



BSAC

british society for antimicrobial chemotherapy

Review of the minimum inhibitory and zone diameter breakpoints for ampicillin, amoxycillin and co-amoxyclav for interpreting the susceptibility of Enterobacteriaceae by BSAC standardized methodology

It has been brought to the attention of the BSAC Standardized Method Development Centre (SMDC) that users of the BSAC standardized disc susceptibility have experienced difficulty when testing isolates of Enterobacteriaceae from systemic infections to ampicillin, amoxycillin and co-amoxyclav as many of these organisms give zone diameters which 'straddle' the zone breakpoint. It has also been observed that the β -lactamase positive control strain *E. coli* NCTC 11560 often yields zone of inhibition that would indicate this organism to be resistant to co-amoxyclav.

In response to these observations the BSAC Working Party on Sensitivity Testing is currently reviewing the MIC and zone diameter for these agents and it is hoped that in the near future, when data from another study showing the effect of agar depth on performance of control strains is available, the recommendations might be amended to include an intermediate category that will aid the reliability of reporting susceptibility.

It should be noted that all susceptibility testing methods encounter problems in the interpretation of β -lactam/ β -lactam inhibitor combinations and the Working Party will attempt to address these issues.