

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Unratified minutes of the Meeting on 10 April 2010 20th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Vienna, Austria

A list of attendees who signed the register is attached.

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes of meeting in Helsinki, 17 May 2009

The unratified minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

4.1 The current membership of the Steering Committee is attached:

4.2 Prof Tulkens and Dr Hakanen complete their terms of office at the meeting on 13-14th April. They were thanked for their contributions over the past two years and the new members will be Dr Marina Ivanova (Estonia) and Prof Helmut Mittermeyer (Austria).

5. EUCAST General Committee membership

5.1 The membership list was presented (the current list is attached). Representatives should inform the Scientific Secretary (email derek.brown222@btinternet.com) if the current representative for their country has changed. Representatives were asked to keep their national societies informed of EUCAST activities and to take part in the consultation process.

5.2 Anyone in the pharmaceutical and susceptibility device manufacturing industries may be part of the industry email network that is included in the consultation process (contact gunnar.kahlmeter@ltkronoberg.se). If email addresses change Prof Kahlmeter should be informed as addresses rejecting correspondence twice will be removed from the list.

6. EUCAST progress report

Prof Kahlmeter summarised activities over the past year.

6.1 In the last year there have been four meetings of the Steering Committee. The General Committee meets once annually, at ECCMID.

6.2 There have been multiple presentations over the year at various scientific meetings.

6.3 Harmonization of breakpoints for widely used older agents is completed. Less commonly used older organism-agent combinations are being addressed with priority given to those agents said to be most widely used in a questionnaire distributed last year. Work on breakpoints for *Helicobacter pylori*, *Clostridium difficile*, *Campylobacter* spp., *Listeria* spp., *Legionella* spp., *Pasteurella* spp. and *Burkholderia cepacia* is currently underway.

6.4 The collaboration with EMA (formerly EMEA) in the setting of breakpoints for new agents according to the EMA SOP (available on the EUCAST website) continues. Several agents have been withdrawn from the process by the companies in the last year but more agents are in the pipeline. Review of breakpoints may be requested by the EMA, the relevant company, EUCAST or the profession. Reviews have been undertaken for glycopeptides (changes published), cephalosporins and aztreonam for Enterobacteriaceae (changes agreed and will be formally finalised at the next Steering Committee meeting), carbapenems breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae (no change at present) and colistin with *Pseudomonas* (currently under review).

6.5 All breakpoints are in organism based tables on the EUCAST website. Prof. Kahlmeter explained

that “-“ in tables means that the agent is a poor drug for that organism and should not be substituted with other breakpoints (but could be substituted with an automatic “R”). “IE” means that the drug may be useful but there was not enough evidence to set a breakpoint; it should not be substituted with other breakpoints but an MIC could be reported (with or without comment).

- 6.6 The EUCAST website (www.eucast.org) continues to be expanded. There is a new section on the EUCAST disk diffusion method. A section listing all rationale documents has also been added. In the last 3 months there were over 17,000 visitors per month to the website, clinical breakpoints, the disk diffusion method and expert rules being the most popular pages.
- 6.7 National Antibiotic Committees (NACs) are being promoted by EUCAST to deal with Antimicrobial Policies, Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Antimicrobial Consumption and Policies. On antimicrobial susceptibility testing, the NAC would deal with strategy at national level, implementation of breakpoints and methods, education, liaison and consultation with EUCAST, liaison with groups involved in AMR-surveillance (eg ECDC, EARSS) and quality assurance.
- 6.8 EUCAST breakpoints are now in use in 6 countries, 9 more have made the decision to transfer to EUCAST in 2010-11, and discussions are in progress in at least 6 others.

7. EUCAST subcommittee reports

7.1 Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee:

Prof Rodriguez-Tudela, chairman of the subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee Steering Committee has met twice in the past year and does most work via email. The full committee meets at each ECCMID. Membership of the full Subcommittee and Steering Committee are attached.

Two methods are being developed, one for the determination of broth dilution minimum Inhibitory concentrations of antifungal agents for non-fermentative yeasts (*Coordinator: Manuel Cuenca Estrella*) and a collaborative study is underway to identify the best method for the determination of broth dilution minimum Inhibitory concentrations of echinocandins agents for yeasts (*Coordinator: Maiken C. Arendrup*). Following two meetings an ISO standard with two different approaches (Visual reading according to CLSI standard M27A and spectrophotometric reading according to EUCAST definitive document EDEF 7.1) has been agreed by the ISO committee and has been sent to the ISO organization.

With regard to breakpoints, the posaconazole and anidulafungin rationale documents are completed, amphotericin B is in the final phase, itraconazole has just been started, and caspofungin and micafungin are awaiting results of experiments to establish a new standard.

An ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course “Diagnosing and Treating Fungal Infections: from Neonates to Adults” was held in October 2009 in Greece and a workshop “Invasive fungal infections: host-pathogen interaction” was held in March 2010 in Norway. Publications in the past year have covered EUCAST breakpoints for antifungals, association of fluconazole pharmacodynamics with mortality in patients with candidemia, data mining validation of fluconazole breakpoints, the importance of avoiding breakpoints that divide wild-type distributions of important target species, echinocandin susceptibility testing of *Candida* species, comparison of VITEK 2, CLSI and EUCAST broth microdilution reference methods, Sensititre Yeast-One and Etest techniques for detection of antifungal resistance in yeasts, and a multicentre comparison of the ISO Standard 20776-1 and the serial 2-fold dilution procedures for dilution of antifungal agents for susceptibility testing. Links to all publications will be on the EUCAST website.

Future tasks include the rationale for isavuconazole breakpoints, Inter- and intra-laboratory exercises to obtain QC strains for non-fermentative yeasts and for echinocandins, breakpoints for voriconazole and *Aspergillus*, and Epidemiological cutoffs for infrequent *Candida* species, *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, mucorales, *Scedosporium*, *Paecilomyces*, etc.

7.2 Expert Rules Subcommittee:

Membership of the Subcommittee is attached. Version 2.0 of the expert rules is close to being released. The rules will be integrated with breakpoint tables and submitted for publication in Clinical Microbiology and Infection.

7.3 Anaerobes Subcommittee:

Membership of the Subcommittee is attached. The subcommittee is currently working on methodology for routine tests.

8. The EUCAST disk diffusion method

The EUCAST disk diffusion method was briefly described. A full method description, a slideshow and breakpoints are on the EUCAST website. MIC-zone diameter distributions used to calibrate the method will be added over the next few months.

9. Preparedness of manufacturers of materials for AST by EUCAST methods

Susceptibility device manufacturers are at various stages of readiness for EUCAST breakpoints. A table summarising the current situation was presented and is on the EUCAST website.

10. EUCAST and ECDC

- 10.1 The principal source of funding for EUCAST is still the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). ESCMID and National Breakpoint Committees also continue to provide support to EUCAST.
- 10.2 There will need to be a formal decision on the future relationship between EUCAST, ECDC, EMEA and ESCMID. SOPs will be developed to cover this.
- 10.3 EUCAST will support ECDC decisions on use of EUCAST breakpoints in surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and HCAI.

11. Future activities

Prof Kahlmeter reported that, in addition to activities mentioned previously, priorities for the next year were:

- 11.1 Implement EUCAST breakpoints.
- 11.2 Promote national educational workshops on European AST.
- 11.3 Encourage implementation of EUCAST breakpoints in all major systems for antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- 11.4 Ensure that all breakpoint rational documents are available on website.
- 11.5 Develop breakpoints and methods for *Campylobacter* spp., *H. pylori*, *C. difficile*, *Burkholderia cepacia* and other organism groups.
- 11.6 Develop breakpoints for several topical antimicrobials and several less commonly used drugs.

12. Any other business

None.

13. The next meeting of the EUCAST Committee

Scheduled for 21st ECCMID, Milan, Italy 2011.

EUCAST General Committee Meeting attendees signing the register, 10 April 2010

Arjana Andrasevic	Croatia
Gioia Babini	BD
Art Balode	Latvia
Jacques Bille	Switzerland
Derek Brown	EUCAST
Rafael Canton	EUCAST
Martin Cormican	Ireland
Irena Codita	Hungary
Romuald Courtade	BioMérieux
Evelyn Ellis-Grosse	e2g Consulting
Anette Engelhardt	BioMérieux
Sheila Farnham	BioMérieux
David Farrell	JMI Laboratories
Nils Frimodt-Muller	Denmark
Ian Gould	Scotland
Antti Hakanen	Finland
Joseph Iaconis	Astra Zeneca
J. Jacobs	Elitech/Lucron Products
Marika Jürna-Ella	Estonia
Manette Juvin	Bio-Rad
Marina Ivanova	Estonia
Thomas Kacergius	Lithuania
Gunnar Kahlmeter	EUCAST
Laura Koeth	Laboratory Specialists Inc
Jana Kolman	Slovenia
Ulrike Kunert	BD
Leonard	BD
Alasdair MacGowan	UK
Fiona Mackenzie	Scotland
Daniel Malait	Bio-Rad
Linda Miller	Glaxo Smith Kline
Milan Niks	Slovakia
Luis Martinez-Martinez	Spain
Lorine Notte	Elitech/Lucron Products
Barbro Olsson-Liljequist	Sweden
Petra Peters	BioMérieux
James Poupard	Pharma Inst of Phila
Bob Rennie	Canada
Juan-Luis Rodriguez-Tudela	Spain
Helio Sader	JMI Laboratories
Martin Steinbakk	Norway
Akos Toth	Hungary
Paul Tulkens	Belgium
Veronique Van Ranst	Eumedica
Thierry Vidalenc	Bio-Rad
Alkis Vatopoulos	Greece
Laura Ward	Oxoid
Bernd Wiedemann	Germany
Giles Zambardi	BioMérieux

EUCAST Steering Committee May 2010

Chairman	Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden	2011
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown	UK	2011
Clinical Data Coordinator	Dr Rafael Canton	Spain	2011
BSAC	Prof Alasdair MacGowan	UK	2011
CRG	Dr Johan W. Mouton	Netherlands	2011
DIN	Dr Arne Rodloff	Germany	2011
NWGA	Dr Arnfinn Sundsfjord/ Martin Steinbakk	Norway	2011
SFM	Prof Claude-James Soussy/ Prof Luc Dubreuil	France	2011
SRGA	Dr Christan Giske	Sweden	2011
General Committee	Prof Paul Tulkens	ISC	2010
General Committee	Dr Antti Hakkanen	Finland	2010

EUCAST General Committee May 2010

Chair	Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown
Clinical Data Coordinator	Dr Rafael Canton
National representatives	
Austria	Prof. Helmut Mittermayer
Belgium	Prof. Jan Verhaegen
Bosnia	Dr Selma Uzunovic-Kamberovic
Bulgaria	Prof. Krassimir Metodiev
Croatia	Dr Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic
Czech Republic	Dr Helena Zemlickova
Denmark	Dr Niels Frimodt-Møller
Estonia	Dr Marina Ivanova
Finland	Dr Antti Hakkanen
France	Prof. Luc Dubreuil
Germany	Prof. Bernd Wiedemann
Greece	Prof. Alkiviadis Vatopoulos
Hungary	Dr Ákos Tóth
Iceland	Dr Karl Gustaf Kristinsson
Ireland	Dr Martin Cormican
Israel	Dr Yoram Keness
Italy	Prof. Pietro Varaldo
Latvia	Dr Arta Balode
Lithuania	Prof. Tomas Kacergius
Netherlands	Prof. John Degener
Norway	Dr Arnfinn Sundsfjord
Poland	Prof. Waleria Hryniewicz
Portugal	Prof. Jose Melo Cristino
Russia	Dr Olga Stetsiouk
Serbia	Dr Lazar Ranin
Slovak Republic	Prof. Milan Niks
Slovenia	Dr Jana Kolman
Spain	Dr Luis Martinez-Martinez
Sweden	Dr Barbro Olsson-Liljequist
Switzerland	Prof. Jacques Bille
Turkey	Dr Deniz Gür
UK	Prof Alasdair MacGowan
ISC	Dr Paul Tulkens
FESCI	Dr David Livermore
Pharmaceutical Industry	Email network of any with an interest in antimicrobials
Device Manufacturers	Email network of any with an interest in antimicrobials

EUCAST subcommittees

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee

Steering Committee

Juan Luis Rodriguez-Tudela, Spain (Chair)
J Peter Donnelly, the Netherlands (Secretary)
Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Denmark
Manuel Cuenca-Estrella, Spain
William Hope, UK
Cornelia Lass-Floerl, Austria

Full Committee

Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Denmark
William Hope, UK
Eric Dannaoui, France;
Wolfgang Fegeler, Germany
Francesco Barchiesi, Italy
J Peter Donnelly, the Netherlands (Secretary)
Paul Verweij, the Netherlands
Peter Gaustad, Norway
Juan Luis Rodriguez-Tudela, Spain (Chair)
Manuel Cuenca-Estrella, Spain
Erja Chryssanthou, Sweden
Jacques Bille, Switzerland
Caroline Moore, UK
Cornelia Lass-Floerl, Austria
Aristia Velegraki, Greece
Nikolay Klimko, Russia
Arno Schmalreck, Germany
Sevtap Arikan, Turkey

Expert Rules Subcommittee

Roland Leclercq, France (Chair)
Rafael Cantón, Spain
Christian Giske, Sweden
Peter Heisig, Germany
David Livermore, UK
Patrice Nordmann, France
Gian Maria Rossolini, Italy
Trevor Winstanley, UK

Anaerobe Subcommittee

Arne Rodloff, Germany (Chair)
Luc DuBreuil, France
Elizabeth Nagy, Hungary