



Ventilator associated pneumonia in the ICU: where has it gone?



SFAR



SOCIÉTÉ
DE RÉANIMATION
DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Recommandations formalisées d'experts

PNEUMONIES ASSOCIÉES AUX SOINS DE RÉANIMATION

RFE commune SFAR – SRLF

Société Française d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation

Société de Réanimation de Langue Française

En collaboration avec les Sociétés ADARPEF et GFRUP

Association des Anesthésistes Réanimateurs Pédiatriques d'Expression Française,
Groupe Francophone de Réanimation et Urgences Pédiatriques

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA IN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



tice
erica

Pneumonie acquise sous ventilation mécanique: PAVM

Incidence :

5% à 67% *Timsit JF et al. Update on ventilator-associated pneumonia 2017*

Barbier F et al. Hospital-acquired pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia: recent advances in epidemiology and management 2013

(Immunodépression, chirurgie et sujet âgés +++)

2 à 16 par 1000 jours de ventilation mécanique aux Etats Unis et excède 18 pour 1000 jours de ventilation mécanique en Europe

Recommandations formalisées d'experts SFAR et SRLF 2017

Rosenthal VD et al. Am J Infect Control. 2012

Morbi-mortalité importante

Pneumonie acquise sous ventilation mécanique: PAVM

Augmentation de la consommation antibiotique

Augmentation du coût de Pec
(pouvant atteindre 40000 USD)

Majoration du risque de toxicité

Sélection de MDR

*Florence Beye et al. Adhering to the procalcitonin algorithm allows antibiotic therapy to be shortened in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia **jcrc.2019***

*Warren DK et al. Outcome and attributable cost of ventilator-associated pneumonia among intensive care unit patients in a suburban medical centre **Crit Care Med.2003***

Pneumonie acquise sous ventilation mécanique: PAVM

- Plusieurs études ont montré que la durée du TTT ATB peut être raccourcie

Short-course versus prolonged-course antibiotic therapy for hospital-acquired pneumonia in critically ill adults **Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2011**

Chastre j et al. Comparison of 8 vs 15 days of antibiotic therapy for ventilator-associated pneumonia in adults: a randomized trial **Jama 2003**

M. Fekih Hassen et al. Durée de l'antibiothérapie lors du traitement des pneumopathies acquises sous ventilation mécanique : comparaison entre sept jours et dix jours. Etude pilote
Annales Françaises d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation 2009



Réticence de plusieurs cliniciens vis-à-vis de la courte durée du TTT

Pneumonie acquise sous ventilation mécanique: PAVM

- Risque d'échec thérapeutique notamment pour les BG-non fermentants (*pseudomonasaeruginosa*++, *acinetobacter*, *stenotrophomonas*...)

Chastre J Jama 2003

Leone M Ann Intensive Care 2018

A standard course of treatment
probably does not fit all

Nécessité d'adapter une nouvelle
approche de prise en charge
Évaluation clinique++
PROCALCITONINE+++

Antimicrobial Stewardship

SUPPLEMENT

Antimicrobial Stewardship: Importance for Patient and Public Health

Thomas M. File Jr,¹ Arjun Srinivasan,² and John G. Bartlett³

¹Summa Health System, Akron, Ohio; ²Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

³Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland

Clin Infect Dis. 2014;59:S93-96.

Appropriate antimicrobial usage

Antimicrobial Avoidance when not indicated

3 D

❖ Right DRUG

- Guidelines
- Local resistance patterns
- Patient risk stratification

❖ Right DOSE

- PK/PD

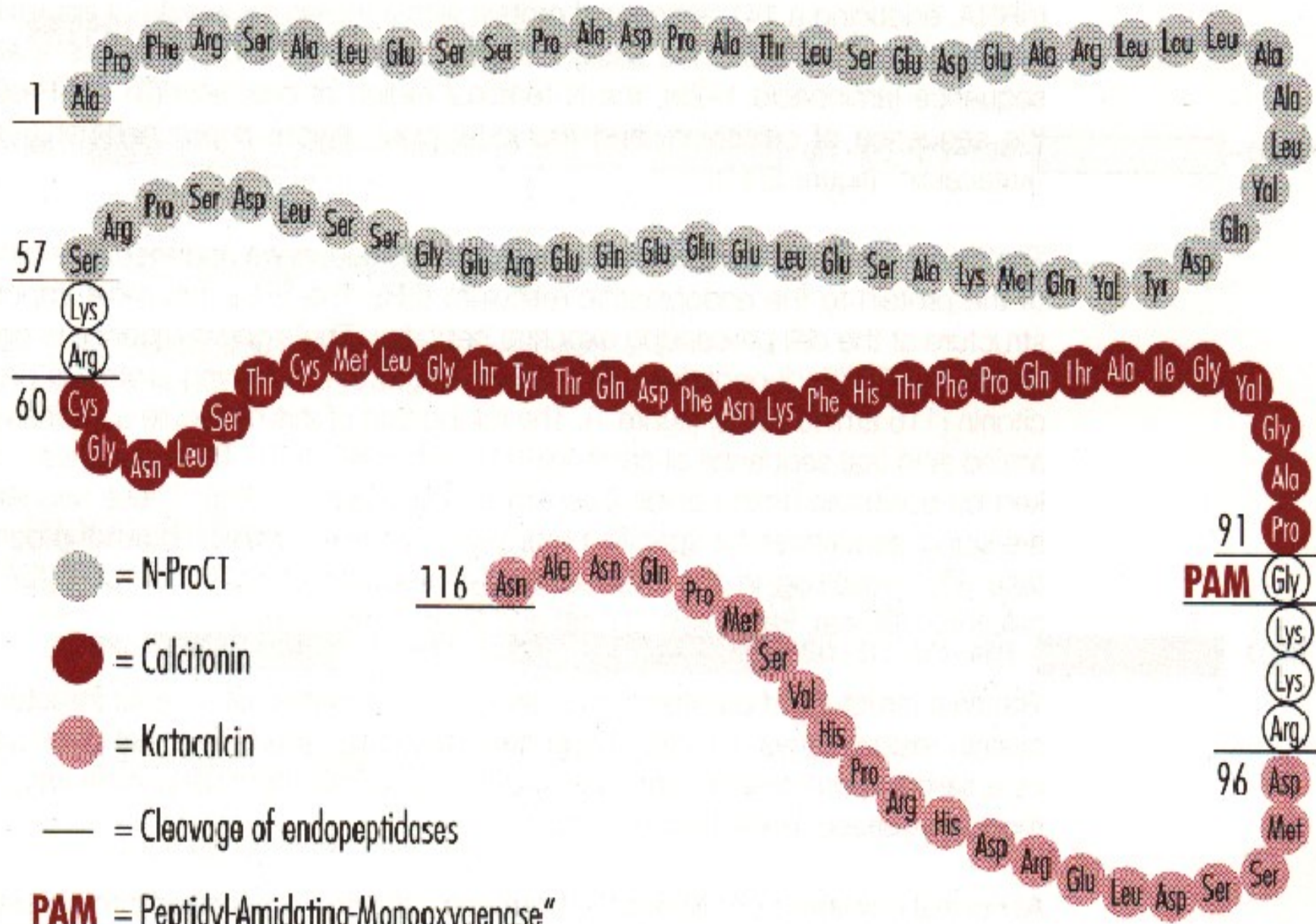
❖ Right DURATION

*Polk R. *Clin Infect Dis.* 1999;29:264-274



PROCALCITONINE: USEFUL TOOL? MANAGEMENT VAP

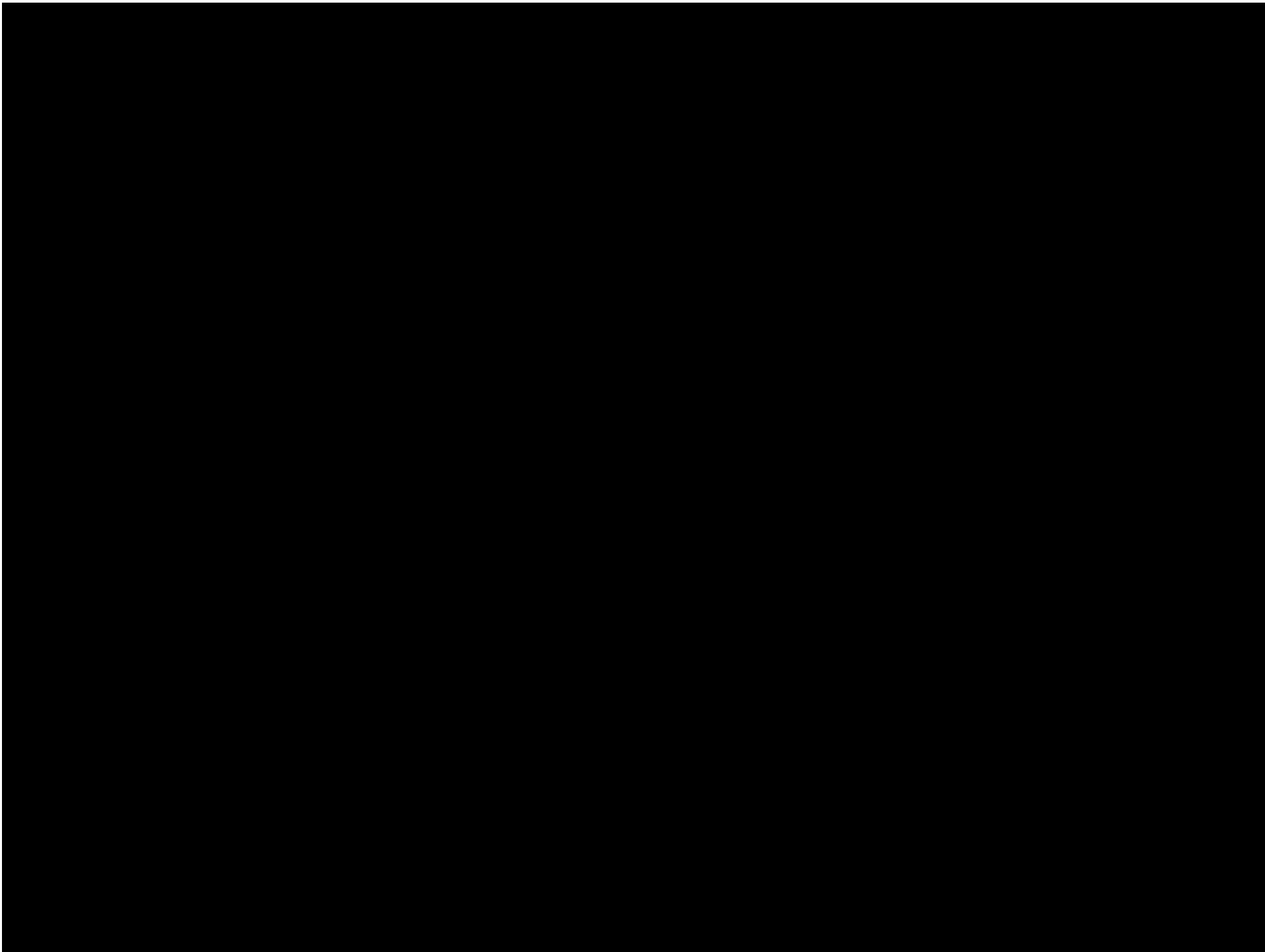




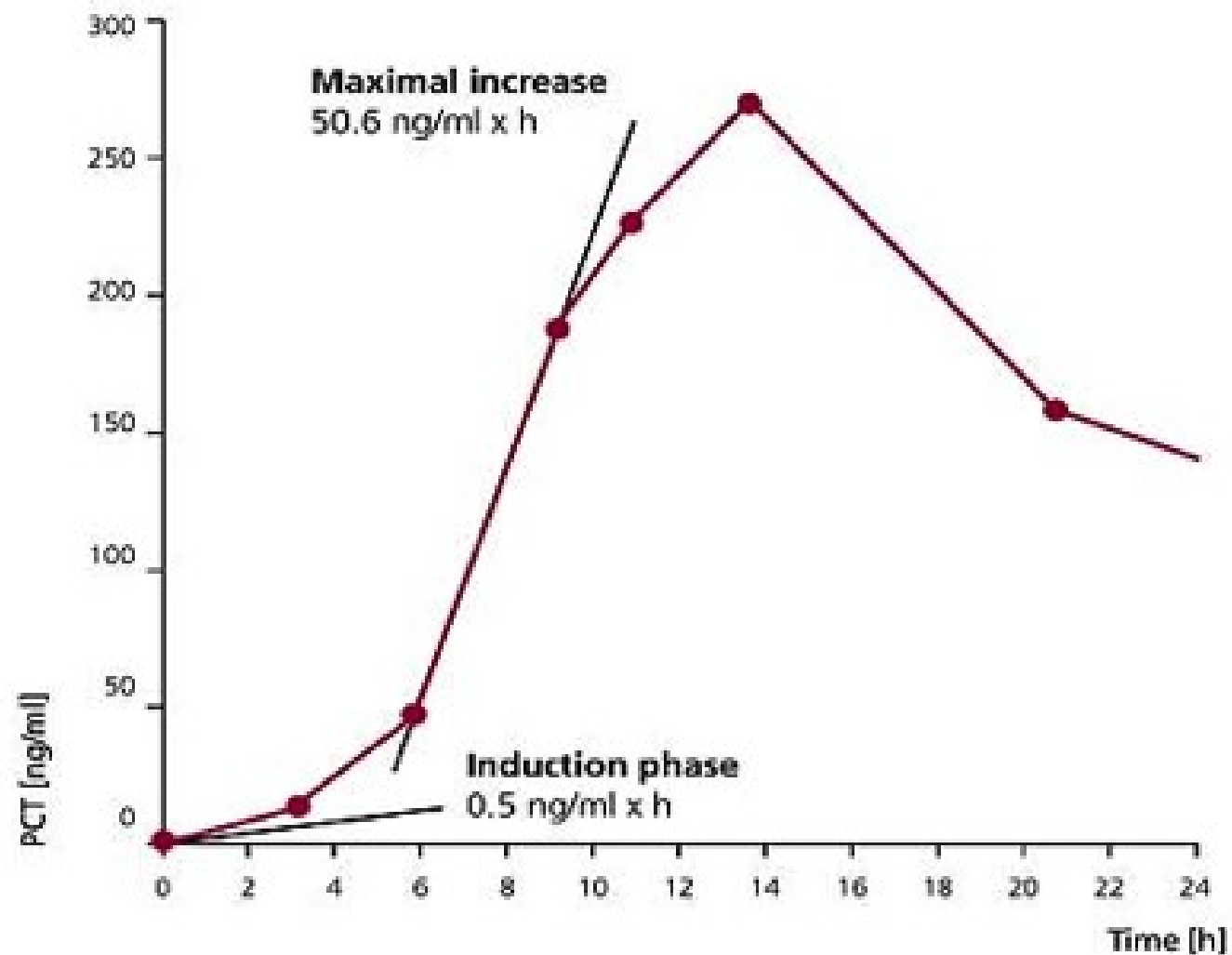
Procalcitonine

- Peptide (116 AA) précurseur de la calcitonine
- **Hormokine** : expression hormonale par les cellules neuroendocrines (cellules C thyroïde, cellule K pulmonaire...) libération comme des cytokines par le foie, les reins, les monocytes mais pas les leucocytes
- Sécrétion en réponse à infection (endotoxine) et à certains médiateurs pro- inflammatoires (sécrétion : IL-1 β , TNF- α , and IL-6

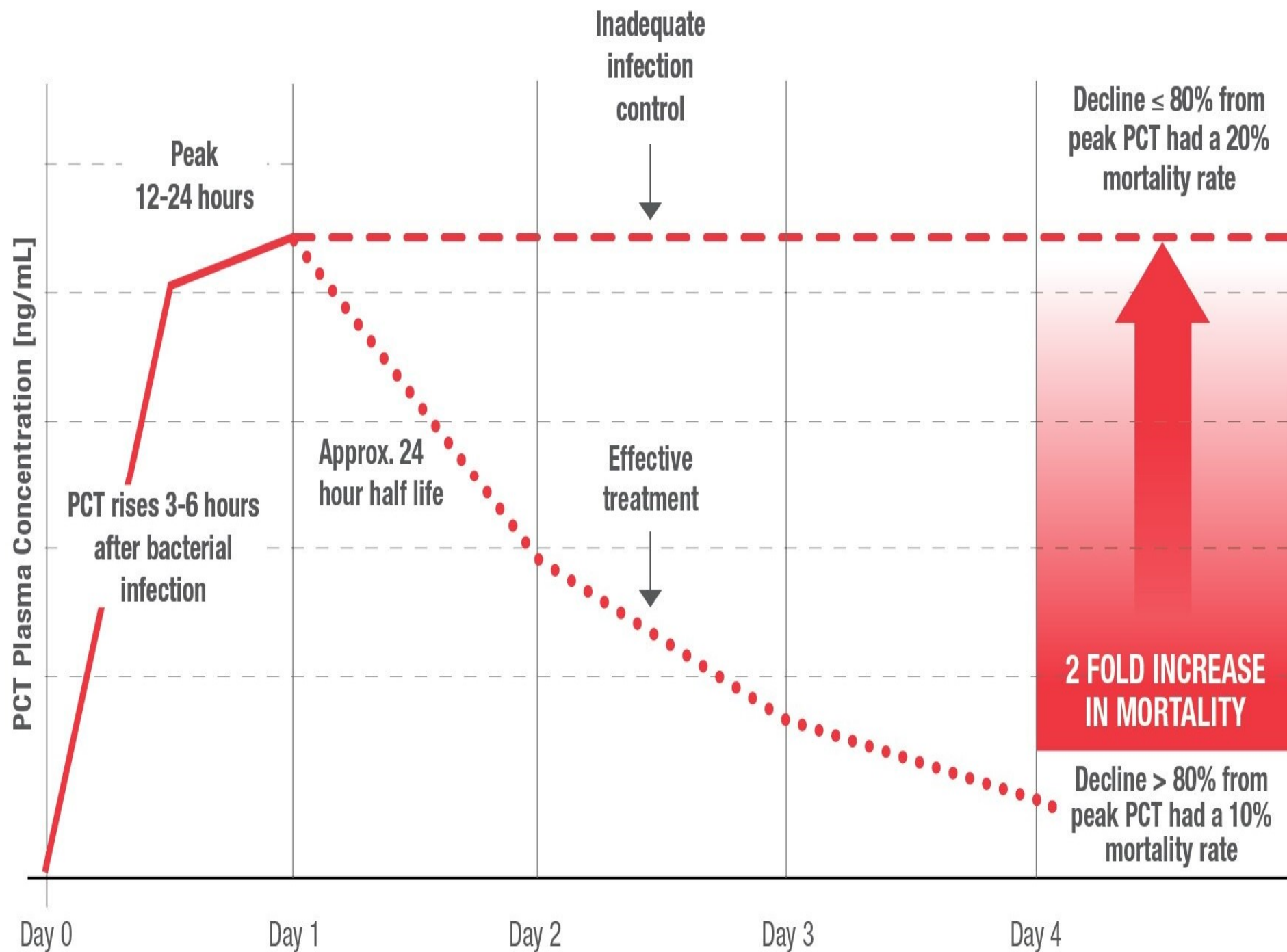
Niederman Clin Infect Dis. 2008; 47: S127-; Gilbert Clin Infect Dis 2011



- Réponse rapide à l'infection bactérienne: après induction élévation PCT dans les 2-3 heures
- Interféron gamma γ sécrété en cas d'infection virale inhibe la sécrétion PCT
- Sujet normal: taux indétectable ($<0.1\text{ng/ml}$)
 clivage en calcitonine avant sécrétion 
- Cinétique non affectée par l'insuffisance rénale et l'épuration extrarénale



*Brunkhorst FM, Heinz U, Forycki ZF.
Intensive Care Med. 1998 Kinetics of
procalcitonin in iatrogenic sepsis.*



Procalcitonine et PAVM



- Cochrane Systematic Review
- 3 trials investigating use of PCT.
- Based on recommendation for ABX duration based on PCT level
 - associated with significantly reduced duration of ABX therapy (mean difference -3.20 days; 95% CI -4.45 to -1.95) and 28-day antibiotic-free days (MD 2.80 days; 95% CI 1.39 to 4.21).
 - There were no significant differences in other outcomes, though a trend towards greater recurrence was observed in one study.

[Intervention Review]

Procalcitonin to initiate or discontinue antibiotics in acute respiratory tract infections

Schuetz P et al. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 1. Art. No. CD010259. DOI: 10.1002/1469-7580.CD010259

6708 participants from 26 trials.

Mortality at 30 days

participants in the procalcitonin-guided group had a 2.4-day reduction in antibiotic exposure and a reduction in antibiotic-related side effects (16.3% versus 22.1%).

participants (286 deaths in 3336 participants (8.6%) versus 336 deaths in 3372 participants (10.0%)). There was no significant difference with regard to

treatment failures. Results were similar for different clinical settings (primary care, emergency department, **intensive care unit**) and types of respiratory infection (VAP++)

[Intervention Review]

Procalcitonin to initiate or discontinue antibiotics in acute respiratory tract infections

Schuetz P et al. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD007498.

Table 4. Clinical endpoints overall and stratified by setting and ARI diagnosis (*Continued*)

Ventilator-associated pneumonia	186	194		
30 days mortality, n (%)	29 (15.6%)	23 (12.0%)	0.75 (0.41 to 1.39), P = 0.366	0.644
Treatment failure, n (%)	51 (27.4%)	44 (22.7%)	0.78 (0.48 to 1.28), P = 0.332	0.522
Length of ICU stay, mean ($\pm$ SD)	23.5 $\pm$ 20.5	21.8 $\pm$ 19.1	-1.74 (-5.64 to 2.17), P = 0.383	0.441
Length of hospital stay, mean ($\pm$ SD)	33.8 $\pm$ 27.6	32.0 $\pm$ 23.1	-2.14 (-7.04 to 2.75), P = 0.391	0.448

Measures of effect: dichotomous outcomes are reported as adjusted OR (95% CI) and continuous outcomes are adjusted mean differences and confidence intervals

[Intervention Review]

Procalcitonin to initiate or discontinue antibiotics in acute respiratory tract infections

Schuetz P et al. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD007498.

Table 6. Antibiotic treatment overall and stratified by setting and ARI diagnosis (Continued)

Duration of antibiotics (days), mean ($\pm$ SD)	13.1 $\pm$ 7.9	10.8 $\pm$ 8.7	-2.22 (-3.80 to -0.65), P = 0.006
Total exposure of antibiotics (days), mean ($\pm$ SD)	13.1 $\pm$ 7.9	10.8 $\pm$ 8.7	-2.45 (-4.09 to -0.82), P = 0.003

Note: Duration refers to the total days of antibiotic therapy in participants in whom antibiotics were initiated; total exposure refers to the total days of antibiotic therapy in all randomised participants.

The Indonesian Journal of Internal Medicine 2013

Role of Combined Procalcitonin and Lipopolysaccharide-binding Protein as Prognostic Markers of Mortality in Patients with Ventilator-associated Pneumonia

Cleophas M. Rumende, Dinajani Mahdi

Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia - Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia.

- 35 patients inclus
- Cinétique de **la PCT et de LBP** conditionnent le pronostic des PAVM
- PCT > 0.5 ng/mL and LBP level >25 µg/mL: J3 et J7 ATB **mauvais pronostic**: $p < 0.05$. sensibilité: 96.3%, spécificité of 66.7% avec AUC value 0.81

Efficacy and Safety of Procalcitonin Guidelines in Patients With Suspected or Confirmed Sepsis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Irena Iankova, PhD¹; Philippe Thompson-Leduc, MSc²; Noam Y. Kirson, PhD²; Ben

Irena Iankova 2017

- OMS: la résistance aux antibiotiques est l'une des plus grandes menaces pour la santé
- États Unis: 37000 décès (CDC) avec un coût annuel estimé à 55 billions de dollars
- Meilleure gestion des ATBS:
 - Réduire la résistance
 - Diminuer les effets secondaires
 - Réduction du coût de prise en charge

Procalcitonine

TABLE 1. Randomized Controlled Trials Included in Meta-Analysis

First Author	Time to Endpoint	PCT Cohort	Control Cohort	PCT Algorithm for AB Cessation (ng/mL)	Adherence (%)	Mean AB Duration (d)	Mean ICU Length of Stay (d)	Mortality
Annanne et al (24)	Time until ICU discharge	31	31	< 0.5	63	4.7 (PCT), 4.0 (control)	24.0 (PCT), 31.0 (control)	23% (PCT), 32% (control)
Bouadma et al (25)	28 d	307	314	< 0.5; > 80% change from peak	47	10.3 (PCT), 13.3 (control)	15.9 (PCT), 14.4 (control)	21% (PCT), 20% (control)
de Jong et al (26)	28 d	761	785	≤ 0.5; ≥ 80% change from peak	93	5.7 (PCT), 7.3 (control)	10.2 (PCT), 10.0 (control)	20% (PCT), 25% (control)
Deliberato et al (27)	Time until ICU discharge	42	39	< 0.5; > 90% change from peak	NR	15.5 (PCT), 17.3 (control)	16.3 (PCT), 8.8 (control)	2% (PCT), 10% (control)

Hochreiter et al (28)	Time until ICU discharge	57	53	< 1.0; ≥ 65–75% change from initial level and current level > 1.0	NR	5.9 (PCT), 7.9 (control)	15.5 (PCT), 17.7 (control)	26% (PCT), 26% (control)
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Layios et al (29)	Time until ICU discharge	258	251	< 0.5				
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Najafi et al (30)	Length of hospital stay	14	13	≤ 1.0; ≥ 65–75% change from initial level	NR	6.6 (PCT), 8.3 (control)	16.4 (PCT), 16.7 (control)	21% (PCT), 23% (control)
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Shehabi et al (33)	28 d	196	198	< 0.1; < 0.1–0.25 if infection unlikely; > 90% change from baseline level	NR	11.7 (PCT), 13.0 (control)	6.2 (PCT), 6.7 (control)	11% (PCT), 8% (control)
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Schroeder et al (32)	Length of hospital stay	14	13	≤ 1.0; ≥ 65–75% change from initial level	NR	6.6 (PCT), 8.3 (control)	16.4 (PCT), 16.7 (control)	21% (PCT), 23% (control)
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In adult patients with suspected or confirmed sepsis, procalcitonin guidance reduces antibiotics duration with no observed adverse effects on patient outcomes



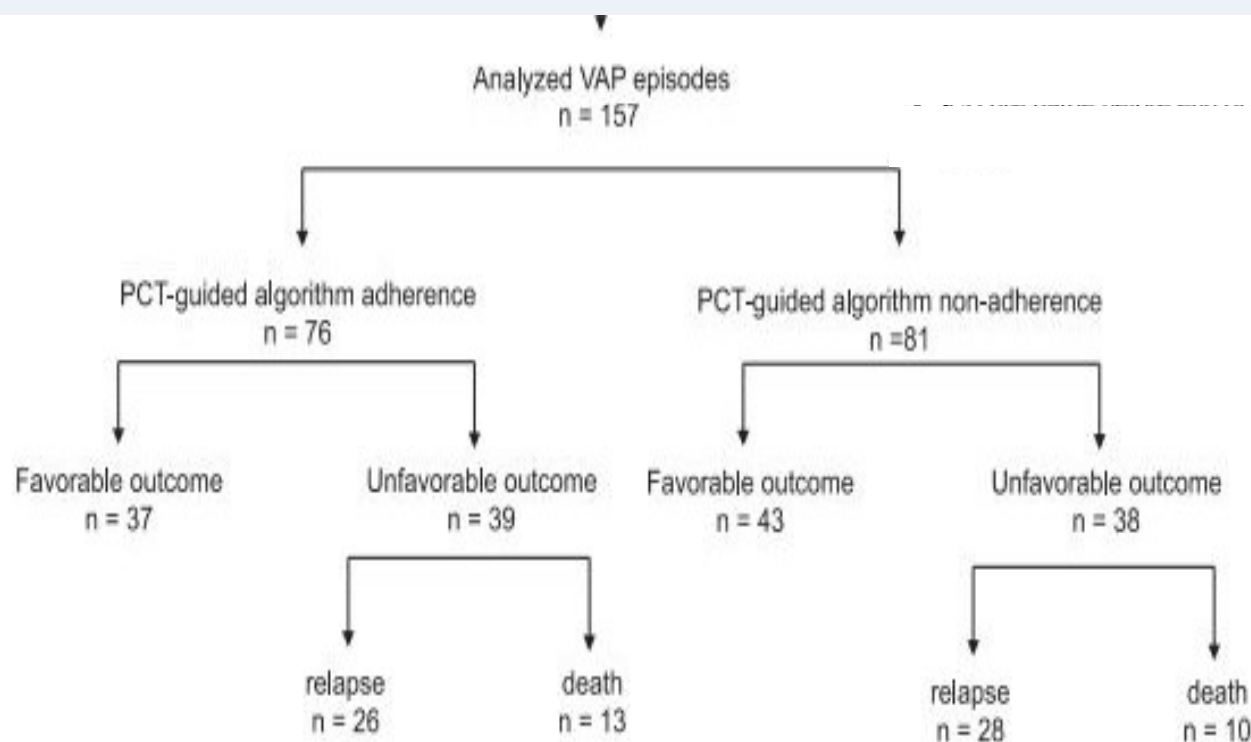
- In a 2017 meta-analysis
- based on individual data from 6,708 patients, the use of PCT
- guided antibiotic therapy was associated with a 2.4-day reduction in antibiotic exposure (5.7 versus 8.1 days), a reduction in
- antibiotic-related side-effects (16.3% versus 22.1%), as well as
- a reduction in mortality (8.6% versus 10.0%) [8,9]
- Souci : valeur seuil standardisée



Adhering to the procalcitonin algorithm allows antibiotic therapy to be shortened in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia



Florence Beye^a, Clara Vigneron^b, Auguste Dargent^{b,c}, Sébastien Prin^b, Pascal Andreu^b, Audrey Large^b, Jean-Pierre Quenot^{b,c,d}, Julien Bador^e, Rémi Bruyere^f, Pierre-Emmanuel Charles^{b,c,*}



VAP antimicrobial management

Appropriate 1st-line ABT

109 (68.8)

56 (73.7)

53 (65.4)

0.31

Appropriate 2nd-line ABT

126 (80.2)

59 (77.6)

67 (82.7)

0.55

ABT duration (days)

8.8 (3.8)

8.0 (3.5)

0.02

ABT duration beyond the PCT threshold stop value (days)

.

.

.

Groupe
PCT +

Groupe
PCT-

Le monitoring de la PCT pourrait être utilisé dans la réalité clinique et permet de réduire la durée de l'ATBpie en cas de PAVM

Outcome

Length of ICU stay after VAP (days)

21.6 (18.6)

28.3 (30.3)

0.10

MV duration after VAP (days)

19.4 (19.4)

13.7 (13.6)

18.1 (23.5)

0.16

Ventilator free-days

24.3 (19.4)

23.7 (19.1)

25.2 (19.7)

0.48

Unfavorable

77 (49.0)

39 (51.3)

38 (46.9)

0.47

ICU mortality

23 (14.6)

13 (17.1)

10 (12.3)

0.69

VAP recurrence

54 (34.4)

26 (34.2)

28 (34.6)

0.68



Procalcitonin for reduced antibiotic exposure in ventilator-associated pneumonia: a randomised study

D. Stolz^{*,#,*}, N. Smyrniotis[†], P. Eggimann⁺, H. Pargger[§], N. Thakkar[¶], M. Siegemund[§], S. Marsch[‡], A. Azzola^{**}, J. Rakic^{*}, B. Mueller^{##} and M. Tamm^{*}

- Essai contrôlé randomisé multicentrique: **PROVAP Study**
- 101 patients inclus avec VAP (American thoracic society et Infectious Disease Society of America)



Groupe procalcitonine : 51

Groupe contrôle : 50

**PCT <
0.25 µgr/L**

- Arrêt ATB fortement recommandé

**0.25 < PCT < 0.5 ou
baisse ≥ 80% de
la valeur à J0**

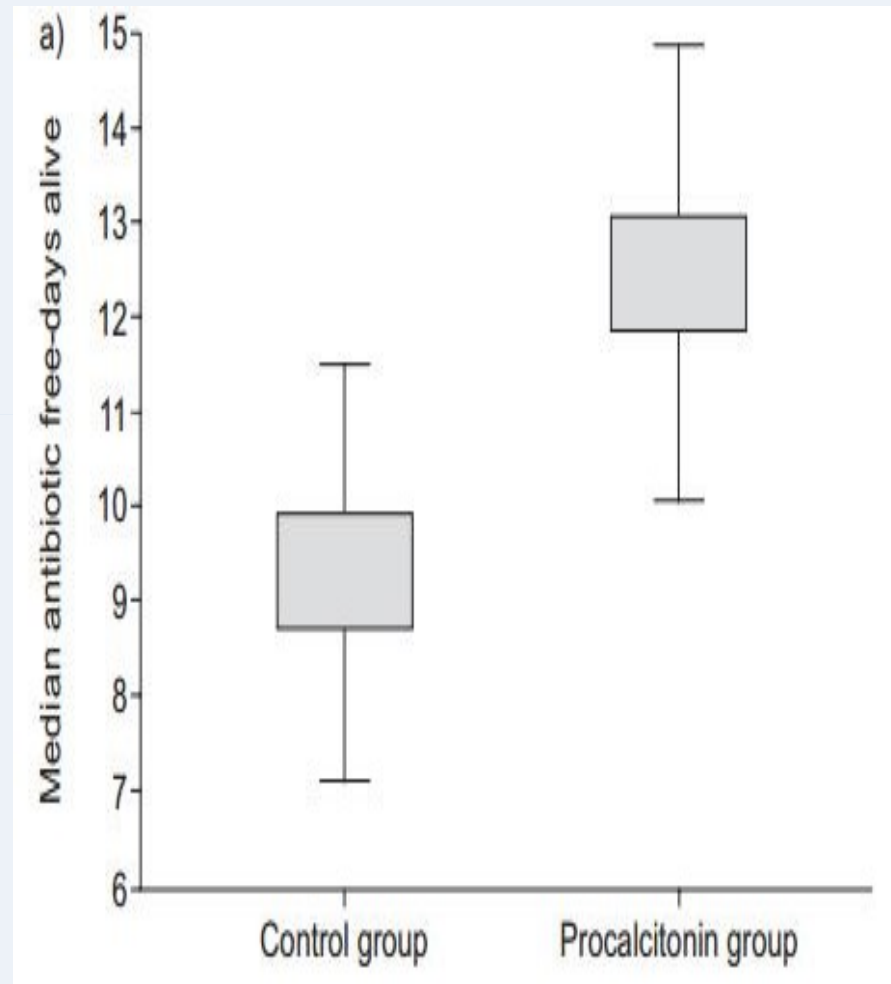
- VAP peu probable
- Arrêt ATB recommandé

**PCT ≥ 0.5 µgr/L ou
baisse < 80% à J0**

- Infection non contrôlée
- Arrêt ATB non recommandé

PCT ≥ 1 µgr/L

- Infection très probablement non contrôlée
- Pas d'arrêt ATB: fortement recommandé



- Nombre de jours sans ATB (dans les 28J) significativement plus élevé dans le groupe PCT :13 (2-21)

P: 0.049

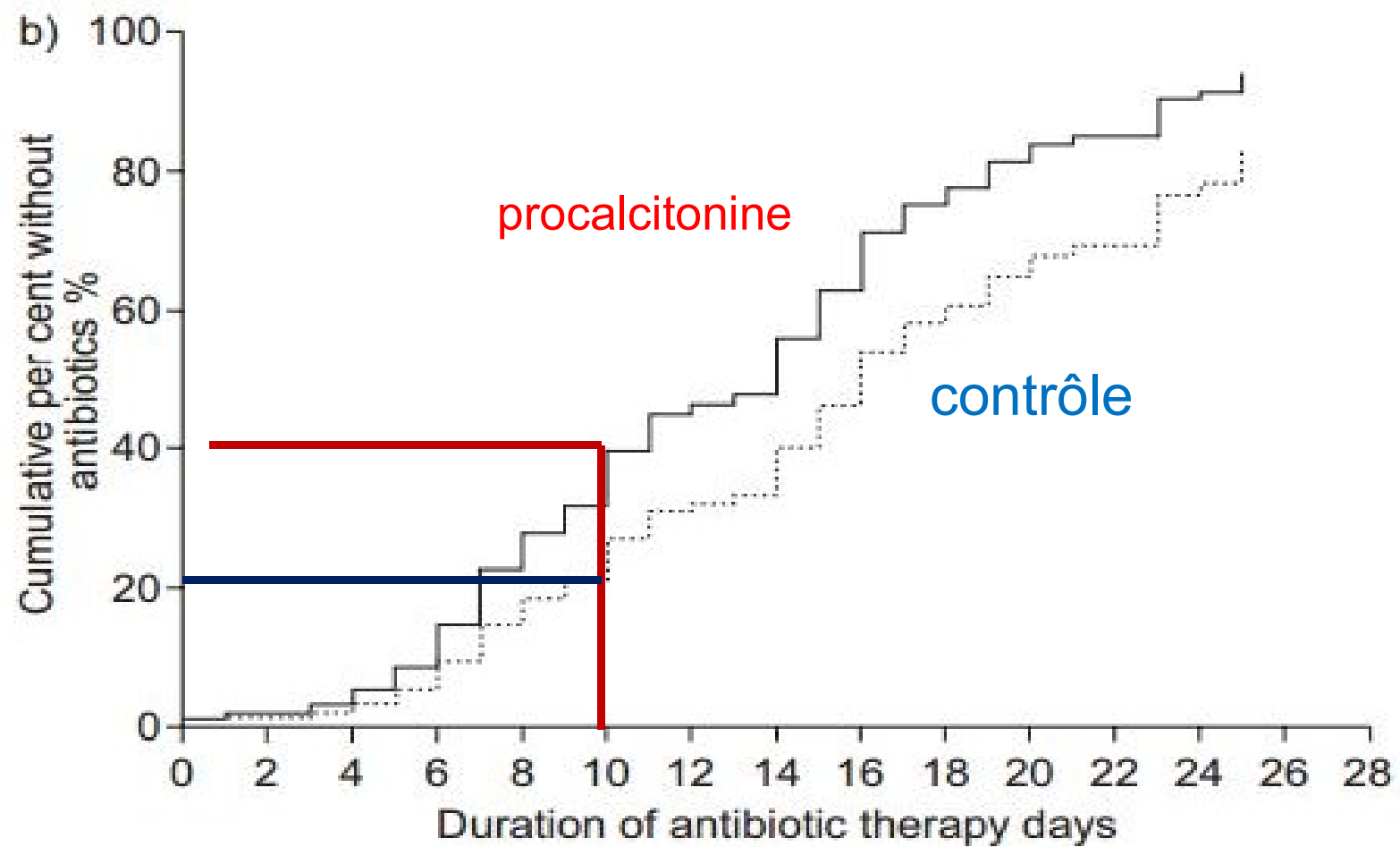


TABLE 4 Secondary study outcomes in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) according to the treatment algorithm

	Control group [#]	Procalcitonin group [#]	p-value
MV-free days alive, days 1-28			
All patients	19 (8.5-22.5)	19 (8.5-22.5)	0.455
No bacteria			0.563
ICU-free days alive, days 1-28			
All patients		10 (0-18)	0.526
Nonfermenting GNB		4 (0-13.5)	0.683
MRSA		9 (1.5-15)	0.548
Other bacteria	7.5 (1-17.8)	14 (7.5-20)	0.139
No bacteria	18 (1.5-20)	10 (1-19.5)	0.554
Let			
All patients	26 (16.8-22.3)	26 (7-21)	0.153
Other bacteria	24 (16.5-32.5)	21.5 (14-28)	0.442
No bacteria	28.5 (16-38)	29 (9.5-33)	0.343
VAP-related clinical deterioration days 1-28[*]	7 (14)	5 (10)	0.759
Discharge home days 1-28	3 (6)	5 (10)	0.479
Discharge to another institution days 1-28	32 (64)	35 (69)	0.509
Death from all causes days 1-28	12 (24)	8 (16)	0.327
In-hospital mortality	14 (28)	10 (20)	0.322

Data are presented as median (interquartile range) and n (%), unless otherwise stated. MV: mechanical ventilation; GNB: Gram-negative bacilli; MRSA: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; ICU: intensive care unit. [#]n=50; ^{*}n=51; ^{*}: defined as an increase in clinical pulmonary infection score more than two points.

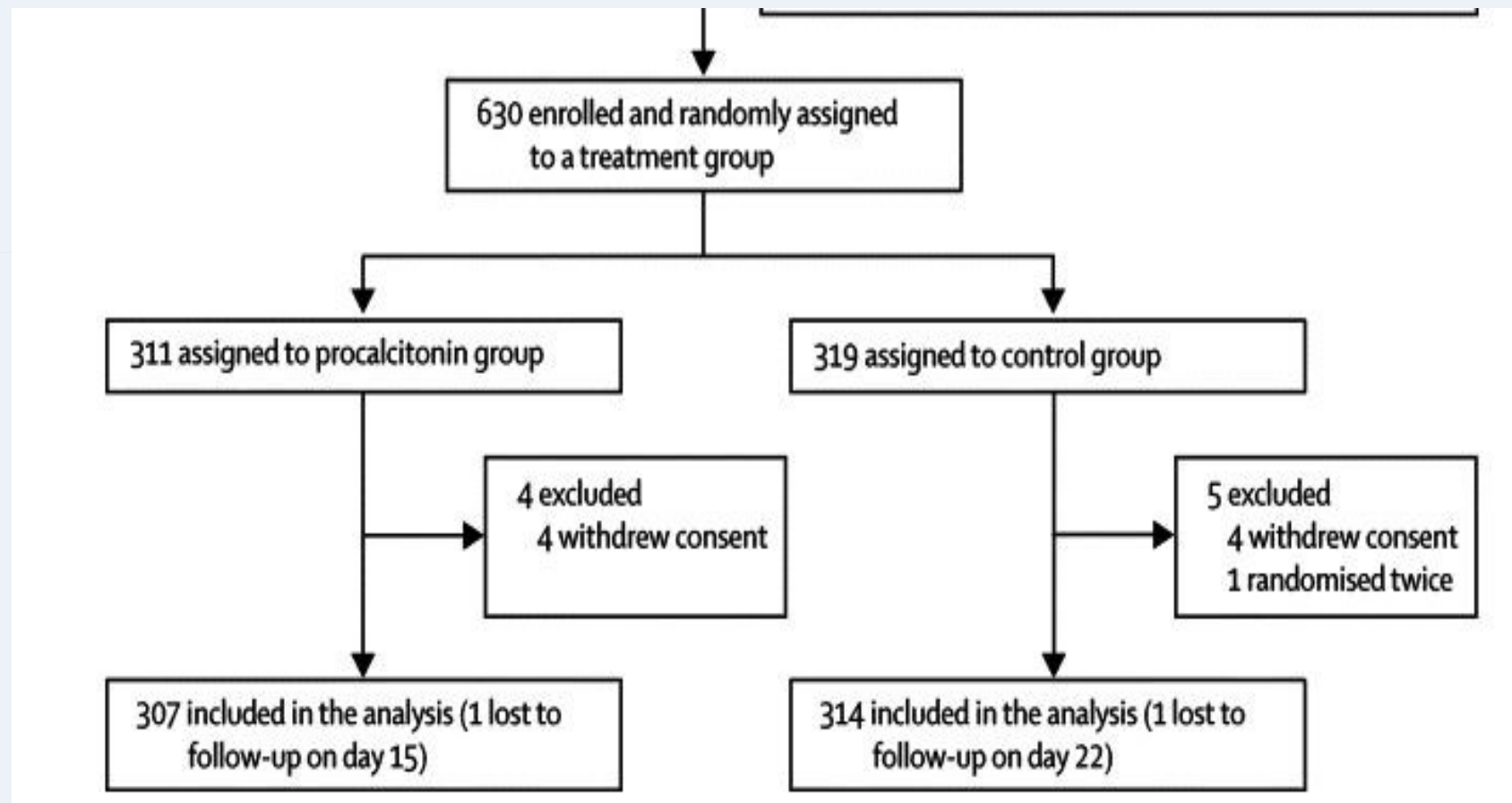
• Réduction significative de la durée ATBpie dans le groupe PCT : 27% (p:0.038)

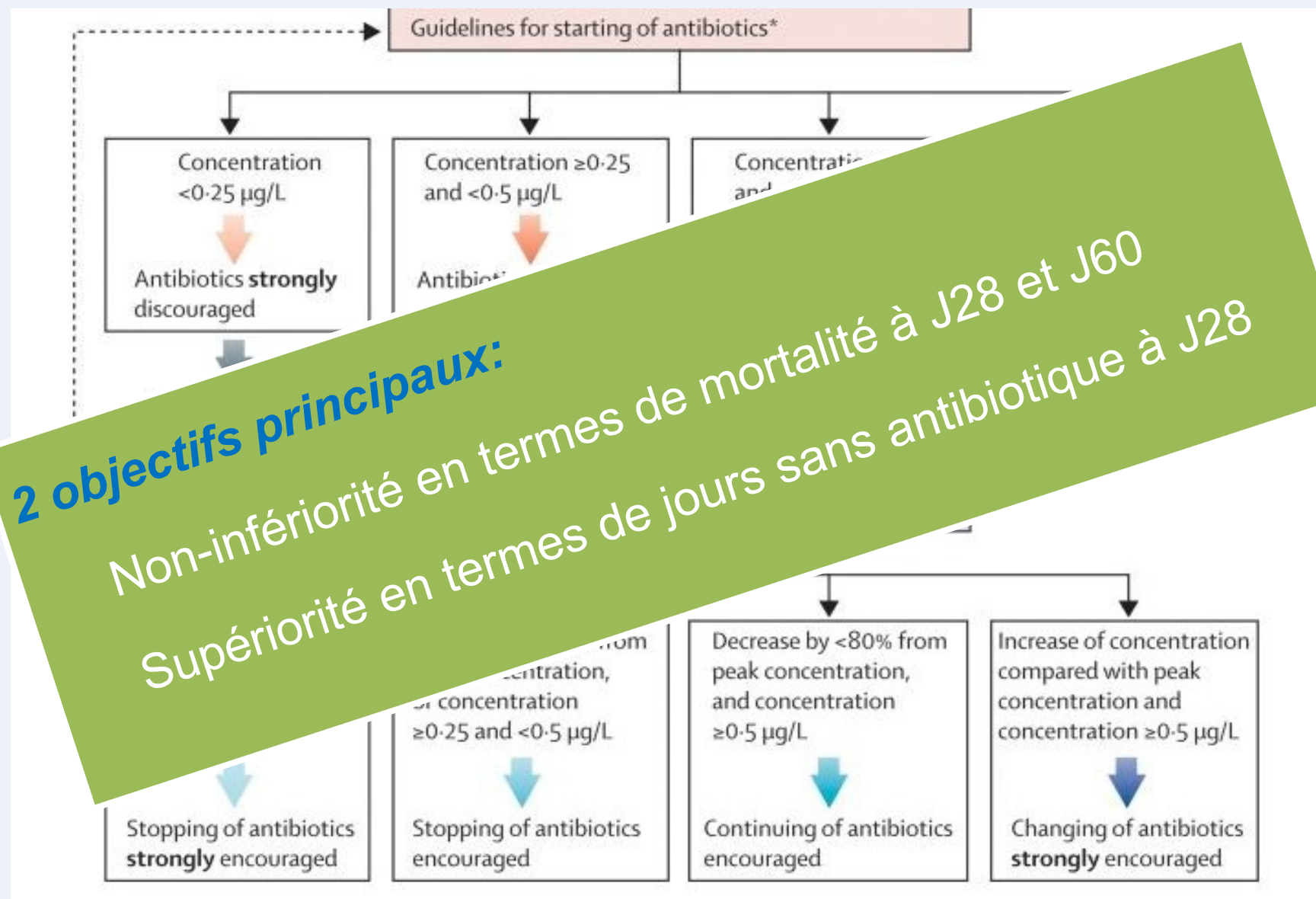
Limites

- Gain modéré de l'usage de la cinétique de la PCT
- La durée courte d'une ATBpie pour VAC n'aggrave pas le tableau
- Faible cohorte
- Difficultés d'interprétation: faux positifs
(maladies inflammatoires, défaillance d'organes, infection précédant VAC, chirurgie...)
- Coût et bénéfices non étudiés



ETUDE PRORATA

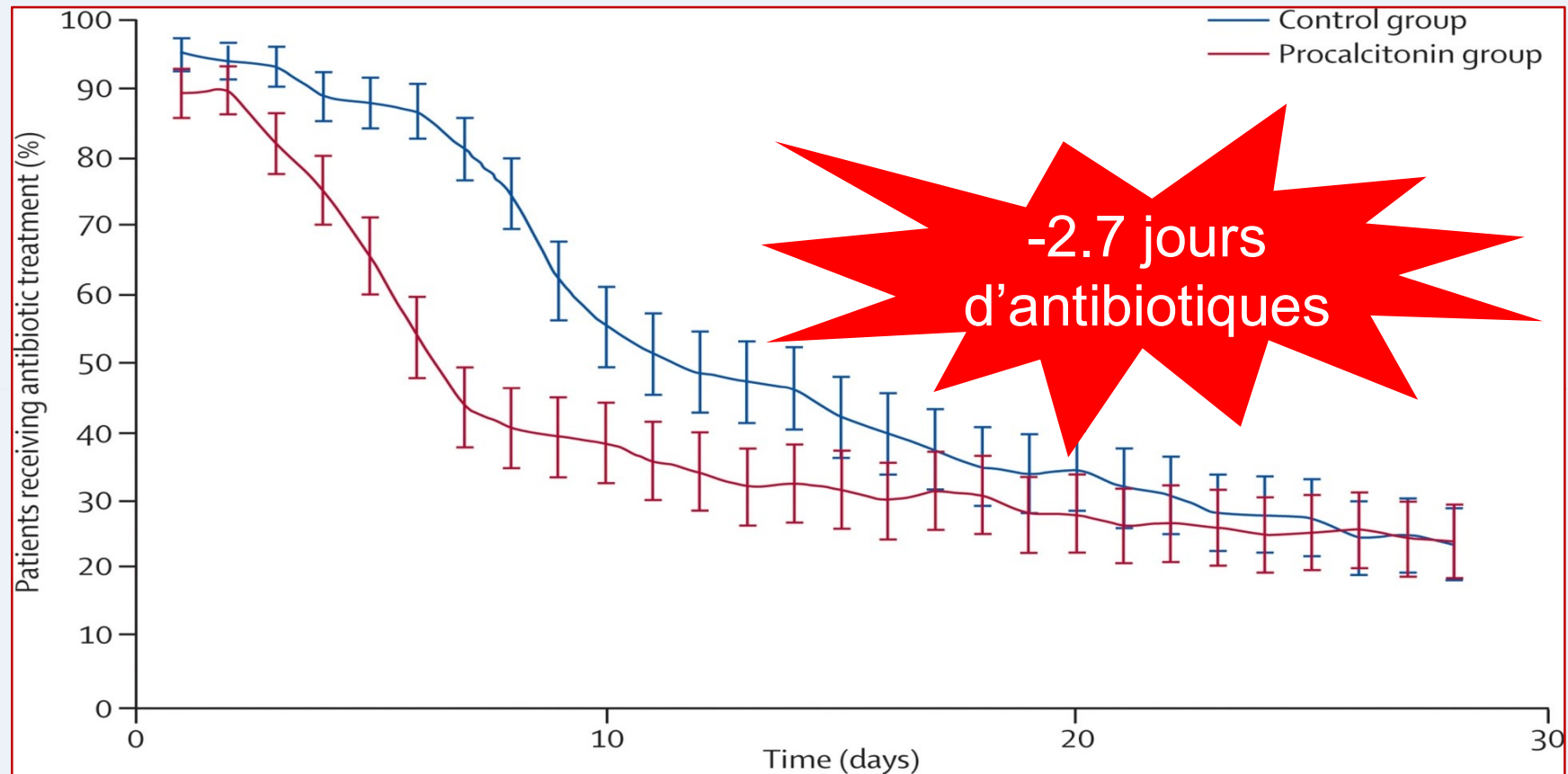




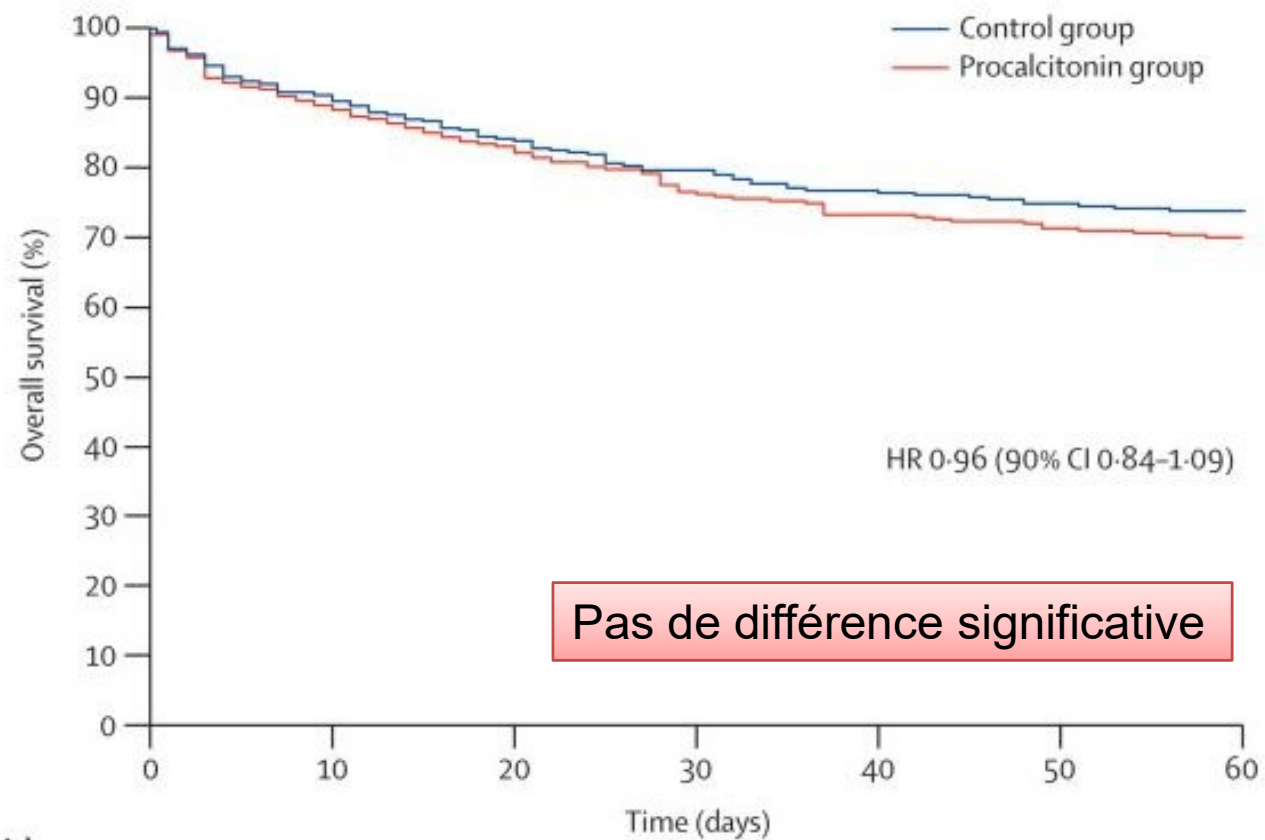
ETUDE PRORATA

Résultats

Bouadma L et al., Lancet 2010



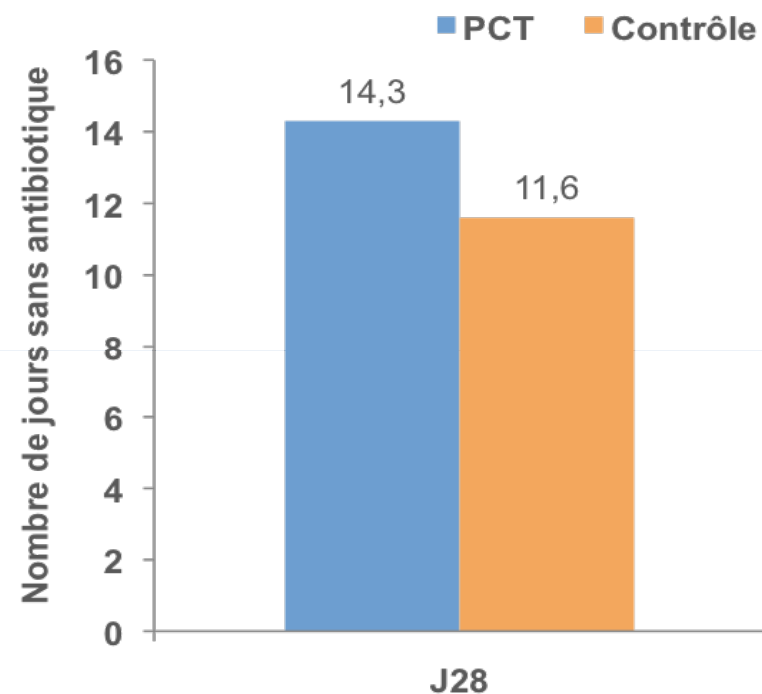
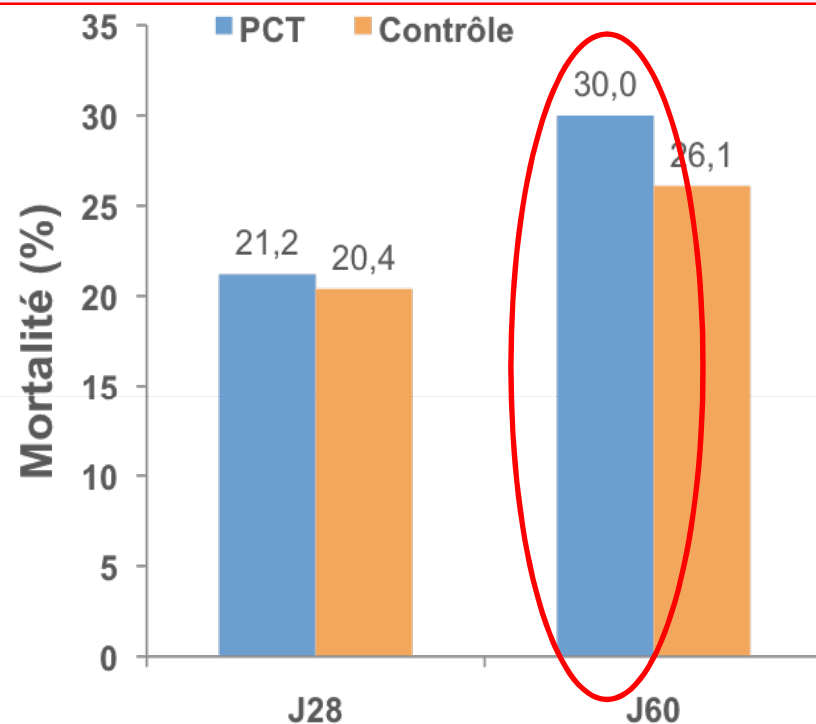
***Baisse significative du taux des patients ayant reçu une ATBpie
dans le groupe PCTpar rapport au groupe contrôle: $p < 0.0001$***



Number at risk							
Procalcitonin group	307	273	255	235	225	219	215
Control group	314	284	264	249	240	234	231

**Mortalité : pas de différence
significative**

**Exposition antibiotique :
– 23 %**



***Acquisition bactérie multirésistante (BMR) identique dans les 2 bras
(17,9 % versus 16,6 %) mais pas de recherche systématique de
colonisation***

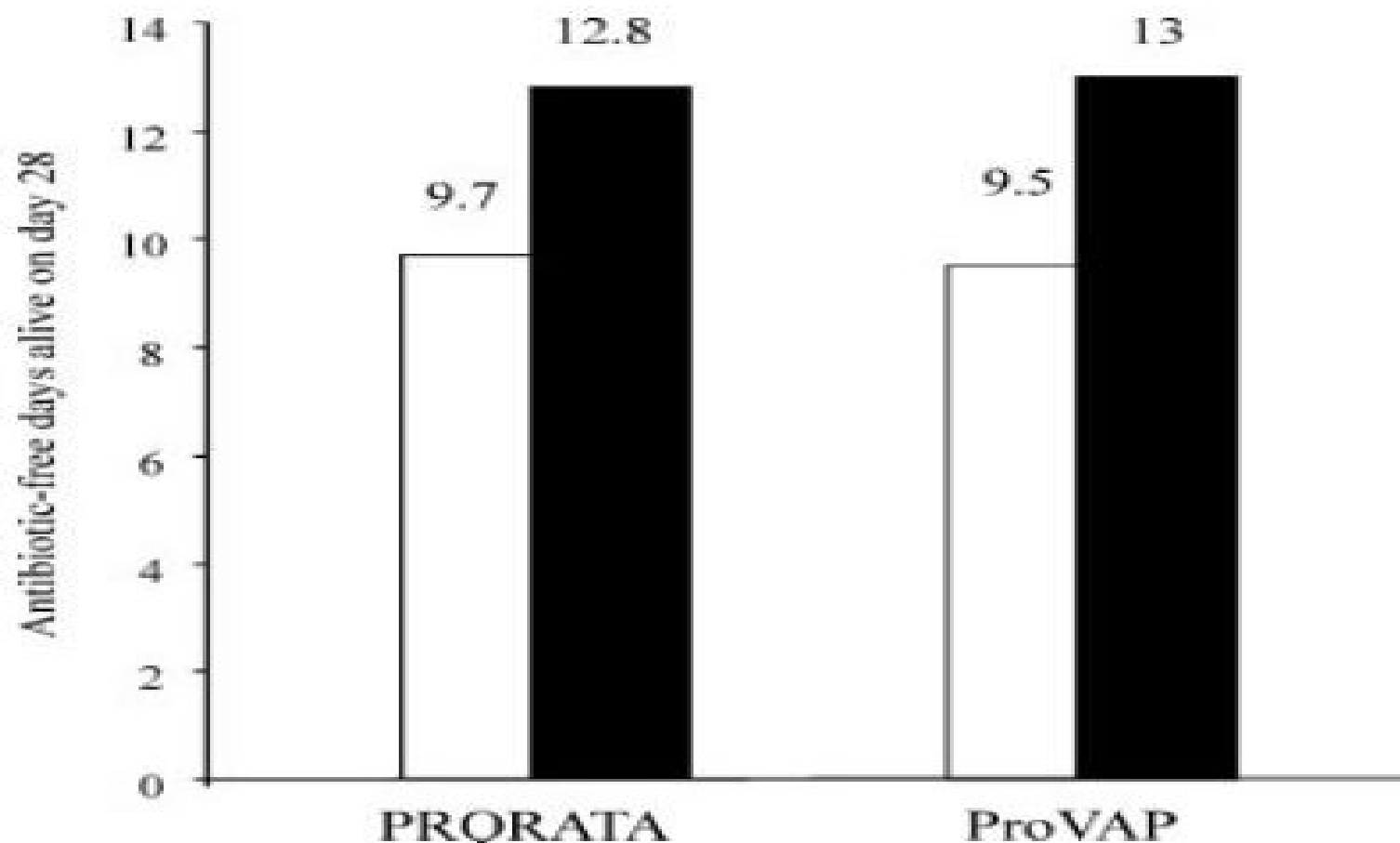


Figure 1 Number of antibiotic-free days alive on day 28 for patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia included in the PRORATA trial³⁰ or the ProVAP trial,³⁴ managed according to a procalcitonin algorithm (black bars) or a conventional control strategy (white bars).

Value of the Serum Procalcitonin Level to Guide Antimicrobial Therapy for Patients with Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia

**Charles-Edouard Luyt, M.D., Ph.D.,^{1,2} Alain Combes, M.D., Ph.D.,^{1,2}
Jean-Louis Trouillet, M.D.,^{1,2} and Jean Chastre, M.D.^{1,2}**

Luyt et al evaluated 73 suspected VAP episodes and found that procalcitonin concentration and rise in procalcitonin had poor diagnostic value for VAP.

Using a cutoff of 0.5 ng/mL, procalcitonin had a sensitivity of 72% and a specificity of 24% for the diagnosis of VAP. However, patients with VAP and sustained elevated procalcitonin had greater hospital mortality than patients with VAP but whose procalcitonin decreased



CrossMark

International ERS/ESICM/ESCM guideline

We do not recommend routinely performing biomarker determinations in addition to bedside clinical assessment in patients receiving antibiotic treatment for VAP or HAP to predict adverse outcomes and clinical response at 72–96 h. (Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence.)

predict adverse outcomes/clinical response at 72–96 h?

In patients with HAP with se

PCT be used to r
compar serum PCT

We do not recommend the routine measurement of serial
levels to reduce duration of the antibiotic course in patients
with HAP

or VAP when the anticipated duration is 7–8 days.

(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence.)

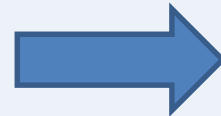
serial

PRORATA trial 2010

Stolz D 2009

Pontet J 2007

de Jong E 2016



748 Patients

Monitorage de la PCT permet une réduction de l'ATB de 3.2j
Et une baisse significative de la mortalité à j28

Pas de différence dans la mortalité hospitalière



Guideline

Chinese guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of hospital-acquired pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia in adults (2018 Edition)

Yi Shi^{1#}, Yi Huang^{2#}, Tian-Tuo Zhang^{3#}, Bin Cao^{4#}, Hui Wang^{5#}, Chao Zhuo^{6#}, Feng Ye^{6#}, Xin Su^{1#}, Hong Fan^{7#}, Jin-Fu Xu^{8#}, Jing Zhang^{9#}, Guo-Xiang Lai^{10#}, Dan-Yang She^{11#}, Xiang-Yan Zhang¹², Bei He¹³, Li-Xian He⁹, You-Ning Liu¹⁴, Jie-Ming Qu¹⁵; on behalf of Infection Study Group of Chinese Thoracic Society, Chinese Medical Association

PCT is also an important predictor of VAP mortality

Dynamic monitoring of PCT level in the course of disease is helpful for deciding the duration of antimicrobial treatment

PCT can't replace microbiological testing.

Surviving Sepsis Guideline

- We suggest the use of low procalcitonin levels or similar biomarkers to assist the clinician in the discontinuation of empiric antibiotics in patients who appeared septic, but have no subsequent evidence of infection (*Grade 2C*).

Effect of Introducing Procalcitonin on Antimicrobial Therapy Duration in Patients With Sepsis and/or Pneumonia in the Intensive Care Unit

Dwyer M, Pickler R, Brown D, Lohr J, Ben R, Brown D, Tarrance L, Triandafyllidis I

- Observational, historical control to assess impact of PCT in ICU
- 50 patients with PCT at initial suspicion of infection and 48 hrs
 - 50 Control pts--same time frame, diagnosis, gendr, age, APACHE II
- Active ASP in place
- Findings:
 - Duration of ABX decreased by 3.3 days ($p=0.0238$)
 - Duration in hospital decreased by 4.3 days ($p=0.029$)
 - Readmission to hospital decreased by 16% ($p=0.055$)
 - Mortality 2% vs 4% ($p=0.5$)

PCT: limitations

- Expense
- Turn Around Time
 - Dependent on lab processes
- May require Serial determinations
- Causes other than bacterial infection
- Optimal cutoff

Low PCT and Infection

1. Early course of infections
2. Localized infections
pharyngitis, maxillary sinusitis, cystitis
3. Subacute infectious endocarditis
4. Mycoplasma pneumonia
(higher than viral but lower than pneumococcus)

PCT Non elevated

- PCT levels have not been noted for inflammatory conditions, such as
 - inflammatory bowel disease
 - temporal giant cell arteritis
 - polyarteritis nodosa
 - systemic lupus
 - erythematosis
 - gout
 - Still disease

Non Bacterial Causes of Elevated PCT

1. neonates < 48 hours of life (physiological)
2. Major trauma, major surgical intervention, severe burns, treatment with OKT3 antibodies and other drugs stimulating the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines
3. Invasive fungal infections, acute malaria
4. Cardiogenic shock, prolonged severe organ perfusion anomalies
5. Small cell lung cancer, medullary C-cell carcinoma of the thyroid
6. Chronic Renal Disease (drops with RRT)

Use of OKT-3 and/or antithymocyte globulin treatment has been shown to result in a >10-fold increase in PCT levels despite the absence of infection

Grace et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2014; 59: 1761

Implementation of a Procalcitonin Requires Appropriate Stewardship to Achieve Improved Antimicrobial Use

“An antimicrobial stewardship team that reviews rapid diagnostic testing results (ie, molecular diagnostic tests, PCT) and provides feedback to providers can help clinicians understand and act upon these results. Without this oversight, there may be little change in behavior of practitioners.⁷ Procalcitonin does not replace clinical judgment but can be a valuable tool”

Inf Dis Clin Pract. 2015

Procalcitonin (PCT): A Useful Tool

YES

- PCT facilitates Decisions to reduce ABX use
 - De-escalation (discontinuation)
 - Duration
- Best if associated with ASP
 - For appropriate interpretation and intervention
- Other outcomes (time to clinical resolution, resistance, mortality, adverse effects) need further evaluation

MERCI POUR VOTRE ATTENTION

Stop Antibiotics on guidance of Procalcitonin Study (SAPS): a randomised prospective multicenter investigator-initiated trial to analyse whether daily measurements of procalcitonin versus a standard-of-care approach can safely shorten antibiotic duration in intensive care unit patients - calculated sample size: 1816 patients

Evelien Assink-de Jong¹, Dylan W de Lange², Jos A van Oers³, Maarten W Nijsten⁴, Jos W Twisk⁵ and Albertus Beishuizen^{1,6*}

2013

- Essai contrôlé randomisé multicentrique
- Protocole basé:

Advice to discontinue antibiotic treatment in case PCT has decreased by more than 80% of its peak level (relative stopping threshold) or decrease below a value of 0.5 ng/ml (absolute stopping threshold).

