EUCAST - The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing 2004

The EUCAST General Committee

Austria	Prof Helmut Mittermayer
Belgium	Prof Jan Verhaegen
Bosnia	Dr S. Uzunovic-Kamberovic
Bulgaria	Prof Krassimir Metodiev
Croatia	Dr Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic
Czech Republic	Dr Pavla Urbaskova
Denmark	Dr Niels Frimodt-Møller
Estonia	Dr Paul Naaber
Finland	Dr Antti Nissinen
France	Dr Fred W. Goldstein
Germany	Prof Bernd Wiedemann
Greece	Prof Alkiviadis Vatopoulos
Hungary	Dr Éva Bán
Iceland	Dr Karl Gustaf Kristinsson
Ireland	Dr Martin Cormican
Italy	**Prof nnnn Veraldo**
Lithuania	Prof Arvydsa Ambrozaitis
Netherlands	Prof John Degener
Norway	Dr Martin Steinbakk
Poland	Prof Waleria Hryniewicz
Portugal	Prof Jose Melo Cristino
Romania	no official representative
Russia	Dr Olga Stetsiouk
Serbia	Dr Lazar Ranin
Slovak Republic	Prof. Milan Niks
Slovenia	Dr Jana Kolman
Spain	Dr Francisco Soriano
Sweden	Dr Barbro Olsson-Liljequist
Switzerland	Prof Jaques Bille
Turkey	Dr Deniz Gür
UK	Prof Richard Wise
Yugoslavia	not confirmed
ISC	Paul Tulkens
FESCI	David Livermore

Pharmaceutical Industry and Device Manufacturers

The representation on the EUCAST General Committee has been transformed into an information network in which all industry with an interest in antimicrobial breakpoints and susceptibility testing are represented. A mail to Gunnar Kahlmeter is enough to make you part of this network. It allows you to comment on tentative EUCAST decisions.

EUCAST structure

EUCAST is a standing ESCMID committee. It was formed in 1996 and restructured at the ECCMID in Milan 2002. It consists of a General Committee, with representatives from all European countries, and is led by an ESCMID-appointed Steering Committee, which includes a Chairman, Scientific Secretary, six National Breakpoint Committee representatives and two representatives of the EUCAST General Committee (see EUCAST Organisation). Decisions are made by the Steering Committee after consultation with the General Committee.

EUCAST objective

To standardise susceptibility testing in Europe so that comparable results and interpretations are produced.

Appointments by ESCMID

- chairholder and Scientific Secretary (3 years)
- national breakpoint committee seats on the steering committee (3 years)
- two representatives from the EUCAST general committee from countries not otherwise represented on the steering committee (2 years).

Appointments by the European countries

- appoint one representative each to serve for 2 years (new or confirmed appointments in 2004)
- active national breakpoint committees can apply for a position on the Steering Committee (application sent to ESCMID).

EUCAST website http://www.eucast.org

- with EUCAST activities and documents
- wild type distributions, breakpoints and epidemiological cut-off values

EUCAST Steering Committee activity

- agreed common expression for susceptibility classification: S≤ and R>
- MIC broth microdilution and agar dilution methods published (see refs 3 & 5)
- agreed processes for setting breakpoints for new agents and harmonizing breakpoints for existing agents (available on www.eucast.org)
- harmonized breakpoints for fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, linezolid and glycopeptides published for consultation (see table)
- new definitions for clinical breakpoints, wild type bacteria and epidemiological cut-off values (available on www.eucast.org)
- joint funding for EUCAST activity obtained from EU DG-SANCO
- collaboration with EMEA regarding inclusion of EUCAST breakpoint setting process in EMEA procedures for licensing new agents

The EUCAST steering committee

Chairman Gunnar Kahlmeter(2005)

Scientific secretary, Derek Brown (2005)

BSAC (The UK), Alasdair MacGowan (2005)

CA-SFM (France), Fred Goldstein (2005)

CRG (The Netherlands) Johan W. Mouton (2005)

DIN (Germany), Arne Rodloff (2005)

NWGA (Norway), Martin Steinbakk (2005)

SRGA (sweden), Anders Österlund (2005)

EUCAST rep Pavla Urbaskova (Czech Republic), (2004)

EUCAST rep Alkiviadis Vatopoulos (Greece), (2004)

Questions on EUCAST?

- website www.eucast.org
- e-mail gunnar.kahlmeter@ltkronoberg.se
- e-mail dfjb2@cam.ac.uk
- contact one of the national breakpoint committees

EUCAST publications

1.European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. (2000). Terminology relating to methods for the determination of susceptibility of bacteria to antimicrobial agents. EUCAST Definitive Document E.Def 1.2. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **6**, 503-8.

2.European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. (2000). Determination of antimicrobial susceptibility test breakpoints. EUCAST Definitive Document E.Def 2.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **6**, 570-2.

3.European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. (2000). Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of antibacterial agents by agar dilution. EUCAST Definitive Document E.Def 3.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **6**, 509-15.

4.European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. (2001). Linezolid breakpoints. EUCAST Definitive Document E.Def 4.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **7**, 283-4.

5.European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. (2003). Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of antibacterial agents by broth microdilution. EUCAST Discussion Document E.Def 5.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **9** (issue 7 insert) 1-10.

6.Ridgway, G.L., Bébéar, C., Bébéar, C.M., Felmingham, D., Maurin, M., Pechère, J.C. *et al.* (2001). Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of intracellular and cell-associated pathogens. EUCAST Discussion Document E.Dis 6.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **7** (issue 12 insert),1-10.

7.Rodriguez-Tudela, J.L., Barchiesi, F., Bille, J., Chryssanthou, E., Cuenca-Estrella, M., Denning, D. *et al.* (In press). Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations by broth microdilution of fermentative yeasts. EUCAST Discussion Document E.Dis 7.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*

8.Drobniewski, F. (2002). Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis. EUCAST Discussion Document E.Dis 8.1. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **8** (issue 10 insert),1-10.

Table: Proposed EUCAST clinical MIC breakpoints (see breakpoint tables on EUCAST website for details)

Agent	Species-related breakpoints (S≤/R>)											Non-species related breakpoints S≤/R>
	Entero-bacteriaceae	*Pseudo-monas*	*Acineto-bacter*	*Staphylo-coccus*	*Enterc-coccus*	*Strepto-coccus A,B,C,G*	*S.pneu-moniae*	*H.influenzae M.catarrhalis*	*N.gonorr-hoeae*	*N.menin-gitidis*	Anaer-obes	
Ciprofloxacin	0.5/1	0.5/1	1/1	1/1	--	--	0.125/2	0.5/0.5	0.03/0.06	0.03/0.06	--	0.5/1
Levofloxacin	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	--	1/2	2/2	1/1	IE	IE	--	1/2
Moxifloxacin	0.5/1	--	--	IE	--	IE	0.5/0.5	0.5/0.5	IE	IE	IE	0.5/1
Norfloxacin	0.5/1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	IE	--	--	0.5/1
Ofloxacin	0.5/1	--	--	1/1	--	--	0.125/4	0.5/0.5	0.12/0.25	IE	--	0.5/1
Vancomycin	--	--	--	4/8	4/8	4/4	4/4	--	--	--	--	4/8
Teicoplanin	--	--	--	4/8	4/8	4/4	4/4	--	--	--	--	4/8
Linezolid	--	--	--	4/4	4/4	2/4	2/4	--	--	--	--	2/4
Amikacin	8/16	16/16	16/16	8/16	--	--	--	IE	--	--	--	8/16
Gentamicin	2/4	4/4	4/4	2/4	--	--	--	IE	--	--	--	2/4
Netilmicin	2/4	4/4	4/4	2/4	--	--	--	IE	--	--	--	2/4
Tobramycin	2/4	4/4	4/4	2/4	--	--	--	IE	--	--	--	2/4