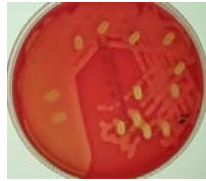


# Maternal group A streptococcal infections

Shiranee Sriskandan  
Imperial College London



Cellulitis

Pneumonia

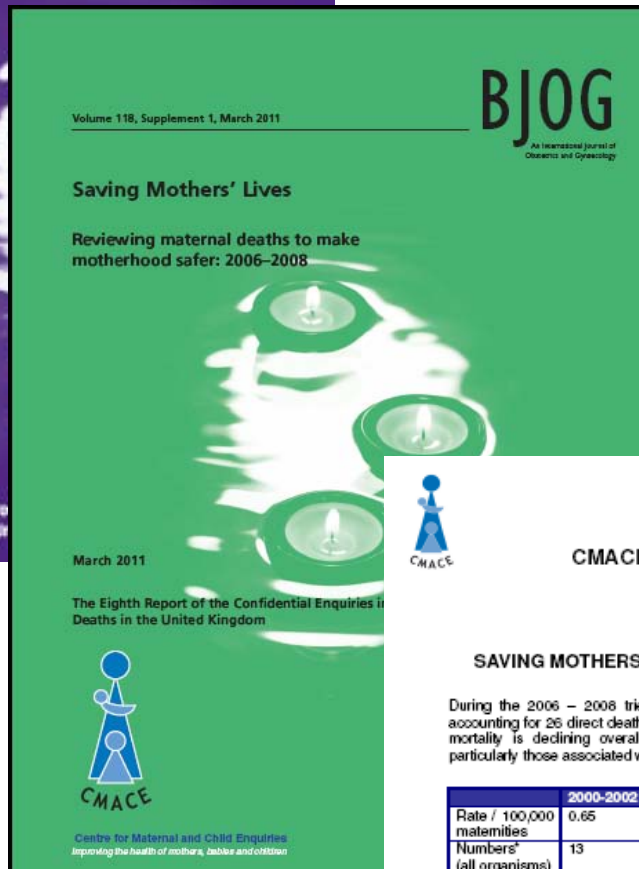
Bacteremia

Necrotising  
fasciitis

Peripartum  
sepsis

Toxic shock  
STSS

- Maternal invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) infection
  - Context
  - Pathophysiology (microbiology, immunology)
  - Recognition & management (antibiotics, IVIG)
  - Preventing nosocomial maternal GAS



“..Sepsis has become the leading cause of Direct maternal deaths in the UK since Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths commenced in 1952”

Linked with increase in Group A Streptococcal infections



Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries  
Improving the health of mothers, babies and children

CMACE EMERGENT THEME BRIEFING  
#1: Genital Tract Sepsis  
September 2010

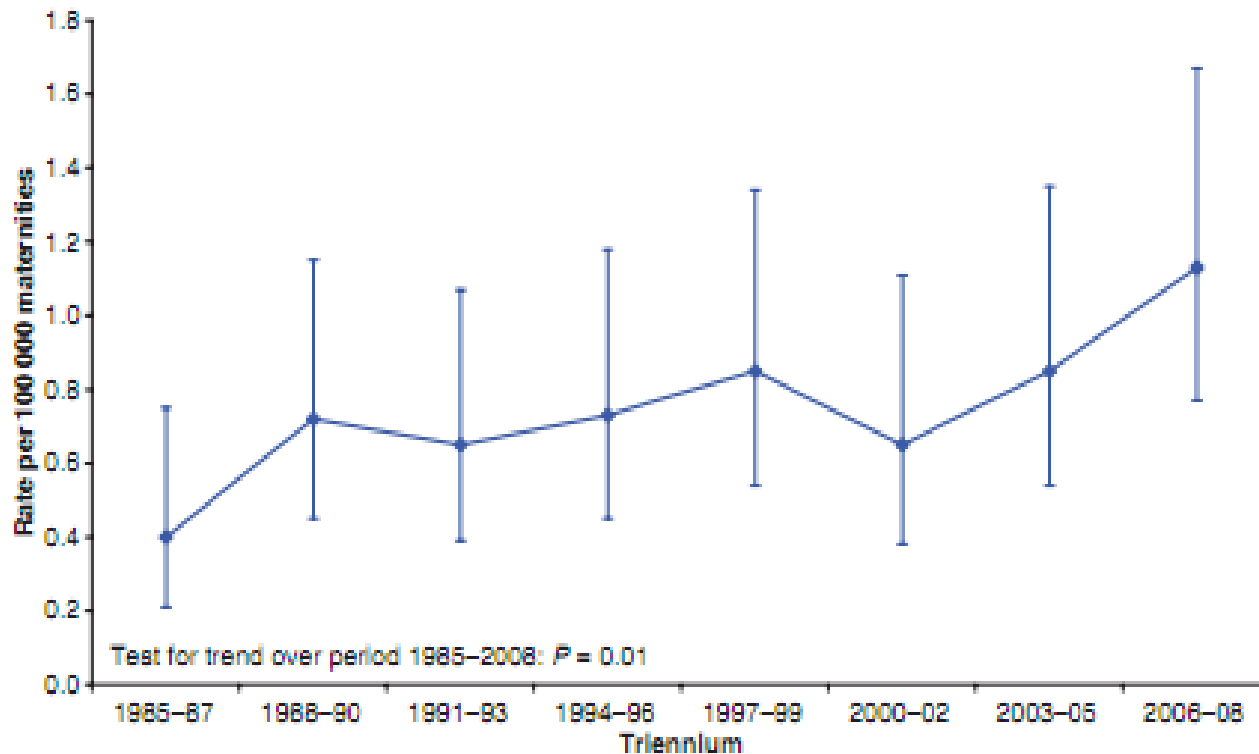
SAVING MOTHERS' LIVES 2006-08: Briefing on genital tract sepsis

During the 2006 – 2008 triennium, sepsis was the leading cause of direct maternal deaths, accounting for 26 direct deaths and a further 3 deaths classified as 'Late Direct'. Whilst maternal mortality is declining overall, maternal deaths due to sepsis have risen in recent triennia, particularly those associated with Gp A streptococcal infection (GAS):

	2000-2002	2003-2005	2006-2008
Rate / 100,000 maternities	0.65	0.95	1.13
Numbers* (all organisms)	13	21	29
Numbers* (GAS)	3	8	13

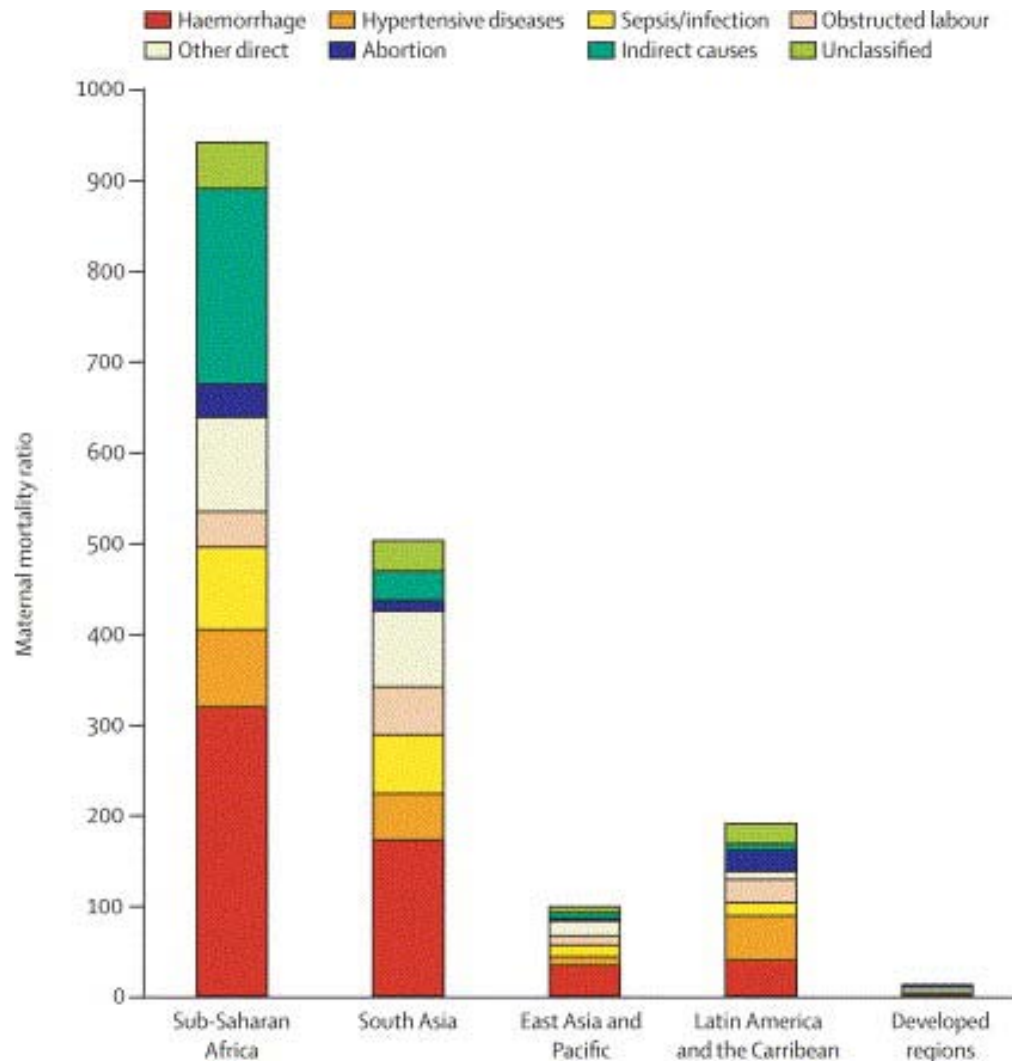
\*: Direct and indirect maternal deaths together

# The current increase in maternal deaths due to sepsis in the UK



Source: CMACE. Saving Mothers' Lives: reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer: 2006-08. The Eighth Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in the United Kingdom. BJOG 2011;118(Suppl. 1):1-203.

# Peripartum sepsis: the international context



# Microbiological context

## Severe maternal sepsis/deaths

Group A streptococcus	>50%
Staphylococcus aureus	10-15%
Strep pneumoniae	2-5%
Clostridium spp.	2-5%
E. coli	20-30%
Pseudomonas	2-10%
Klebsiella spp	2-5%
Acinetobacter etc	2-5%

## Bacteremia

Group B streptococcus  
Group A streptococcus  
E.coli, S. aureus, Listeria

## Endometritis

### Gram positive

Groups A, B, D streptococci  
Staphylococcus aureus

### Gram negative

Escherichia coli, Enterobacteriaceae  
Citrobacter, Pseudomonas aeruginosa,  
Proteus mirabilis  
Haemophilus , Gardnerella vaginalis

### Anaerobes

Peptostreptococcus sp., Bacteroides  
Clostridium spp, Fusobacterium

### Miscellaneous

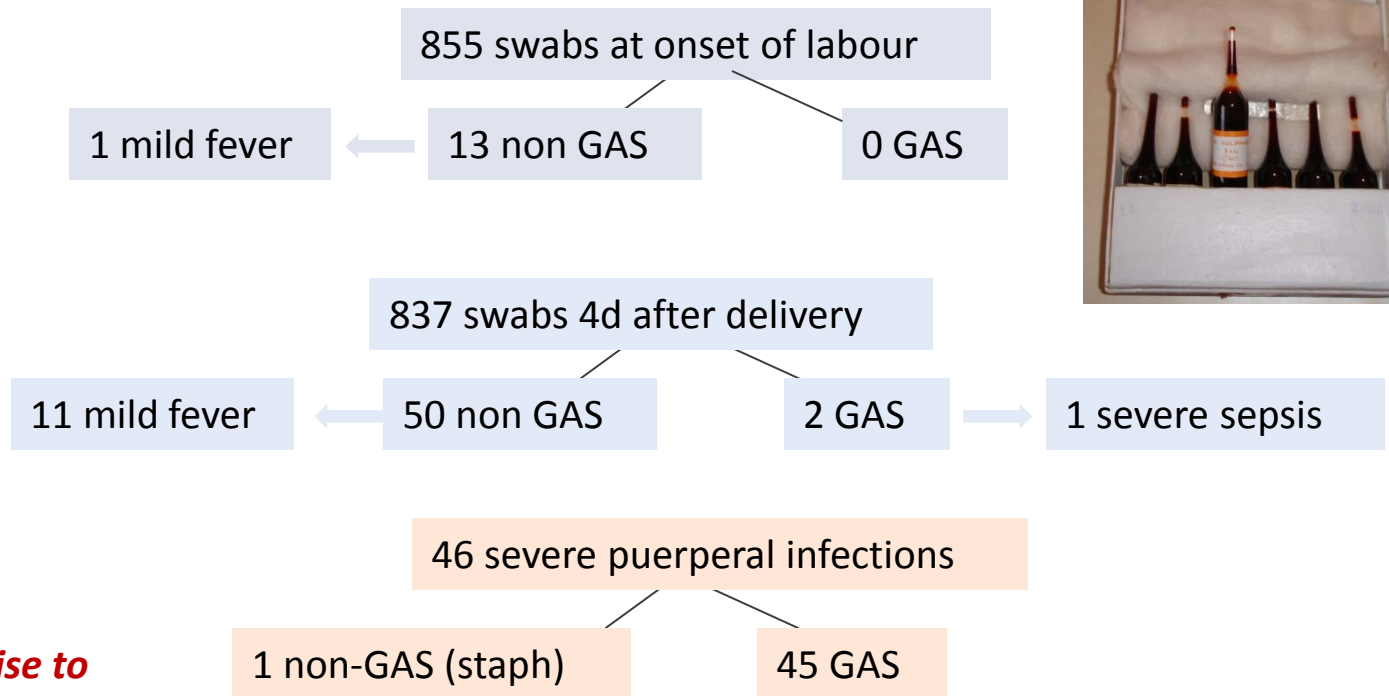
Chlamydia trachomatis  
Mycoplasma hominis  
Ureaplasma urealyticum

# Excess risk of iGAS in peripartum women

- **USA** Deutscher et al Clin Infect Dis. 2011;53:114-23 . Postpartum women have specific x20-fold risk of GAS and GBS bacteremia .
- **E&W**: 52 cases of severe iGAS in postpartum women in 2009
- Overall risk >120 times higher in 28d postpartum period (and >28 times higher if genital infection is excluded) compared to 15-44y women who had not recently delivered a child. (Lamagni et al, XVIII Lancefield Symposium, 2011, Palermo.)
- **Reasons for excess risk unknown**
  - Contact with young children
  - Sore throat in self/near family
  - ?GAS-specific immunological defect
  - Unlikely due to antenatal carriage

# Does antenatal carriage of GAS lead to post natal sepsis? Colebrook's 1933-4 study

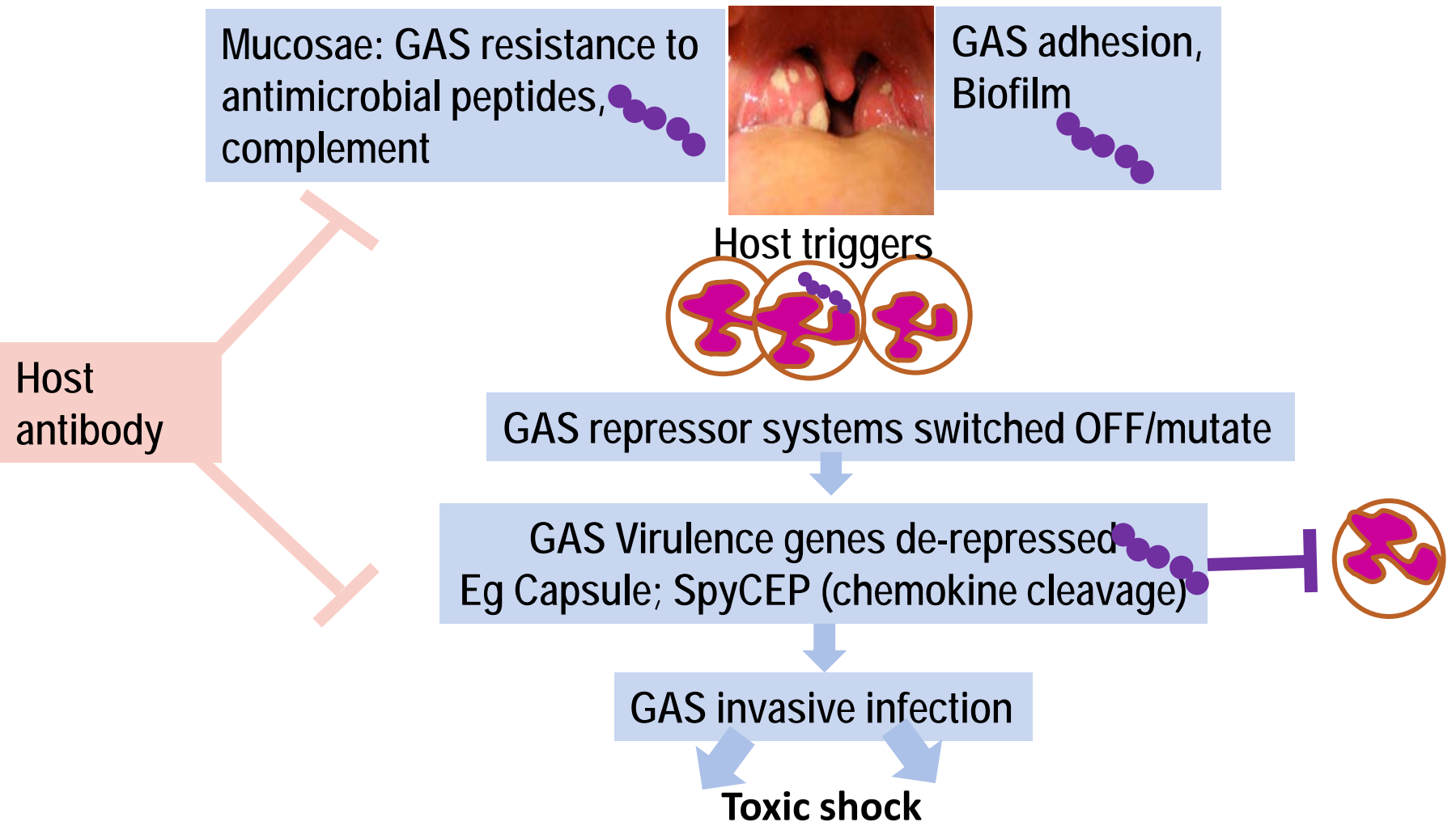
Incidence of puerperal sepsis approx 30 per 1000 births



***The strains that give rise to puerperal fever are rarely if ever present in the genital tract at the start of labour***



# Looking for a GAS-specific immunological defect in pregnancy and puerperium



# Case

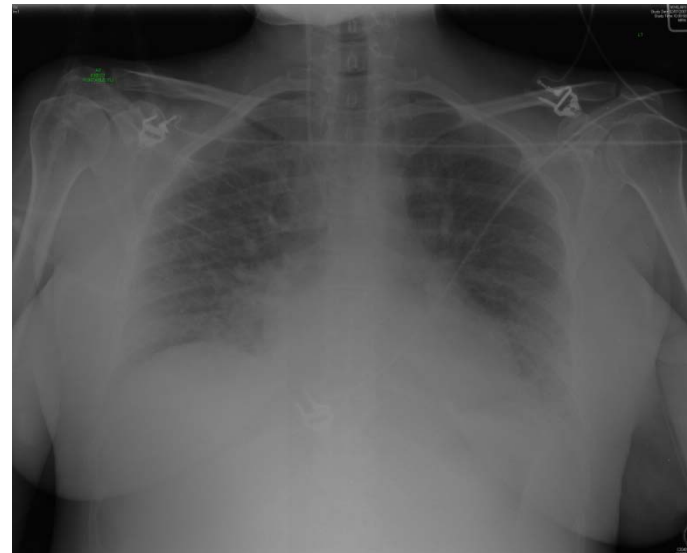
- 39 year old primagravid, caucasian
- Presented to local emergency dept
- Flu-like illness, diarrhoea 36h
- NVD healthy infant 6d earlier
  
- Clinical signs of severe sepsis
  - HR 130, RR32, BP 86/50; mottling of skin
- Investigations
  - Hb 14.5, plt 94, wcc 6.2; CRP 685; PT 15.2, APTT 39.6

# Management

- As for severe sepsis (surviving sepsis guidance)
- Early goal-directed therapy; ICU
- Antibiotics for community-acq sepsis of unknown cause (ceftriaxone)

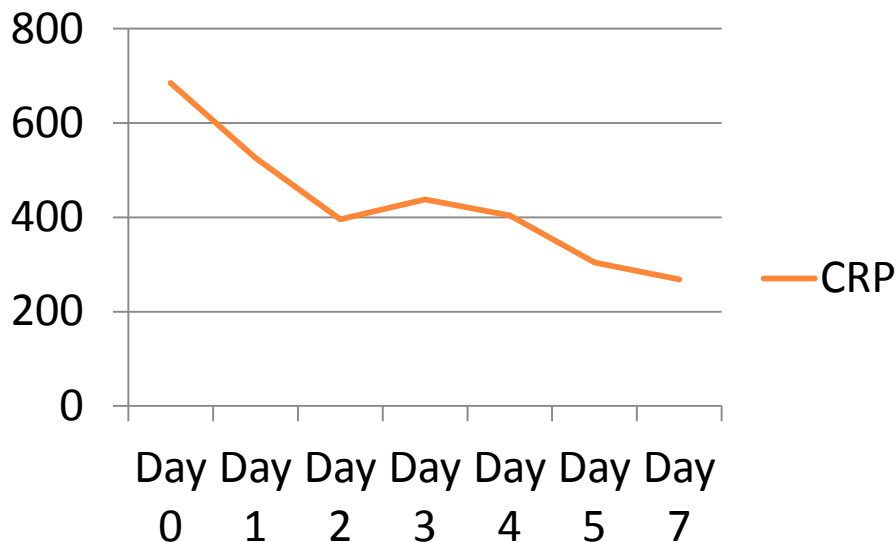
- PT            15.2 – 17 - 18.9
- APTT        39.6 - 43.6 -51

- Increasing hypoxia
- Increasing pain L foot



# Progress on ICU

- Severe sepsis -DIC, shock
- MRI L. foot : nec. fasciitis
- **Clindamycin** added
- Further deterioration
- Transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> ICU with obstetric and plastic surgery units on site
- Eventual recovery after debridements



## Microbiology

HVS (d1)	3+ Group A strep
HVS (d2)	2+ Group A strep
Blood (d1)	No growth

? **Genital tract as portal of entry**

# Foci of peripartum iGAS infection

**USA** (Chuang et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2002;  
35:665-70)

Focus	No.	(% )
Bacteremia without focus	40	(46)
Endometritis	24	(28)
Peritonitis	7	(8)
Septic abortion	6	(7)
Cellulitis	3	(3)
Septic arthritis	3	(3)
Necrotizing fasciitis	3	(3)
Strept toxic shock	3	(3)
Chorioamnionitis	3	(3)
Pneumonia	1	(1)
Abscesses	0	(0)
Others*	3	(3)

\*Meningitis, thrombophlebitis, and septic emboli.

# Recognition of peripartum GAS sepsis

## SIGNS

- Pyrexia OR Hypothermia
- Tachycardia
- Tachypnoea (RR>20)
- Diarrhoea
- Pain (variable degree- opiate req.)
- (Vaginal discharge/abnormal lochia)

THINK of possibility

Not all postpartum sepsis is genital tract

May present to any team

Any other focus?

## TESTS

- Leucopenia
- Raised CRP
- Raised lactate/low pH
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Coagulopathy

# Recognition of illness severity

CHAPTER 19 ANNEX A  
OBSTETRIC EARLY WARNING CHART. **FOR MATERNITY USE ONLY**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF: \_\_\_\_\_ WARD: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT DOCTOR FOR EARLY INTERVENTION IF PATIENT TRIGGERS ONE OR MORE THAN YELLOW SCORES AT ANY ONE TIME

Time	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
HR (bpm)	50-100	100-110	110-120	120-130	130-140	140-150	150-160	160-170	170-180	180-190	190-200	200-210	210-220	220-230	230-240	240-250	250-260	260-270	270-280	280-290	290-300	300-310	310-320	320-330	330-340
BP (mmHg)	90/60	90/70	90/80	90/90	90/100	90/110	90/120	90/130	90/140	90/150	90/160	90/170	90/180	90/190	90/200	90/210	90/220	90/230	90/240	90/250	90/260	90/270	90/280	90/290	90/300
SpO2 (%)	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116
Lactate (mmol/L)	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
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Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	
Urea (mmol/L)	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	
CRP (mg/L)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	
WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Prothrombin Time (sec)	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	
APTT (sec)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75															

# Empiric management of peripartum infection

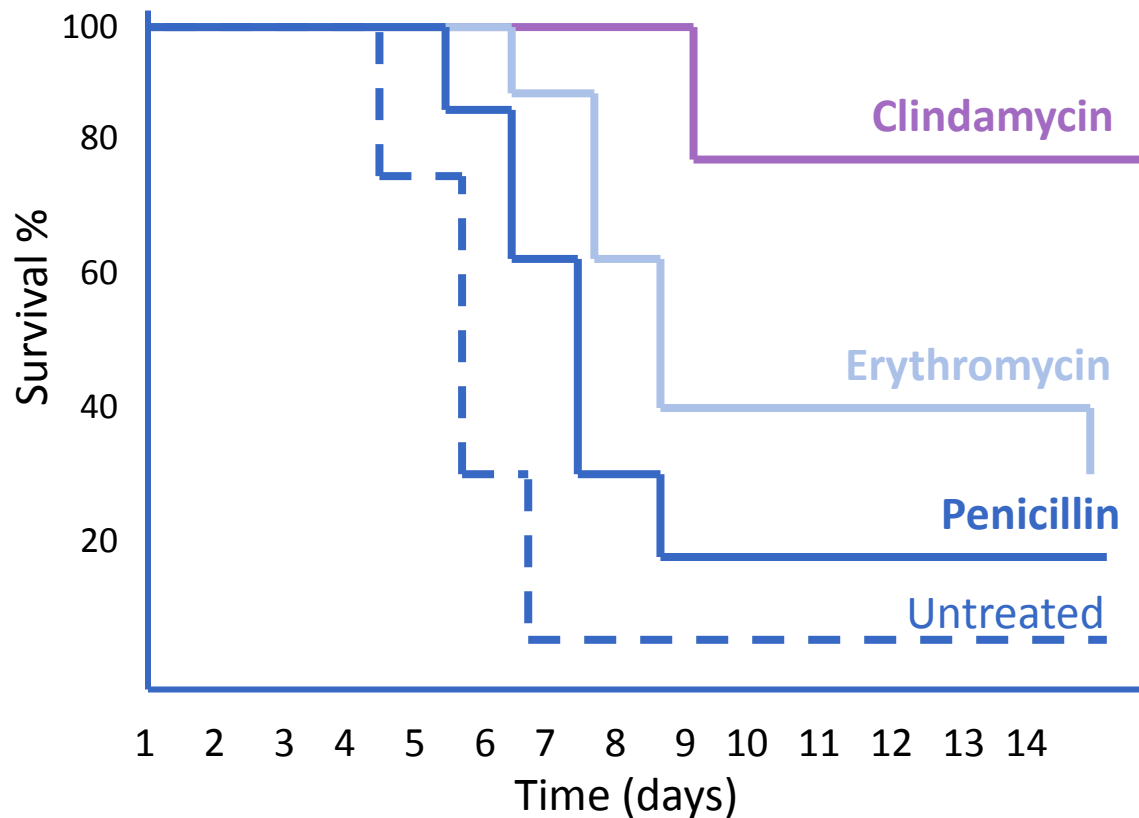
- Antibiotics as early as possible (<1h) i.v. full dose
  - **MODERATE** Co-amoxiclav (plus metronidazole)
  - OR Cefuroxime (plus metronidazole)
  - OR if ESBL risk Carbapenem
  
  - **SEVERE:** Piperacillin/Tazobactam/gent or Carbapenem  
CLINDAMYCIN,  
IVIG if group A strep likely  
(cover MRSA if screening +ve)
- Cultures beforehand (blood), also HVS, throat, urine
- Refine antibiotics once culture results known
- Source control, repeat imaging if swinging pyrexia
- Supportive care – fluids (cvp, catheter), oxygen, ICU- Rpt physiology and bloods
- Infection control- side room (nb iGAS is notifiable in UK)

RCOG guidelines 2012

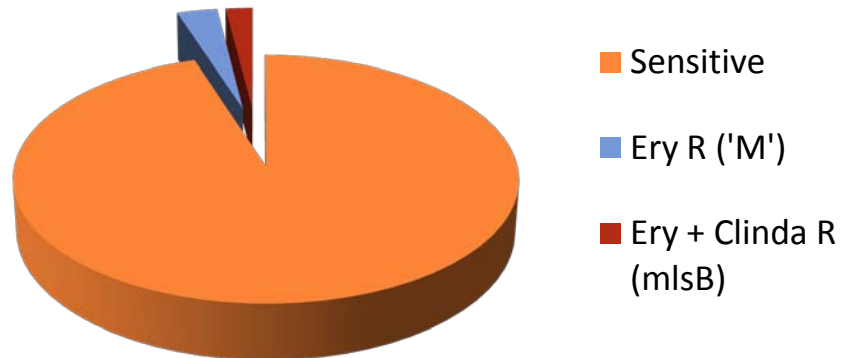


## Rationale for use of clindamycin: toxin inhibition and enhancement of bacterial clearance

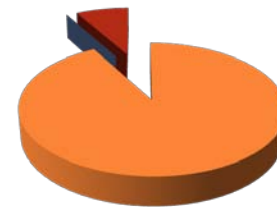
Data: in vivo (MOUSE) models of iGAS SSTI but no RCT



# Macrolide and lincosamide resistance UK...

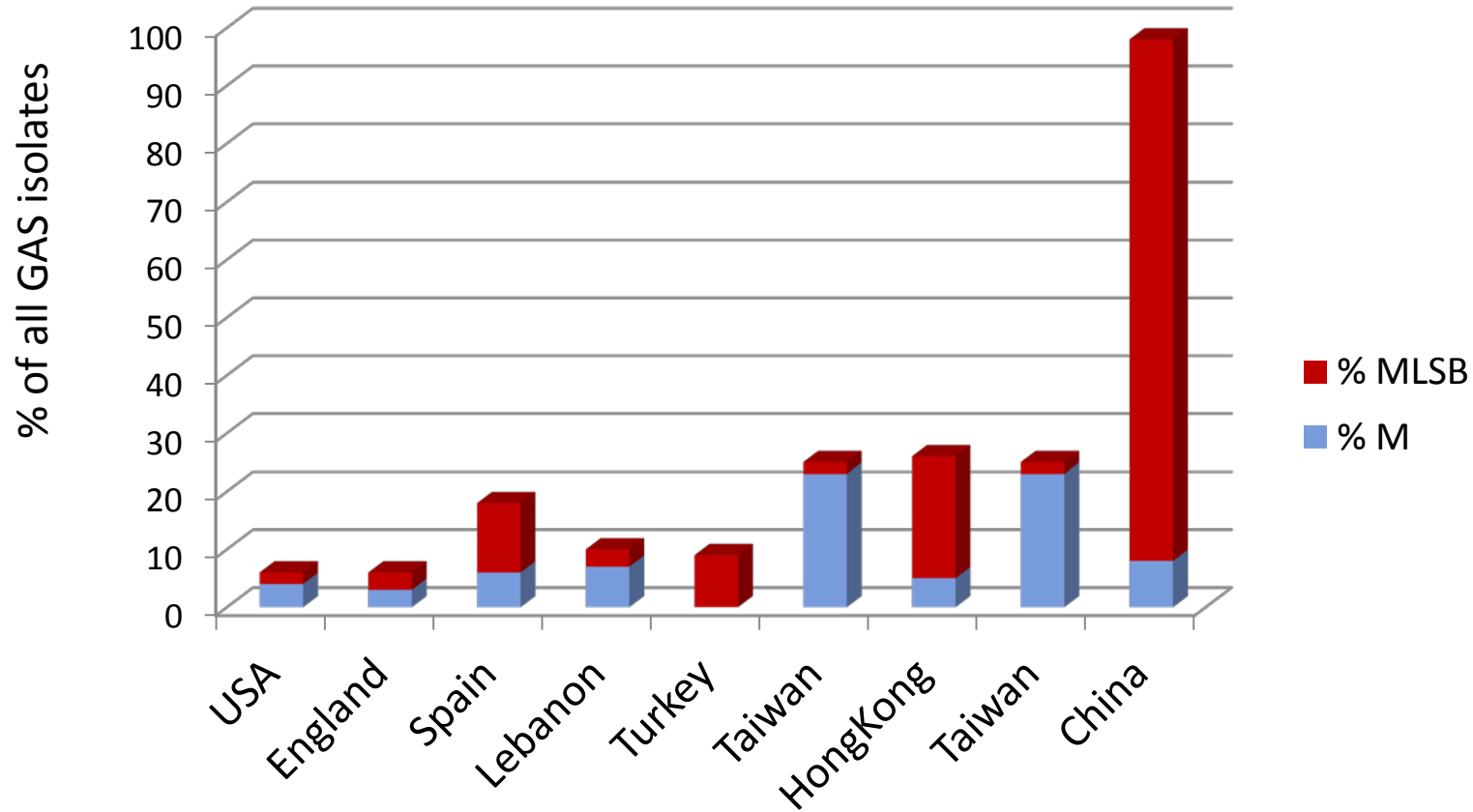


**Group A Strep 4% clinda R**



**Group A Strep  
2010: London 8%**

# But may be problematic elsewhere



Extracted from individual published studies 2008-2011

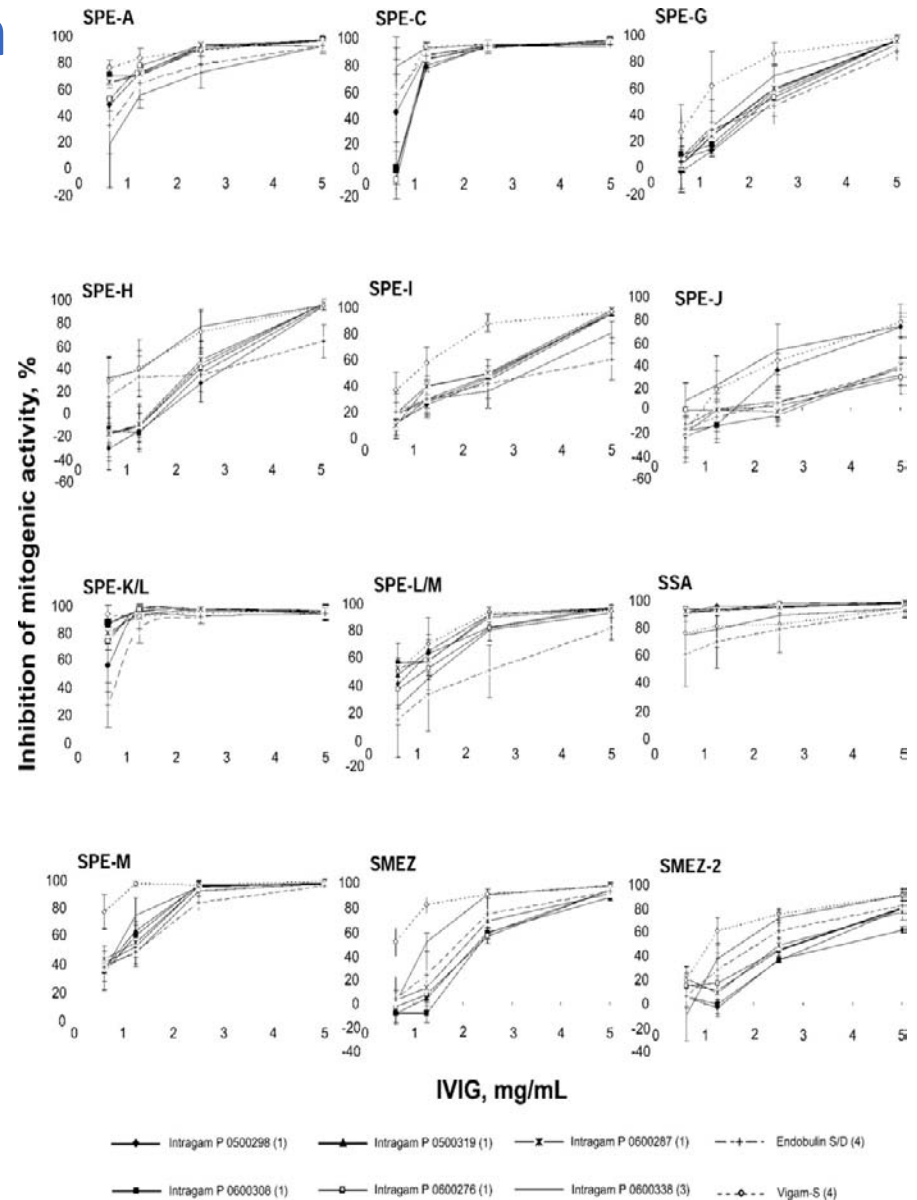
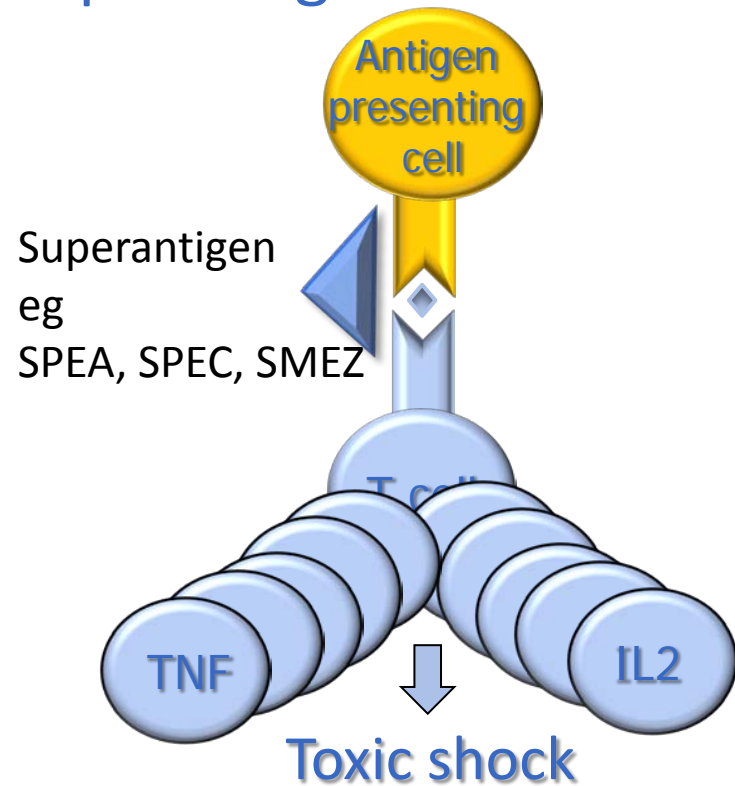
Specific Emm types associated with emergence of MLSB phenotype eg emm12 and 22 in China

# Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg)

- Purified IgG from pooled donors
- Screened for HIV, HBV and HCV
  - Concerns about risks of Prion disease transmission-supply
- >97% monomeric IgG
- Products vary between manufacturers
  - Variety of (rare) adverse side effects
  - IgA and IgM content (Pentaglobin 12% IgM)

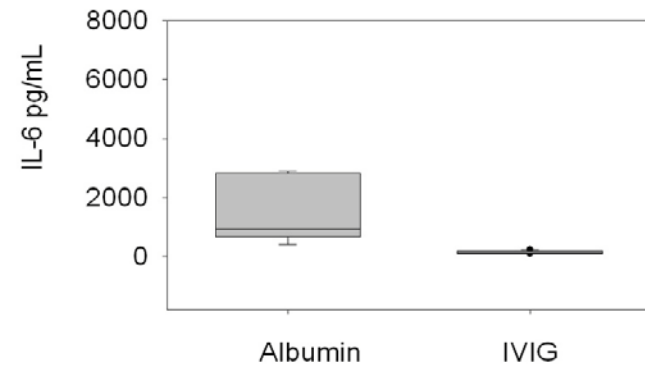
# Rationale for IVIG.

Bacterial opsonisation AND in vitro neutralisation of GAS superantigens

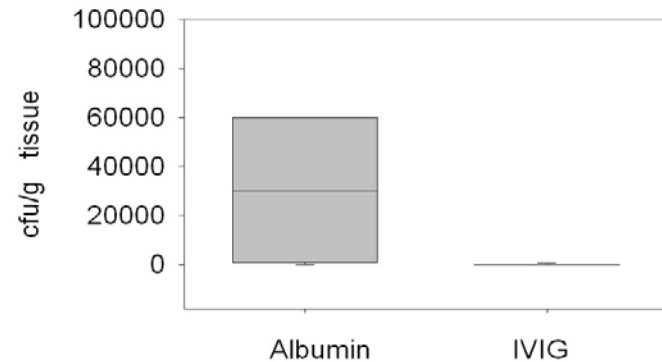


In GAS-infected superantigen-sensitive HLA-transgenic mice, polyclonal IVIG can reduce systemic inflammation and bacterial load in spleen and blood

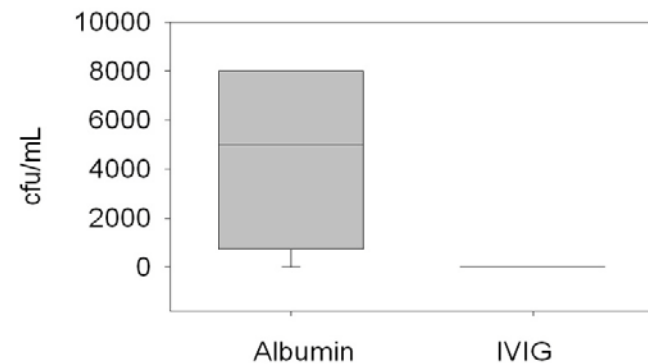
**A**



**B**



**C**



# Clinical trial of IVIG in STSS

**Primary and secondary end points assessing efficacy of administration of high-dose intravenous polyspecific IgG.**

**Trial stopped due to low recruitment.**

End point	All included patients		Patients with GAS only	
	IVIG group ( <i>n</i> = 10)	Placebo group ( <i>n</i> = 11)	IVIG group ( <i>n</i> = 8)	Placebo group ( <i>n</i> = 10)
Primary: mortality day 28, no. (%) of patients	1 (10)	4 (36)	1 (12.5)	3 (30)
Secondary				
Time to resolution of shock, <sup>a</sup> h				
Mean	88	122	100	122
Median (range)	96 (2–159)	108 (47–294)	108 (2–159)	108 (47–294)
Time to no further progression of NF/cellulitis, h				
Mean	68 <sup>b</sup>	36 <sup>c</sup>	69 <sup>c</sup>	36 <sup>c</sup>
Median (range)	20 (2–168) <sup>b</sup>	24 (19–72) <sup>c</sup>	20 (2–168) <sup>c</sup>	24 (19–72) <sup>c</sup>
Mortality day 180, no. (%) of patients	2 (20)	4 (36)	1 (12.5)	3 (30)

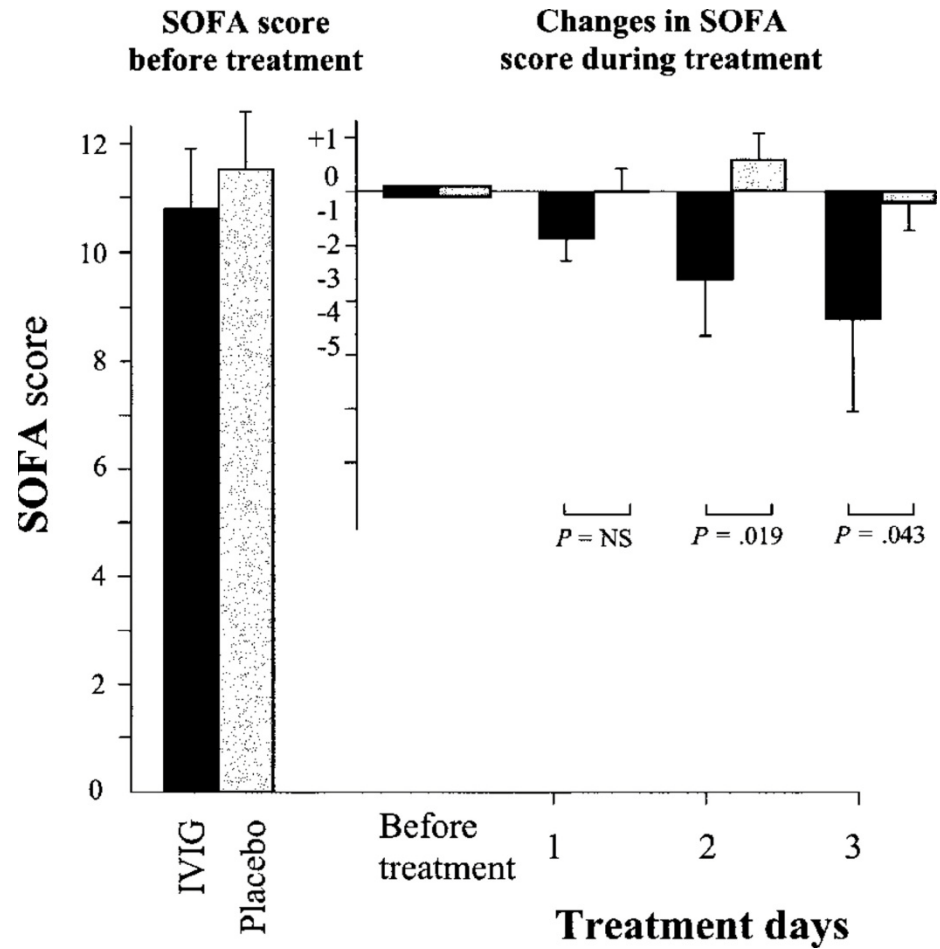
**NOTE.** GAS, group A streptococci; IVIG, intravenous IgG; NF, necrotizing fasciitis.

<sup>a</sup> In the survivors.

<sup>b</sup> Seven patients.

<sup>c</sup> Five patients.

Initial Sepsis-related Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) scores and changes during treatment in polyspecific intravenous IgG (IVIg)- and placebo-treated patients.





# Immunoglobulin is authorised for use in iGAS but only when failing 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment in UK

Diagnosis	<i>n</i>	Volume used (g)	Average dose (g/patient)
Severe invasive group A streptococcal disease	31	4451	144
Necrotising (PVL-associated) staphylococcal sepsis	20	2673	134
Severe or recurrent <i>Clostridium difficile</i> colitis	67	2297	34
Staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome	11	1388	126
Toxin-related infection in paediatric intensive care	19	719	38
Sepsis in the intensive care unit not related to specific toxins or <i>Clostridium difficile</i>	3	384	128
Neonatal sepsis (prevention or treatment)	2	10	5
Other (Infectious diseases)	31	4096	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>16,018</b>	

# Preventing transmission of iGAS in maternity settings

# Cluster of GAS infection

## Case 1 -

- Delivered baby 1.10 am
- 21/12/07
- Died 23/12/07

Blood Culture

Group A Streptococcus M1

Post mortem HVS and  
Cervical swab

Group A Streptococcus M1

## Case 2 -

- Delivered baby 1.08 am same unit
- 21/12/07
- Died 24/12/07

Post mortem ENT swab

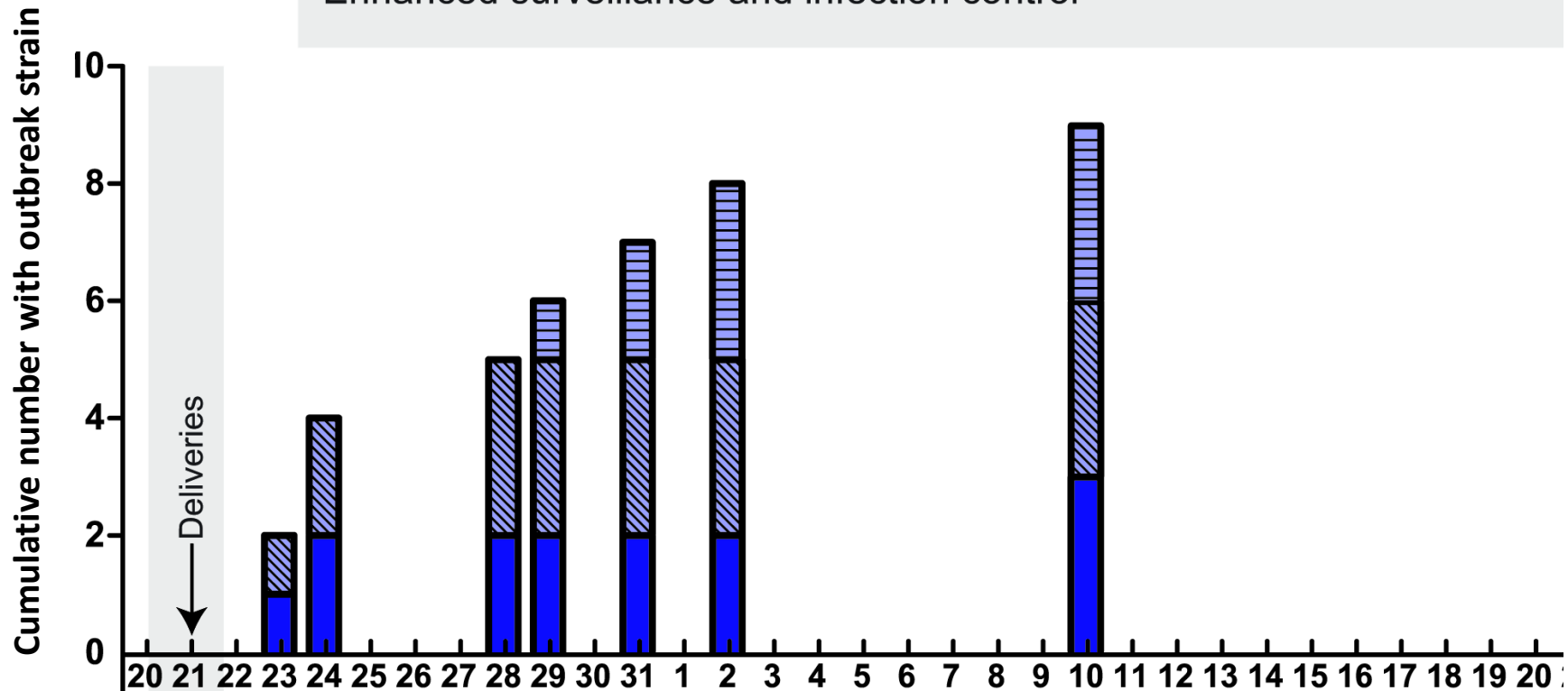
Group A Streptococcus M1

Post mortem uterine swab and L+R Lung

Group A Streptococcus M1

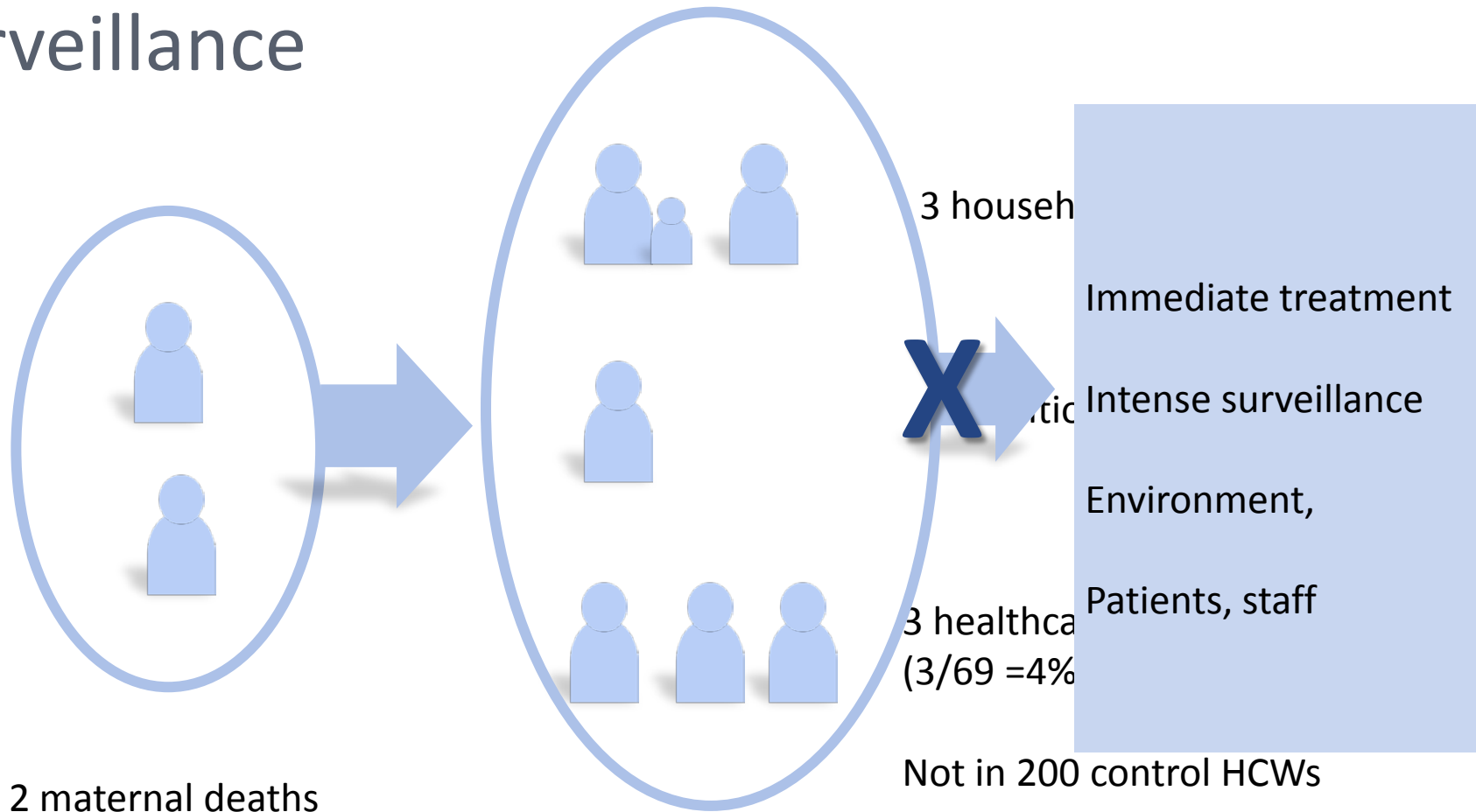
# GAS can spread rapidly- preventing transmission requires speed

Enhanced surveillance and infection control

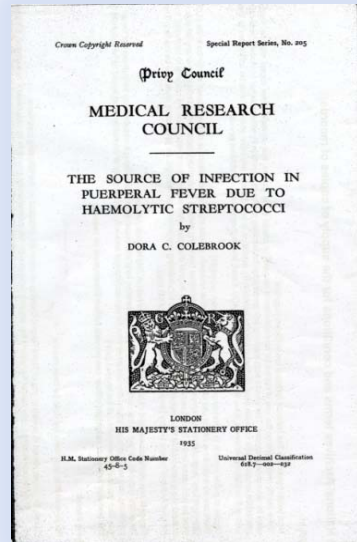


←—————→  
**Exposures limited to single interactions**  
**18 days from first isolate to last isolate**

# The importance of intense and immediate surveillance

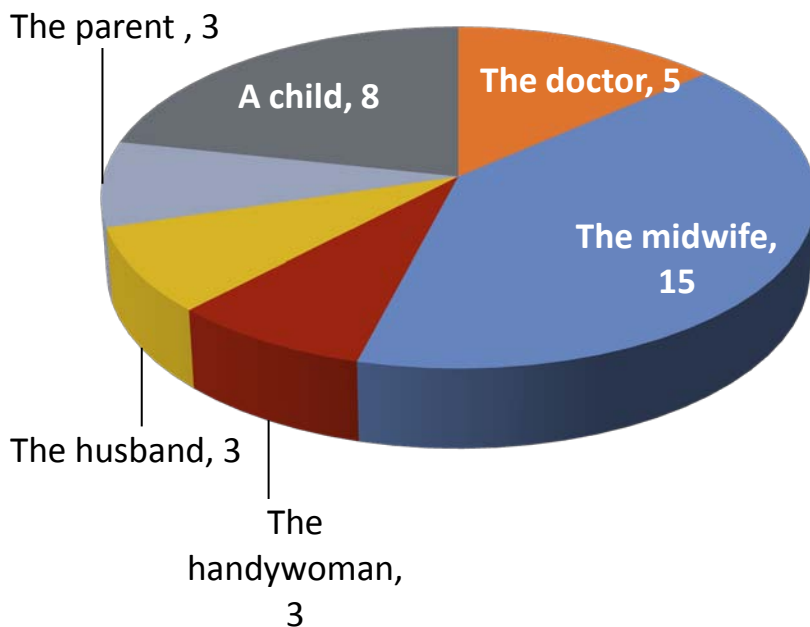


Confirmed by SOLEXA whole genome sequencing



## 1935 Recommendations (Dora Colebrook)

- Symptomatic URTI should be kept away from women in the puerperium
- Prophylactic measures—scrupulous hygiene incl disinfectants and masks
- **Investigate every case and exclude those affected (frequent nosocomial spread)**
- Estimated that 576 of 900 deaths per year were preventable



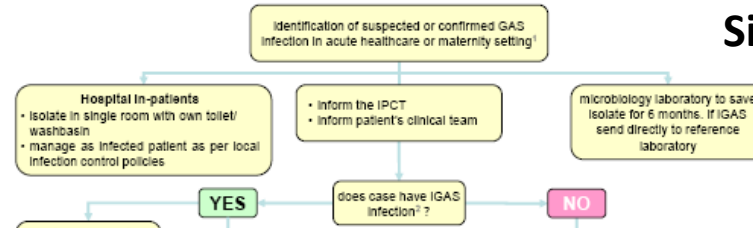


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PRACTICE GUIDELINES

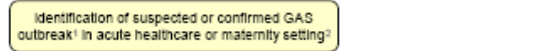
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Single case

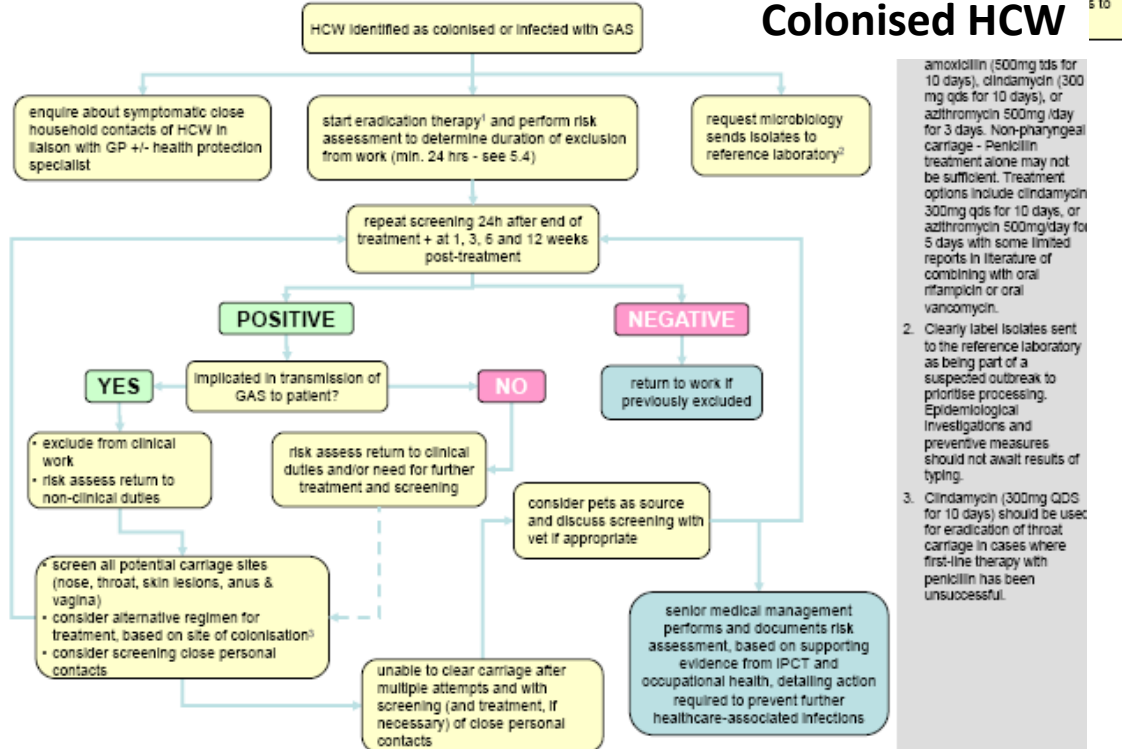


Invasive GAS infection (IGAS) is defined through isolation of GAS from normally sterile body site. Infections where GAS isolated from non-sterile site in combination with severe clinical presentation, should be managed as per IGAS infection.

Outbreak

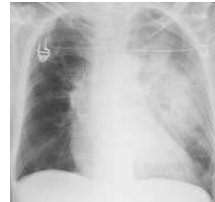


Colonised HCW



amoxicillin (500mg tds for 10 days), clindamycin (300mg qds for 10 days), or azithromycin 500mg /day for 3 days. Non-pharyngeal carriage - Penicillin treatment alone may not be sufficient. Treatment options include clindamycin 300mg qds for 10 days, or azithromycin 500mg/day for 5 days with some limited reports in literature of combining with oral rifampicin or oral vancomycin.

1. person or place. These cases will usually be within a month of each other but the interval may extend to six months.
2. Includes hospital in-patients, patients recently discharged (<7 days) and women who gave birth in any setting including at home.
3. Clearly label isolates sent to the reference laboratory as being part of a suspected outbreak to prioritise processing. Epidemiological investigations and preventive measures should not await results of typing.
4. Outbreak control team may include infection control doctor and nurses, consultant microbiologist, consultant from the speciality involved, occupational health adviser, local health protection specialist, cleaning manager, bed manager, appropriate healthcare manager, local commissioning lead and communications adviser.
5. Other patients, HCWs and the environment are possible sources of outbreaks. Develop timelines and in-patient journeys to identify overlaps of hospital stays and common exposures.



- Managing severe invasive GAS (peripartum sepsis)
  - If severe sepsis, likely to be GAS- prompt action
  - Not always genital tract sepsis
  - Use of clindamycin but beware resistance
  - Consider pooled intravenous immunoglobulin
  - No RCTs but plausible mode of action
  - Prompt strategies to prevent nosocomial spread and be concerned about even a single case



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