

Assessment of Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) at UHL and Primary Contributors to its Ineffectiveness

Alvina Zanib, Usman Leel, Antonella Salvia Milos, Ahmed Abdelaziz Ahmed, Maria Molyneux, Marian Ryan.

Department of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital Limerick

Introduction:

Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) has consistently proven to be a highly effective treatment for combating life-threatening infections and reducing hospital-related expenses. However, regrettably, OPAT failures are not uncommon and can be attributed to various factors.

Objectives:

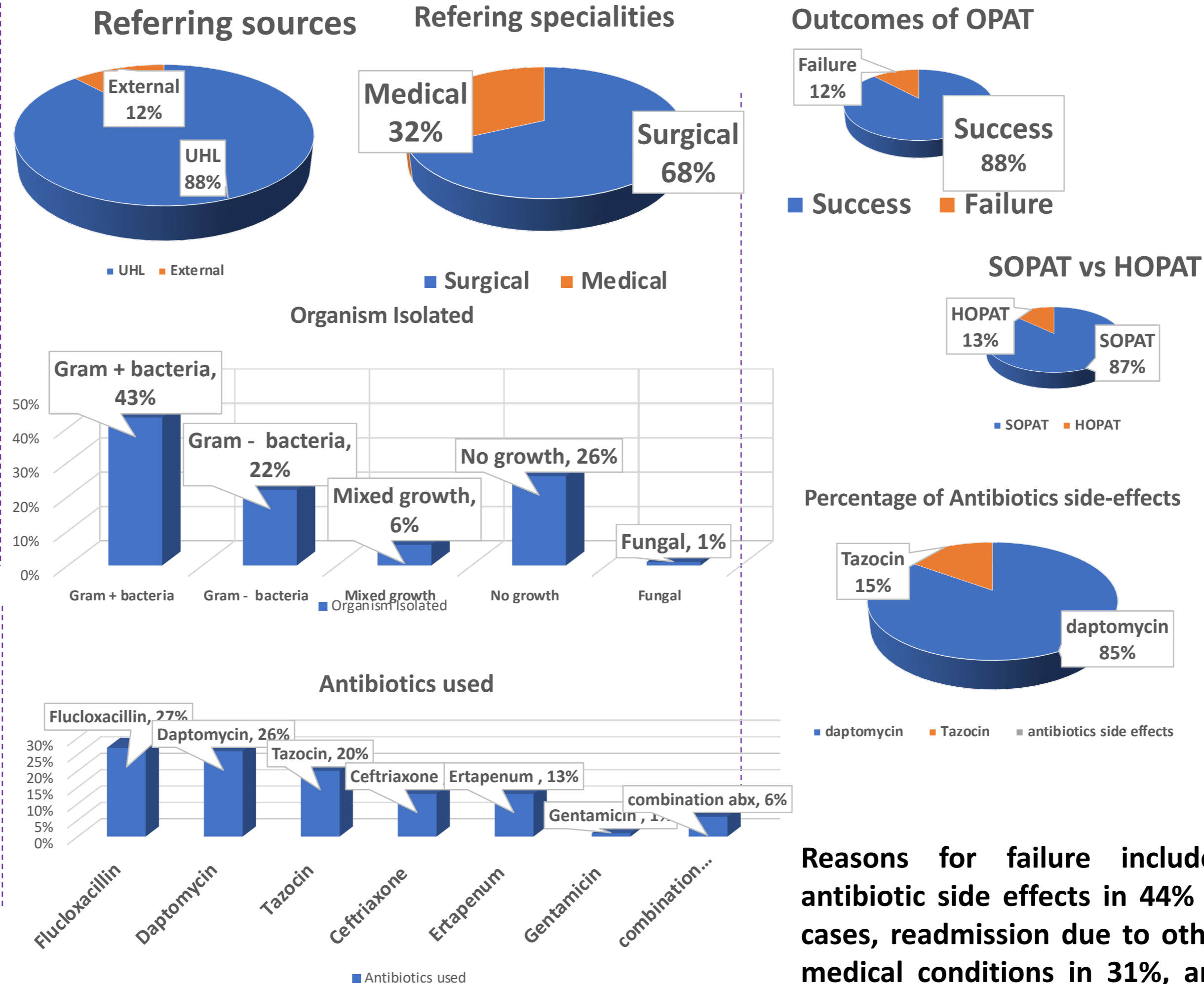
This audit was designed to assess OPAT over one year time and to identify factors contributing to OPAT failures.

Methods:

The data was gathered from OPAT patients registered with the Infectious Diseases Department at University Hospital Limerick spanning from January 2023 to December 2023. Analysis of the data was conducted using SPSS software.

Results:

- ❑ Total number of patients – 143
- ❑ Mean age : 64 \pm 17 years



In terms of infections, 67% were related to bone and joint infections, while 33% were cases involving soft tissue infections.

Reasons for failure included antibiotic side effects in 44% of cases, readmission due to other medical conditions in 31%, and readmission related to surgery as antibiotic treatment was not sufficient in 25% of cases

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this audit has helped us understand the many reasons why OPAT sometimes doesn't work well, even though it's usually successful in treating infections and saving money for the hospital by enabling patient to get treatment at home. By addressing these challenges, we can optimize the delivery of OPAT services and further improve patient care at University Hospital Limerick.

References:

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2. Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI). *Start Smart—Then Focus: Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit for English Hospitals*. PHE, 2015.