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### Brief communication: treatment of Enterococcus faecalis endocarditis with ampicillin plus ceftriaxone.

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Comment in:

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Summary for patients in:

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#### Abstract

**BACKGROUND:** High-level aminoglycoside resistance (HLAR) that precludes bactericidal synergism with penicillins or glycopeptides and nephrotoxicity related to aminoglycoside treatment are major problems in treating *Enterococcus faecalis* endocarditis.

**OBJECTIVE:** To evaluate the efficacy and safety of ampicillin plus ceftriaxone for treating endocarditis due to *E. faecalis* with and without HLAR.

**DESIGN:** Observational, open-label, nonrandomized, multicenter clinical trial.

**SETTING:** 13 centers in Spain.

**PATIENTS:** 21 patients with HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis and 22 patients with non-HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis. All were at risk for nephrotoxicity related to aminoglycoside use.

**INTERVENTION:** 6-week course of intravenous ampicillin, 2 g every 4 hours, plus intravenous ceftriaxone, 2 g every 12 hours.

**MEASUREMENTS:** Clinical and microbiological outcomes.

**RESULTS:** The clinical cure rate at 3 months was 67.4% (29 of 43 patients) among all episodes. During treatment, 28.6% of patients with HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis and 18.2% of patients with non-HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis died of infection-related causes. The rate of clinical and microbiological cure in patients who completed the protocol was 100% in the HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis group. No episodes of breakthrough bacteremia occurred, although there were 2 relapses in the non-HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis group. Treatment was withdrawn in 1 case because of fever and skin rash.

**LIMITATIONS:** The study had a small sample and was observational.

**CONCLUSION:** The combination of ampicillin and ceftriaxone is effective and safe for treating HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis and could be a reasonable alternative for patients with non-HLAR *E. faecalis* endocarditis who are at increased risk for nephrotoxicity.

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Publication Types, MeSH Terms, Substances

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