

## **Bacterial infections in patients with acute variceal bleeding in the era of antibiotic prophylaxis**

Javier Martínez, Virginia Hernández-Gea, Enrique Rodríguez-de-Santiago, Luis Téllez,  
Bogdan Procopet, Álvaro Giráldez, Lucio Amitrano, Candid Villanueva, Dominique  
Thabut, Luis Ibañez-Samaniego, Gilberto Silva-Junior, Joan Genescà, Christophe  
Bureau, Jonel Trebicka, Rafael Bañares, Aleksander Krag, Elba Llop, Wim Laleman,  
Jose María Palazon, Jose Castellote, Susana Rodrigues, Lise L. Gluud, Carlos  
Noronha-Ferreira, Nuria Cañete, Manuel Rodríguez, Arnulf Ferlitsch, Remy Schwarzer,  
Jose Luis Mundi, Henning Gronbaek, Manuel Hernández-Guerra, Romano Sassatelli,  
Alessandra Dell'Éra, Marco Senzolo, Juan G. Abrales, Manuel Romero-Gomez,  
Alexander Zipprich, Meritxell Casas, Helena Masnou, Massimo Primignani, Frederik  
Nevens, Jose Luis Calleja, Christian Jansen, Marie Angèle Robic, Irene Conejo, Maria  
Vega Catalina, Marika Rudler, Edilmar Alvarado, Valeria Perez-Campuzano, Maria  
Anna Guardascione, Petra Fischer, Jaime Bosch, Juan Carlos García-Pagán, Agustín  
Albillos, for International Variceal Bleeding Observational Study Group and Baveno  
Cooperation

### Table of contents

Table S1.....	2
Table S2.....	4
Table S3.....	5
Table S4.....	8
Table S5.....	11
Table S6.....	13
Table S7.....	14

**Table S1. Missing data of each variable**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>All patients (n=1656) Missing data (N; %)</b>
Age, years	None
Gender, male	None
Etiology of cirrhosis, alcohol	None
Active alcoholism	30 (1.8)
Previous antibiotics	None
Diabetes	None
<b><i>Severity of cirrhosis</i></b>	
Child-Pugh at admission	None
Hepatic encephalopathy	None
Bilirubin, mg/dL	None
Albumin, g/dL	None
INR	None
<b><i>Index bleed: severity</i></b>	
Hematemesis	None
Active bleeding at endoscopy	2 (0.1)
Shock	65 (3.9)
Haemoglobin, g/dL	None
Number of packed red blood cells	24 (1.4)
<b><i>Index bleed: management</i></b>	
Use of antibiotic prophylaxis	None

Nasogastric tube	48 (2.9)
Sedation for endoscopy	70 (4.2)
Orotracheal intubation for endoscopy	31 (1.9)
Time to endoscopy	82 (5.0)
Initial hemostatic treatment	None
Endoscopic treatment	118 (7.1)
Balloon tamponade	None
Pre-emptive TIPS	None
<b>Infection outcome</b>	
Infection during admission	None
Type of infection during admission	None
Time from admission to infection	8 (0.5)
Bacterial isolations	277 (75.9)
<b><i>Hospitalization and mortality</i></b>	
Length, days	19 (1.1)
In-hospital mortality	None
Mortality at 6-weeks	None

**Table S2. Other patient characteristics**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>All patients n=1656</b>	<b>Without bacterial infection n=1336</b>	<b>With bacterial infection n=320</b>	<b>p value</b>
Previous decompensation	855 (51.6)	696 (52.1)	159 (49.7)	0.94
Portal hypertensive bleeding	532 (32.1)	442 (33.1)	90 (28.1)	0.09
Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis/bacteremia	53 (3.2)	42 (3.1)	11 (3.4)	0.08
Hepatorenal syndrome	16 (1.0)	14 (1.0)	2 (0.6)	0.87
Previous active therapies				
Beta-blockers	560 (33.8)	491 (36.8)	69 (21.6)	0.09
Anticoagulants	73 (4.4)	55 (4.1)	18 (5.6)	0.21
Simvastatin	80 (4.8)	69 (5.2)	11 (3.4)	0.32
Diuretics	713 (43.1)	588 (44.0)	125 (39.1)	0.29
Previous antibiotics	202 (12.2)	164 (12.3)	38 (11.9)	0.27
Norfloxacin	104 (6.3)	80 (6.0)	24 (7.5)	0.54
Rifaximin	74 (4.5)	63 (4.7)	11 (3.4)	0.75
Others	24 (1.5)	21 (1.6)	3 (0.9)	0.34
Hepatocellular carcinoma	207 (12.5)	171 (12.8)	36 (11.3)	0.51
Portal vein thrombosis	205 (12.4)	172 (12.9)	33 (10.3)	0.34

Categorical variables are expressed as N(%)

**Table S3. Characteristics of patients and outcomes of the retrospective (2011-2013) and prospective (2013-2015) cohorts**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>All patients n=1656</b>	<b>Retrospective cohort n=733</b>	<b>Prospective cohort n=923</b>	<b>p value</b>
Age, years	59.1 (12.4)	58.3 (11.2)	59.1 (11.9)	0.08
Gender, male	1225 (74.0)	543 (74.1)	682 (73.9)	0.09
Etiology of cirrhosis, alcohol	895 (54.1)	404 (55.1)	491 (53.2)	0.20
Active alcohol use	584 (35.3)	271 (37.0)	313 (33.9)	0.29
Previous antibiotics	203 (12.3)	88 (12.0)	115 (12.5)	0.50
Diabetes	510 (30.8)	225 (30.7)	285 (30.9)	0.46
<b>Severity of cirrhosis</b>				
Child-Pugh at admission				
A	230 (13.9)	102 (13.9)	128 (13.9)	0.66
B	984 (59.4)	454 (61.9)	530 (57.4)	
C	442 (26.7)	177 (24.2)	265 (28.7)	
Hepatic encephalopathy				
No	1177 (71.1)	528 (72.0)	649 (70.3)	0.87
Grade I-II	307 (18.5)	132 (18.0)	175 (19.0)	
Grade III-IV	172 (10.4)	73 (10.0)	99 (10.7)	
Bilirubin, mg/dL	2.8 (3.8)	2.5 (2.1)	2.3 (2.9)	0.72
Albumin, g/dL	2.8 (0.6)	2.8 (0.6)	2.8 (0.7)	0.73
INR	1.6 (0.5)	1.3 (0.8)	1.4 (0.9)	0.15
<b>Index bleed: severity</b>				

Hematemesis	1260 (76.1)	568 (77.5)	692 (75.0)	0.15
Active bleeding at endoscopy	528 (31.9)	213 (29.1)	315 (34.1)	0.23
Shock	454 (27.4)	191 (26.1)	263 (28.5)	0.69
Haemoglobin, g/dL	9.1 (2.2)	9.1 (2.1)	9.2 (2.0)	0.74
Number of packed red blood cells	2.1 (2.0)	2.2 (2.0)	1.2 (1.1)	<b>0.02</b>
<b><i>Index bleed: management</i></b>				
Antibiotic prophylaxis				
Third generation cephalosporines	1262 (76.2)	545 (74.4)	717 (77.7)	0.33
Quinolones	314 (19.0)	146 (19.9)	168 (18.2)	
Amoxicillin/clavulanic	48 (2.9)	26 (3.5)	22 (2.4)	
Others	32 (1.9)	13 (1.8)	19 (2.1)	
Nasogastric tube	532 (32.1)	278 (37.9)	254 (27.5)	<b>0.01</b>
Sedation for endoscopy	1143 (69.0)	505 (68.9)	638 (69.1)	0.34
Orotracheal intubation for endoscopy	323 (19.5)	163 (22.2)	160 (17.3)	<b>0.01</b>
Time to endoscopy				
<12h	1386 (83.7)	587 (80.0)	799 (86.6)	0.21
12-24	129 (7.8)	57 (7.8)	72 (7.8)	
>24h	59 (3.6)	31 (4.2)	28 (3.0)	
Initial hemostatic treatment				
Drugs plus endoscopy	1422 (85.9)	601 (82.0)	821 (88.9)	0.17
Drugs alone	166 (10.0)	74 (10.1)	92 (10.0)	1

Endoscopy alone	54 (3.3)	25 (3.4)	29 (3.1)	0.26
Balloon tamponade	50 (3.0)	22 (3.0)	28 (3.0)	0.79
Esophageal stent	2 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	0.81
<b>Endoscopic treatment</b>				
Ligation	1225 (74.0)	541 (73.8)	684 (74.1)	0.77
Sclerotherapy	159 (9.6)	68 (9.3)	91 (9.9)	0.48
Tissue glue injection	111 (6.7)	51 (7.0)	60 (6.5)	0.73
Others	43 (2.6)	23 (3.1)	20 (2.2)	0.77
Pre-emptive TIPS	53 (3.2)	19 (2.6)	34 (3.7)	0.17
<b><i>Infections outcomes</i></b>				
Infection during admission	320 (19.3)	156 (21.3)	164 (17.8)	<b>0.01</b>
Respiratory infection	159 (9.6)	79 (10.8)	80 (8.7)	0.08
<b><i>Hospitalization and mortality</i></b>				
Length, days	10.1 (7.7)	12.1 (8.4)	11.8 (6.3)	0.57
In-hospital mortality	164 (9.9)	79 (10.8)	85 (9.2)	0.15
Mortality at 6-weeks	220 (13.3)	110 (15.0)	110 (11.9)	0.37

Continuous variables are expressed as mean (standard deviation) or as median (interquartile range). Categorical variables are expressed as N (%)

INR: International normalized ratio

TIPS: Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt

**Table S4. Characteristics of the patients without and with respiratory infection**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>All patients n=1656</b>	<b>Without respiratory infection n=1497</b>	<b>With respiratory infection n=159</b>	<b>P</b>
Age, years	59.1 (12.4)	59.0 (12.1)	58.9 (12.2)	0.57
Gender, male	1225 (74.0)	1108 (74.0)	117 (73.6)	0.33
Etiology of cirrhosis, alcohol	895 (54.1)	799 (53.4)	96 (60.4)	<b>0.04</b>
Active alcohol use	584 (35.3)	508 (33.9)	76 (47.8)	<b>0.03</b>
Previous antibiotics	203 (12.3)	184 (12.3)	19 (11.9)	0.45
Diabetes	510 (30.8)	469 (31.3)	41 (25.8)	0.09
<b>Severity of cirrhosis</b>				
Child-Pugh				
A	230 (13.9)	222 (14.8)	8 (5.0)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
B	984 (59.4)	908 (60.7)	76 (47.8)	
C	442 (26.7)	367 (24.5)	75 (47.2)	
Hepatic encephalopathy				
No	1177 (71.1)	1087 (72.6)	90 (56.6)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Grade I-II	307 (18.5)	285 (19.0)	22 (13.8)	
Grade III-IV	172 (10.4)	125 (8.4)	47 (29.6)	
Bilirubin, mg/dL	2.8 (3.8)	1.8 (1.9)	2.3 (1.8)	<b>0.04</b>
Albumin, g/dL	2.8 (0.6)	2.9 (0.9)	2.6 (0.7)	<b>0.04</b>
INR	1.6 (0.5)	1.4 (0.9)	1.6 (0.8)	0.43



<b><i>Index bleed: severity</i></b>				
Hematemesis	1260 (76.1)	1136 (75.9)	124 (78.0)	0.09
Active bleeding at endoscopy	528 (31.9)	477 (31.9)	51 (32.1)	0.34
Shock	454 (27.4)	402 (26.9)	52 (32.7)	0.13
Hemoglobin, g/dL	9.1 (2.2)	9.2 (2.1)	8.7 (2.3)	0.32
Number of packed red blood cells	2.1 (2.0)	1.7 (2.0)	2.1 (2.1)	0.09
<b><i>Index bleed: management</i></b>				
Antibiotic prophylaxis				
Third generation cephalosporines	1262 (76.2)	1143 (76.4)	119 (74.8)	<b>0.04</b>
Quinolones	314 (19.0)	289 (19.3)	25 (15.7)	
Amoxicillin/clavulanic	48 (2.9)	40 (2.7)	8 (5.0)	
Others	32 (1.9)	25 (1.7)	7 (4.4)	
Nasogastric tube	532 (32.1)	462 (30.9)	70 (44.0)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Sedation for endoscopy	1143 (69.0)	1026 (68.5)	117 (73.6)	0.43
Orotracheal intubation for endoscopy	323 (19.5)	258 (17.2)	65 (40.9)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Time to endoscopy				
<12h	1386 (83.7)	1254 (83.8)	132 (83.0)	0.61
12-24	129 (7.8)	117 (7.8)	12 (7.6)	
>24h	59 (3.6)	51 (3.4)	8 (5.0)	
Initial hemostatic treatment				
Drugs plus endoscopy	1422 (85.9)	1295 (86.5)	127 (79.9)	0.65
Drugs alone	166 (10.0)	148 (9.9)	18 (11.3)	0.57

Endoscopy alone	54 (3.3)	49 (3.3)	5 (3.1)	0.66
Balloon tamponade	50 (3.0)	37 (2.5)	13 (8.2)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Esophageal stent	2 (0.1)	2 (0.1)	0 (0.0)	1
<b>Endoscopic treatment</b>				
Ligation	1225 (74.0)	1114 (74.4)	111 (69.8)	0.62
Sclerotherapy	159 (9.6)	146 (9.8)	13 (8.2)	0.78
Tissue glue injection	111 (6.7)	102 (6.8)	9 (5.7)	1
Others	43 (2.6)	37 (2.5)	6 (3.8)	0.44
Pre-emptive TIPS	53 (3.2)	45 (3.0)	8 (5.0)	0.08
<b><i>Hospitalization and mortality</i></b>				
Length, days	10.1 (7.7)	11.9 (8.9)	15.4 (7.4)	<b>0.01</b>
In-hospital mortality	164 (9.9)	123 (8.2)	41 (25.8)	<b>0.01</b>
Mortality at 6-weeks	220 (13.3)	177 (11.8)	43 (27.0)	<b>0.01</b>

Continuous variables are expressed as mean (standard deviation) or as median (interquartile range). Categorical variables are expressed as N(%)

INR: International normalized ratio

TIPS: Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt

**Table S5. Antibiotic resistance profile of the bacterial isolates with antibiotic susceptibility information available (78 bacterial isolates with antibiogram available from 64 infections)**

	<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>Urinary tract</b>	<b>Primary bacteremia</b>	<b>SBP</b>	<b>Soft-tissue</b>
<b>Infections with antibiogram available</b>	N=23	N=17	N=18	N=5	N=1
<b>Gram-negative organisms</b>					
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	8 (1 QR, 7 CR, 1 MR)	2 (2 CR)	2 (2 CR)		
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	3 (1 ESBL)	3 (1 ESBL, 1 MR)	4 (1 QR, 1 ESBL)		
<i>E. coli</i>	2 (1 ESBL, 1 CR)	4 (2 QR, 1 CR, 1 ESBL)	8 (2 QR)	2 (1 QR, 1 CR)	
<i>E. cloacae</i>	2 (2 CR)	1 (1 QR, 1 CR)			
<i>E. faecium</i>		6 (6 QR, 6 CR)	5 (4 QR, 1 MR)	2 (1 QR,	

				1 ESBL)	
<i>E. fecalis</i>		2 (1 QR, 1 CR)	7 (7 QR, 7 CR)		
<i>A. woffi</i>	1 (1 QR, 1 CR)				
<i>A. baumannii</i>			1 (1 QR, 1 CR)		
<b>Gram-positive organisms</b>					
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	3		2	1 (1 CR)	
<i>S. aureus</i>	4 (3 QR, 1 CR)		2 (1 QR, 1 CR)		
<i>S. epidermidis</i>					1 (1 CR)

CR, third-generation cephalosporin resistant. QR, quinolone resistant. ESBL, extended spectrum beta lactamase. MDR, multi-drug-resistant

**Table S6. COX regression analysis of variables associated with the development of bacterial and respiratory infection**

<b>Bacterial infection</b>			
<b>Variable</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>95% CI</b>	<b>p</b>
Child-Pugh A	Ref		
Child-Pugh B	2.1	1.2-3.6	<0.01
Child-Pugh C	2.3	1.3-4.0	<0.01
Severe (grade III-IV) hepatic encephalopathy	1.8	1.3-2.5	<0.01
Nasogastric tube	1.6	1.2-2.0	<0.01
Orotracheal intubation for endoscopy	1.7	1.3-2.2	<0.01
<b>Respiratory bacterial infection</b>			
<b>Variable</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>CI 95%</b>	<b>p</b>
Child-Pugh C	2.7	1.2-6.0	0.02
Severe (grade III-IV) hepatic encephalopathy	2.3	1.5-3.4	<0.01
Nasogastric tube	1.8	1.3-2.5	<0.01
Orotracheal intubation for endoscopy	2.3	1.6-3.3	<0.01
Esophageal balloon tamponade	1.8	1.1-3.4	0.04

Ref.: reference.

**Table S7. Univariate and multivariate analysis of variables associated with 6-week mortality.**

Variable	Univariate			Multivariate		
	HR	CI 95%	P	HR	CI 95%	P
Age	1.1	1.0-1.1	0.01	1.1	1.1-1.2	0.01
Child-Pugh B	2.4	1.2-4.8	0.01	2.2	1.1-4.4	0.02
Child-Pugh C	7.9	4.0-15.6	<0.01	7.6	3.8-15.1	<0.01
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	0.8	0.6-1.5	0.32			
Bacterial infection	1.7	1.3-2.3	<0.01			
Active bleeding	1.5	1.3-2.1	<0.01	1.5	1.2-2.0	0.01
Shock on admission	2.5	1.8-3.2	<0.01	2.1	1.6-2.7	<0.01
Pre-emptive TIPS	0.3	0.4-0.7	<0.01	0.3	0.2-0.5	<0.01

## References

1. Hernandez-Gea V, Procopet B, Giraldez A, Amitrano L, Villanueva C, Thabut D, et al. Preemptive-TIPS Improves Outcome in High-Risk Variceal Bleeding: An Observational Study. *Hepatology*. 2019 Jan;69(1):282-93. PubMed PMID: 30014519.
2. Horan TC, Andrus M, Dudeck MA. CDC/NHSN surveillance definition of health care-associated infection and criteria for specific types of infections in the acute care setting. *American journal of infection control*. 2008 Jun;36(5):309-32. PubMed PMID: 18538699.
3. Fernandez J, Acevedo J, Wiest R, Gustot T, Amoros A, Deulofeu C, et al. Bacterial and fungal infections in acute-on-chronic liver failure: prevalence, characteristics and impact on prognosis. *Gut*. 2018 Oct;67(10):1870-80. PubMed PMID: 28847867.