

BC Provincial Antimicrobial Clinical Expert (PACE) Committee

UNCOMPLICATED BACTEREMIA – DURATION OF THERAPY

The Message

Patients with UNCOMPLICATED bacteremia can be treated with 7 days of antibiotic therapy

What is UNCOMPLICATED Bacteremia

- Patients with UNCOMPLICATED bacteremia should be hemodynamically stable and afebrile prior to day 7.
- UNCOMPLICATED bacteremia excludes patients who have an infectious syndrome requiring prolonged treatment (e.g., endocarditis, osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, undrained abscess, or unremoved foreign body-associated infection).
- UNCOMPLICATED bacteremia excludes patients with specific organisms with defined treatment courses (e.g., *S. aureus*, *S. lugdunensis*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella*).
- Data are limited in patients who are severely immunocompromised (e.g., solid-organ or hematopoietic stem-cell transplant, prolonged neutropenia, HIV with CD4 <200 cells/mL) or have prosthetic heart valves or endovascular grafts.
- If uncertain about source of bacteremia or whether a patient has UNCOMPLICATED bacteremia, Infectious Diseases consultation recommended.

Additional Considerations

- **UNCOMPLICATED Gram-negative bacteremia.** Common source control issues to consider include obstructed urinary or biliary tract infections or undrained abscesses. Patients with central venous catheters (CVC) can still be treated with 7 days so long as the CVC was not the source of infection; patients with CVC-related infection can be treated for 7 days so long as the CVC is removed. Follow-up blood cultures are not routinely required.
- **UNCOMPLICATED *S. pneumoniae* bacteremia.** Typically associated with community-acquired pneumonia. Endocarditis, meningitis, and empyema/lung abscess should be ruled out when treating for 7 days.
- **UNCOMPLICATED Enterococcal bacteremia.** Typically associated with biliary tract, urinary tract, or CVC-related infections. Endocarditis and osteoarticular infection should be ruled out. Patients with CVC-related infection can be treated for 7 days so long as the CVC is removed. Follow-up blood cultures to document clearance ARE recommended.
- Intravenous to oral stepdown can be considered for patients with uncomplicated bacteremia in patients demonstrating clinical improvement and who can take oral medications.

The Solution

- Treat UNCOMPLICATED Gram-negative bacteremia for 7 days as long as source control achieved.
- Treat UNCOMPLICATED *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteremia in the setting of community-acquired pneumonia for 7 days as long as NO endocarditis, meningitis or lung abscess.
- Treat UNCOMPLICATED Enterococcal bacteremia for 7 days as long as NO endocarditis or osteoarticular infection.

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