Negative blood culture	3–5 days <sup>a</sup>
Positive blood culture with no distant complications	7 days
Positive blood culture with distant complications	4 to 6 weeks

Isolated CTC with *Candida spp* and sBSI



# Candidemic complications in patients with intravascular catheters colonized with *Candida* species: an indication for preemptive antifungal therapy?

	Definite candidemia ( <i>n</i> = 3) <i>n</i> (%) or median (range)	No definite candidemia ( <i>n</i> = 65) <i>n</i> (%) or median (range)
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Definite, N=3 (4%)  
 Concomitant candidemia (N=2); Day +1  
 Subsequent candidemia, N= 1 (Day 5)

5 cases of possible IC

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Unit at time of catheter removal

ICU	2 (67)	43 (66)
Systemic antifungal therapy	3 (100)	24 (37)
Total duration, days <sup>a</sup>	19 (14–44)	13 (2–41)
Start, days after catheter removal <sup>a</sup>	4 (3–6)	2 (0–9)
Stop, days after catheter removal <sup>a</sup>	25 (17–48)	15 (1–43)
Adequate therapy <sup>a</sup>	3 (100)	24 (100)
Adequate dose <sup>a</sup>	2 (67)	22 (92)
Catheter time in situ, days <sup>b</sup>	17 (8–665)	8 (1–23)
Time in situ >8 days	2 (67)	21 (38)
Time in situ >10 days	2 (67)	15 (27)

CTC with *Candida spp* and without preceding candidemia associated with 4% of subsequent definite candidemia and with up to 12% of combined definite and possible candidemia, invasive candidiasis without positive BC (EORTC)

Is *Candida* colonization of central vascular catheters in non-candidemic, non-neutropenic patients an indication for antifungals?

215 patients with CTC with *Candida* species

- **Study population, N=58;** CTC with *Candida spp* and no concomitant candidemia, 7 days before or after CVC withdrawal
- Exclusion, N = 157, including 64 concomitant BSI and 14 with antifungal therapy initiated before CVC withdrawal

Follow-up period, 2.3 (0.5–6.6) months;

Poor outcome, sBSI or mortality

- Mortality, 25/58 (43.1%); in-hospital mortality, 18/58, (31.0%).
- Candidemia, N=1 ( 1.7%)

Independent predictors for poor outcome (multivariate analysis)

- Ultimately fatal underlying disease: OR 11.98; 95% CI, 1.37–104.97; (P = 0.025)
- Maximum severity reached before CVC removal (severe sepsis, septic shock, MOF: OR 6.16; 95% CI, 1.00–37.93; (P=0.05)

# Clinical significance of *Candida* colonization of intravascular catheters in the absence of documented candidemia

CVC tip culture yielding  $\geq 15$  cfu/ml of *Candida spp.* AND

No concomitant blood culture (48 h before to 48 h after CVC removal) either taken or negative for *Candida spp.*

Subsequent candidemia defined as  $\geq 1$  blood culture obtained **48 h after CVC removal**

122 patients with CVC tip culture positive for *Candida spp.*

Exclusion :

- 66 (54.1%) concomitant candidemia
- 16 (13.1%) insufficient clinical data

The final cohort therefore consisted of 40 patients, concomitant blood cultures in 27

Follow-up ?

# Clinical significance of Candida colonization of intravascular catheters in the absence of documented candidemia (sBSI > 48 hrs after CVC removal)

Variable	Overall (N = 40)	Good outcome (n = 21)	Poor outcome (n = 19)	P value <sup>a</sup>
Species distribution				NS
<i>C. albicans</i>	29 (72.5%)	16 (76.2%)	13 (68.4%)	
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	7 (17.5%)	4 (19.1%)	3 (15.8%)	
<i>C. glabrata</i>	3 (7.5%)	1 (4.8%)	2 (10.5%)	
<i>C. guilliermondii</i>	1 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.3%)	
Clinical signs at the time of IVC removal				
Temperature >38 °C	25 (62.5%)	12 (57.1%)	13 (68.4%)	NS
IVC exit site infection	5 (12.5%)	4 (19.1%)	1 (5.3%)	0.20
Severity reached at the time of IVC removal				
Sepsis	9 (22.5%)	3 (14.3%)	6 (31.6%)	0.26
Septic shock	8 (20.0%)	3 (14.3%)	5 (26.3%)	NS
Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome	4 (10.0%)	1 (4.8%)	3 (15.8%)	NS
ICU admission	24	12 (57.1%)	12 (63.1%)	NS
Antifungal therapy	22 (55.0%)	10 (47.6%)	12 (63.1%)	NS
Days of treatment, mean ± SD	14.0 ± 4.4	13.2 ± 4.1	14.7 ± 4.7	NS
Type of antifungal				NS
Fluconazole	19 (47.5%)	10 (47.6%)	9 (47.4%)	
Voriconazole	1 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.3%)	
Echinocandin	2 (5.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (10.5%)	

## Poor outcome

Overall mortality, 16/40 (40%)

No death attributed to Candida spp. infection.

2 patients with abdominal abscess due to *C. albicans*.

1 (2.5%) - /27 with concomitant blood cultures obtained - developed a metastatic complication attributable to a transient, occult episode of candidemia (chorioretinitis) = possible candidemia

No (definite) subsequent candidemia!

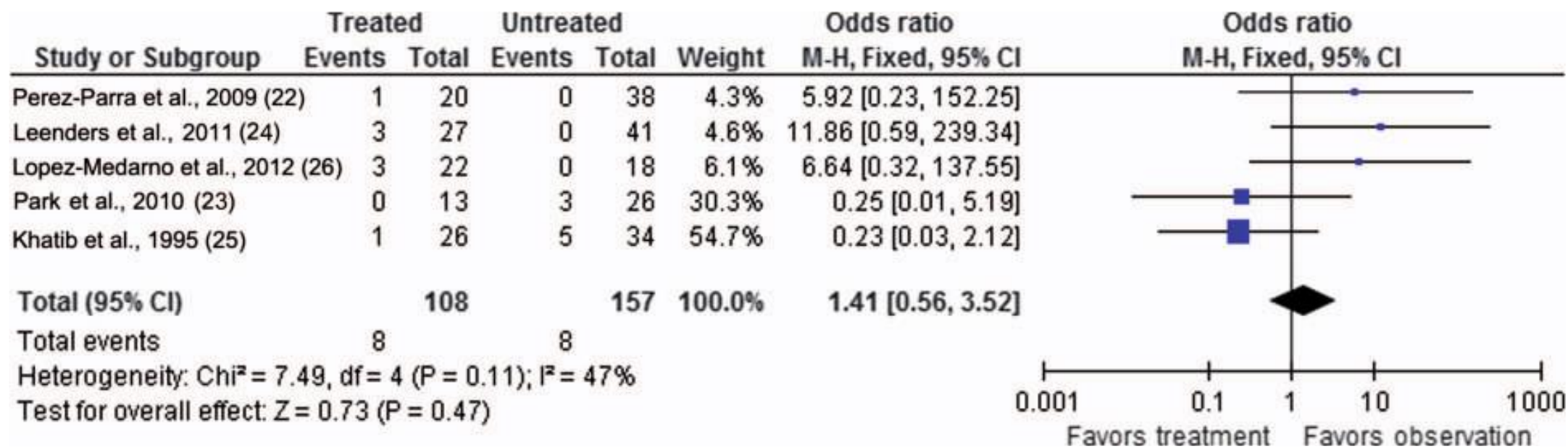


Figure 2. Forest plot of antifungal therapy or catheter colonization and outcome (invasive candidiasis). ‘Events’ includes patients with invasive candidiasis and ‘Total’ includes the patients with candidiasis plus those without candidiasis.

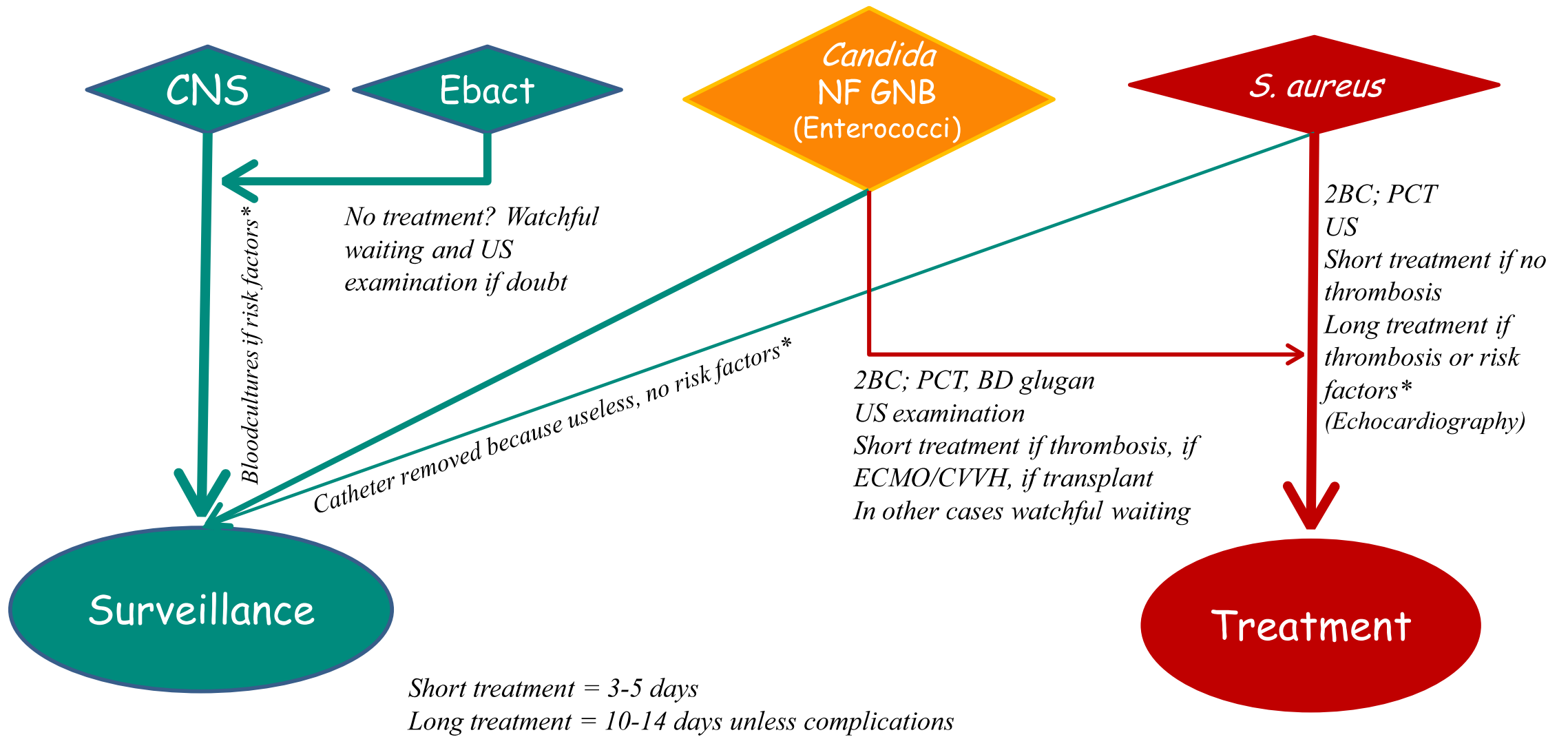
R3.12—The duration of the antibiotic therapy for documented catheter colonization without bacteremia depends on the species identified and the clinical setting in which the catheter was removed.

No treatment is required in the absence of signs of infection.

The clinical surveillance, with blood cultures even in the absence of fever, is required in the case of colonization by *Candida spp*

**Table 3 Unexplained fever, catheter removed and positive microbiology (EXPERT OPINION)**

Catheter removed in a context of fever and positive microbiology	Antibiotics and duration
<i>Staphylococcus aureus, Candida spp.</i>	
Negative blood culture	3–5 days
Positive blood culture with no remote complications	14 days
Positive blood culture with remote complications	4 to 6 weeks



\*Risk factors: implantable devices or immunosuppression

# Conclusion

The rate of sBSI in patients with CTC is very low

The risk of subsequent bacteremia in patients in whom a colonized CVC was removed depends on several factors, including

- Immunocompromized status
- Thrombosis of the catheterized vein
- Microbial species
- Probably the magnitude of the inoculum

Complementary studies are required to establish an adequate policy in these patients





Antibiotics for documented catheter colonization without bacteraemia depends on the species identified and the clinical setting in which the catheter was removed.

The experts suggest the following:

a. no treatment is required in the absence of signs of infection

However, the **clinical surveillance, with blood cultures** even in the absence of fever, is required in the case of colonisation by *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Candida spp.*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and other non-fermenting Gram-negative bacilli.

b. When the catheter was removed in a context of unexplained sepsis:

- b-1 In the case of colonisation by *S. aureus*, *Candida spp.* or non-fermenting Gram-negative bacilli, the total duration of **treatment should be 3 to 5 days**, in the absence of bacteraemia or complications.
- b-2 In the case of colonisation by coagulase-negative *Staphylococci* or enterobacteria: no antibiotic therapy is required.

**Table 3 Unexplained fever, catheter removed and positive microbiology (EXPERT OPINION)**

Catheter removed in a context of fever and positive microbiology	Antibiotics and duration
<i>Staphylococcus aureus, Candida spp.</i>	
Negative blood culture	3–5 days
Positive blood culture with no remote complications	14 days
Positive blood culture with remote complications	4 to 6 weeks
<i>Enterobacteriaceae, enterococci, coagulase-negative Staphylococcus</i>	
Negative blood culture	No antibiotics <sup>a</sup>
Positive blood culture with no distant complications	7 days
Positive blood culture with remote complications	4 to 6 weeks
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	
Negative blood culture	3–5 days <sup>a</sup>
Positive blood culture with no distant complications	7 days
Positive blood culture with distant complications	4 to 6 weeks

<sup>a</sup> These proposals are based on poor-quality epidemiological data and are only presented as a guide. They must be modulated according to the presence of signs of clinical sepsis, intravascular devices, and underlying immunosuppression