

## ANTIBIOTIC CONSUMPTION IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERE PRESSURE ULCERS

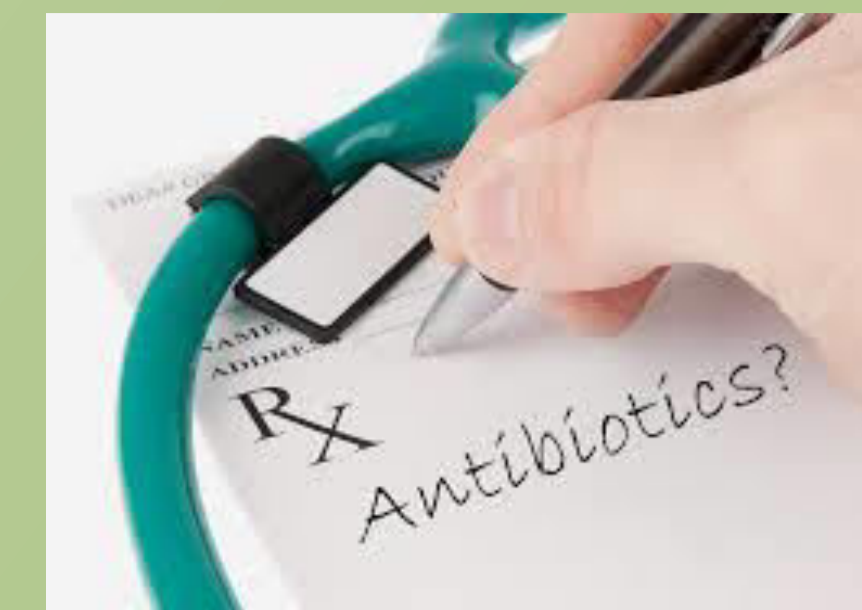
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### Background:

- ✓ Pressure ulcers are a painful, debilitating and potentially serious outcome, following the failure of a routine medical and nursing care
- ✓ Pressure ulcers represent an extremely high and unnecessary cost to the health care system
- ✓ A variety of guidelines addressing both prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers, (e.g. positioning, support surfaces, nutrition, wound dressings) has been described
- ✓ Limited data concerning the systematic use of antibiotics in these cases have been reported

### Purpose:

Investigation of antibiotics' use in patients with severe pressure ulcers (Grade 3 & 4) who are being nursed in a hospital ward which is specialized in admitting patients that require prolonged treatment (after having been hospitalized in an acute care facility).



### Materials & Methods:

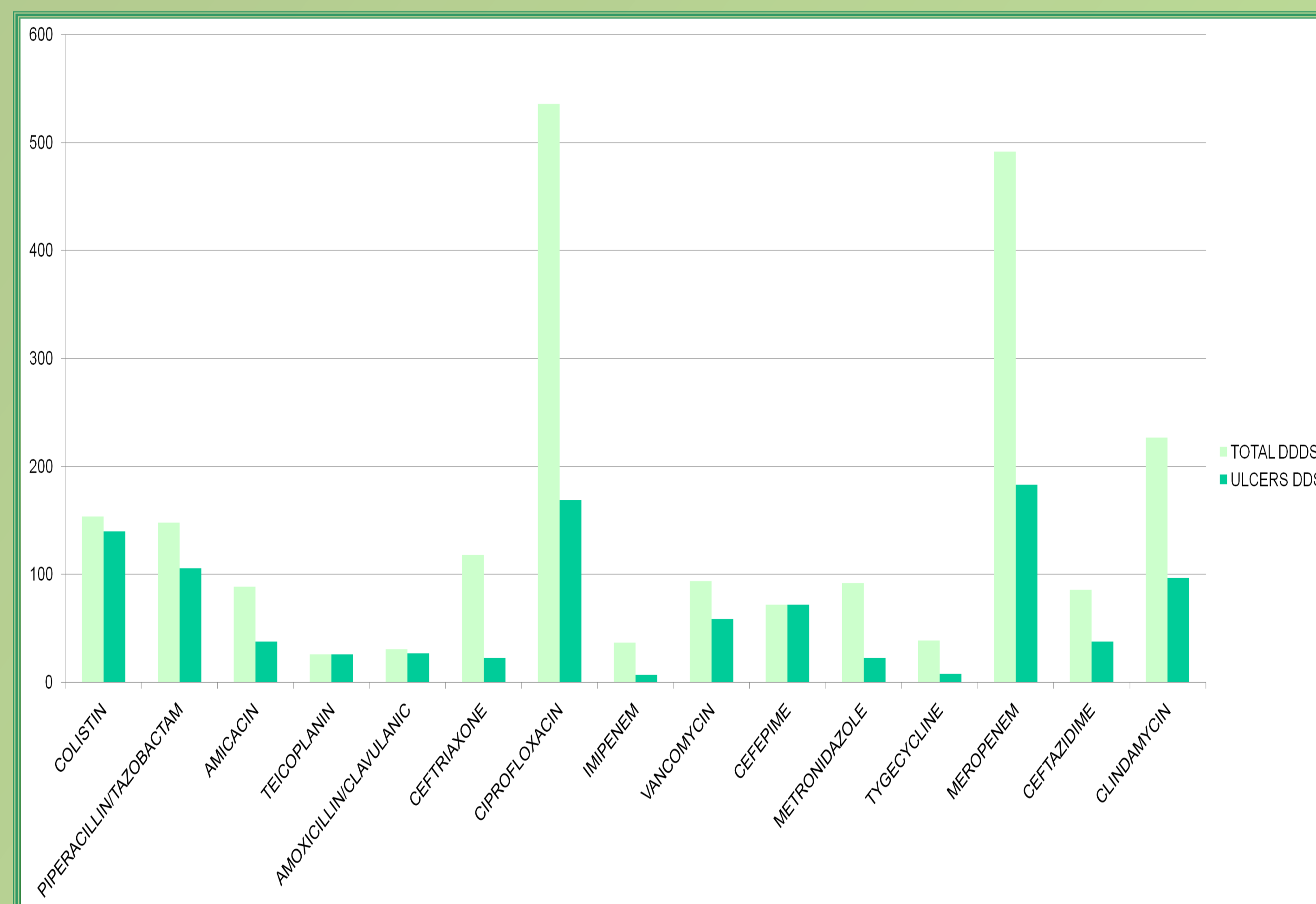
- All patients hospitalized during 2013 with grade 3 or 4 pressure ulcers at the time of their admittance, participated in the study
- Data concerning antibiotic consumption in this clinic for the same period of time, were converted to Daily Defined Doses (DDDs)
- Data concerning antibiotic consumption in the group of patients under investigation, were also converted to DDDs
- Percentages concerning antibiotics' DDDs in patients with pressure ulcers/ total antibiotics' DDDs, were generated
- All data were extracted from the hospital pharmacy Data Information System

### Results:

Although only 2.5% of inpatients (accounting just for the 10% of occupied bed days) suffered from grade 3 or 4 pressure ulcers at the time of their admittance, they contributed significantly to antibiotic's consumption in that clinic.

In some cases, (e.g. colimycin, piperacillin/tazobactam, teicoplanin, cefepime, amoxicillin/clavulanic, vancomycin), antibiotics' consumption in such patients counted for more than 70% of total antibiotics' consumption.

DDDs in patients with ulcers VS total DDDs



### Conclusions:

- Given the concomitant morbidities in these patients, it is difficult to define whether pressure ulcers are the primary indication for the systematic antibiotics' use.
- The presence of a grade 3 or 4 pressure ulcer is substantially equivalent to a life threatening infection, hence is in accordance with the high antibiotics consumption reported.
- The focus of attention should be on prevention -prevention of initial tissue damage, prevention of ulcer progression to a more severe grade along with prevention of infection.

