

Table 22. MIC and zone diameter breakpoints for *Bacteroides fragilis*

| <i>B. fragilis</i> is inherently resistant to penicillin. | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| Antibiotic | MIC breakpoint (mg/L) | | | Disc content (µg) | Interpretation of zone diameters (mm) | | | Comment |
| | R > | I | S ≤ | | R ≤ | I | S ≥ | |
| Penicillins | | | | | | | | |
| Co-amoxiclav | 8 | 8 | 4 | 30 | 20 | 21-28 | 29 | The breakpoints are based on the "wild type" susceptible population as there are few clinical data relating MIC to outcome. Organisms that appear resistant in disc diffusion tests should have resistance confirmed by MIC determination and resistant isolates should be sent to the Anaerobe Reference Laboratory in Cardiff. The zone diameter breakpoint relates to an MIC of 8 mg/l as no data for the intermediate category are currently available. |
| Piperacillin/tazobactam | 16 | 16 | 8 | 75/10 | 26 | - | 27 | |
| Carbapenems | | | | | | | | |
| Meropenem | 8 | 4-8 | 2 | 10 | 18 | 19-25 | 26 | |
| Miscellaneous antibiotics | | | | | | | | |
| Clindamycin | 4 | - | 4 | 2 | 9 | - | 10 | The breakpoints are based on the "wild type" susceptible population as there are few clinical data relating MIC to outcome. Organisms that appear resistant in disc diffusion tests should have resistance confirmed by MIC determination and resistant isolates should be sent to the Anaerobe Reference Laboratory in Cardiff. |
| Metronidazole | 4 | - | 4 | 5 | 17 | - | 18 | There is no evidence to change the epidemiological zone diameter breakpoint with the change in MIC breakpoint. |