

# The appearance of drug-induced diarrhoea

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## Background

Increased frequency of diarrheas caused by medicines was noticed in Emergency Center of Clinical Center of Serbia in the previous year. Most of them were treated as pseudomembranous colitis.

## Purpose

The goal of our examination was to determine if there was connection between use of certain medicines and diarrhea appearance.

## Material and Method

Examination was conducted from August 1st until October 1st 2011, in Emergency Center of Clinical Center of Serbia. Patients with diarrheas were recorded based on insight into their medical records and notifications from nurses. The therapies that patients had been receiving before appearance of diarrheas was analyzed, and data were collected from case-histories and lists of therapeutics.

## Results

There were 68 patients with diarrheas at all, 35 from them were treated as pseudomembranous colitis. In 56 patients who were treated with antibiotics appeared diarrhea. 16 patients were treated with cephalosporins, with carbapenems 10, ciprofloxacin 6, aminoglycosides 9, intravenous metronidazole 12, and vankomicine 4 patients. 13 patients were treated with proton pump inhibitors (PPI), and 30 with ranitidine. From other medicines, increased incidence of diarrhea was noticed during treatments with glucocorticoids (5), sertraline (6), metformin (2), amlodipine (5) aminophylline (7) and anticonvulsants (5). Candida was proven by stool-specimen 9 times, while data for Clostridium difficile were not available.

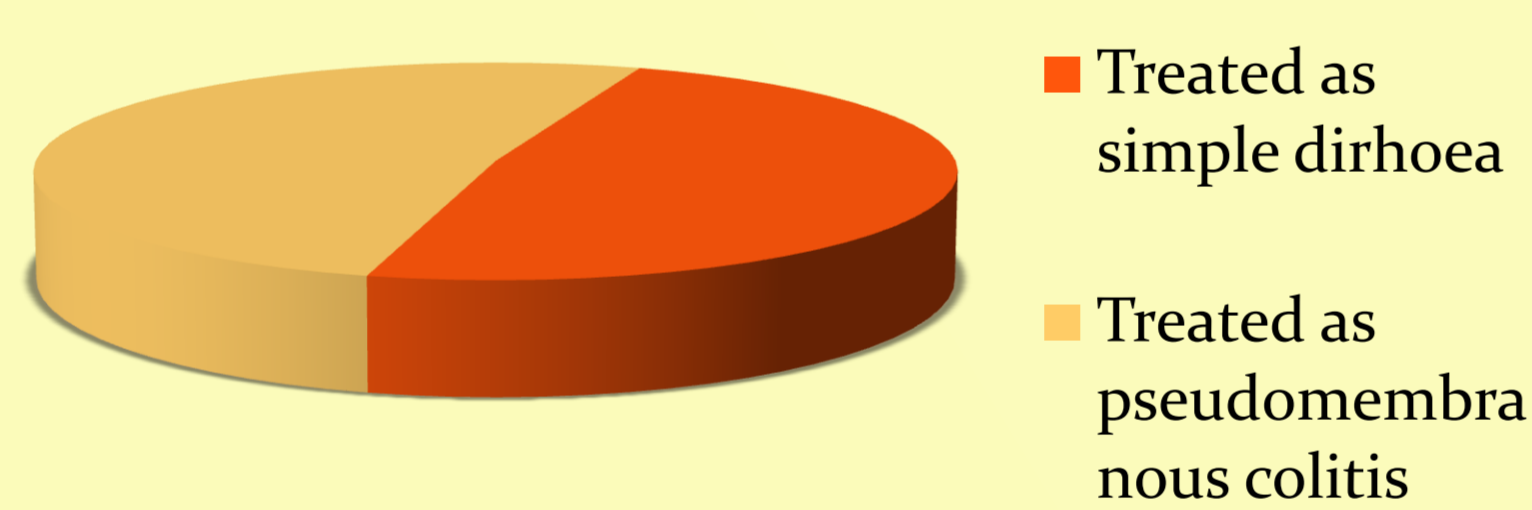


Chart 1. Number of patients with diagnosed diarrhoea

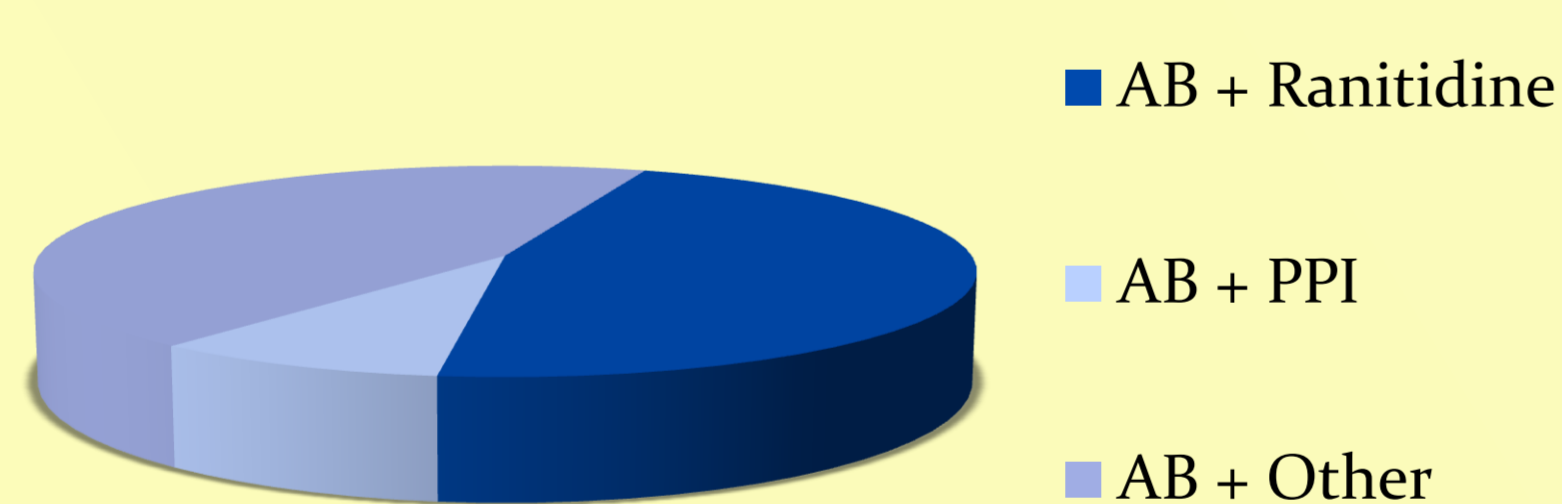


Chart 2. Ratio of patients received ranitidine, PPI or other medicine besides antibiotics

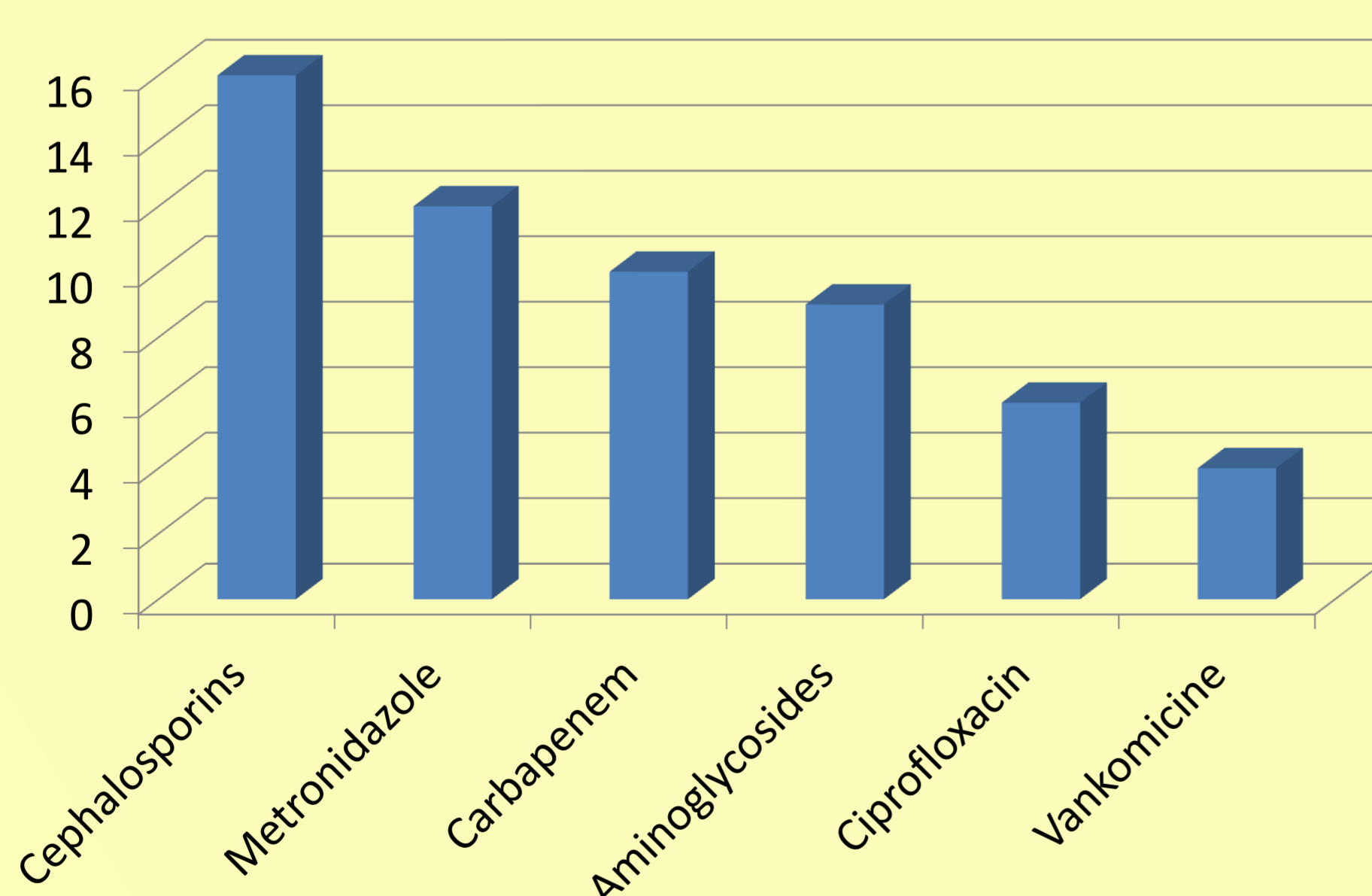


Chart 3. Antibiotics used before occurrence of diarrhoea

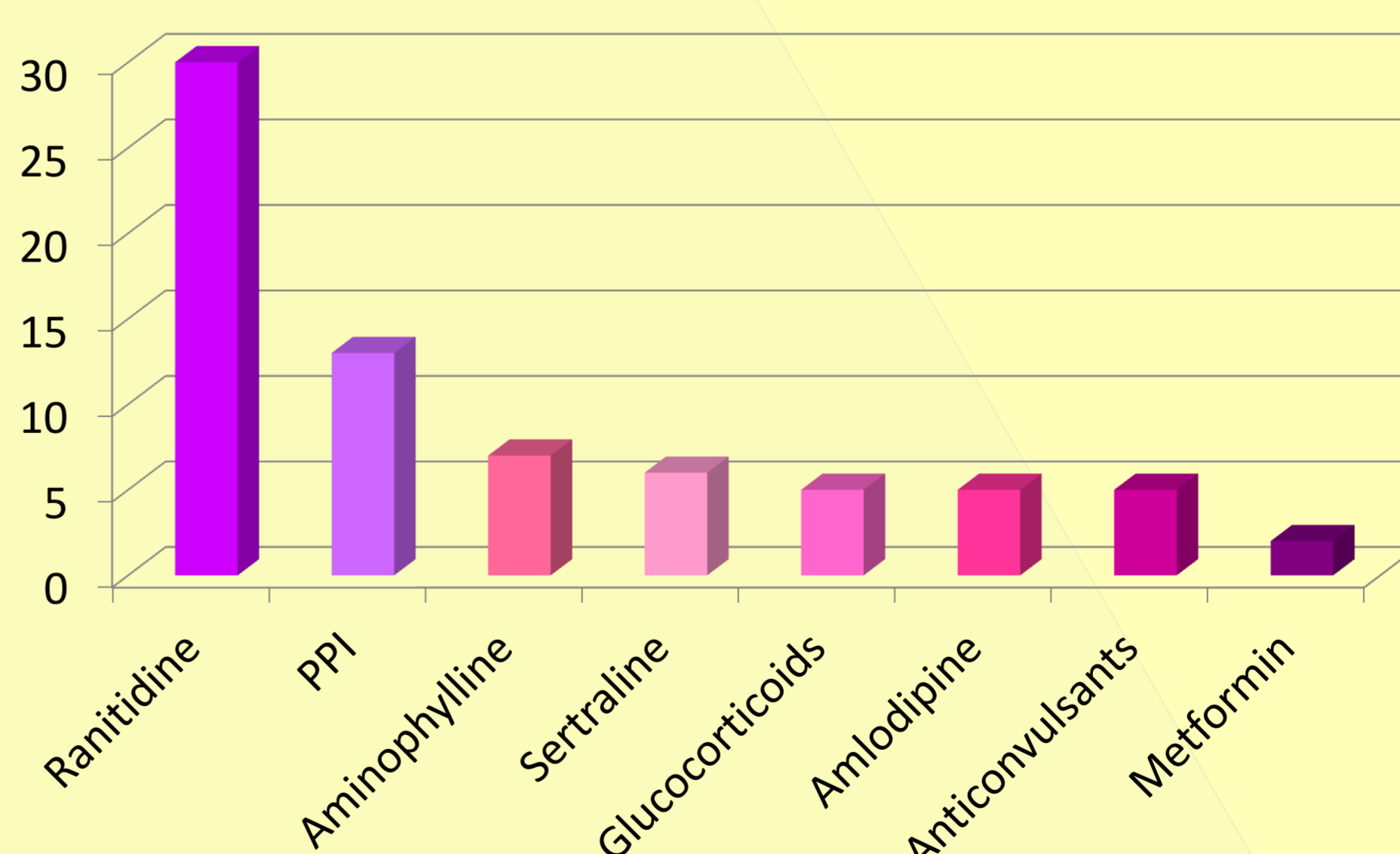


Chart 4. Medicines other from antibiotics used before occurrence of diarrhoea

## Discussion

All patients treated with antibiotic were receiving combined therapy. 26 of them received ranitidine, 5 of them PPI and 25 some other medicine besides antibiotic.

From total number of patients with diagnosed diarrhoea, 12 didn't receive any antibiotic as part of its previous therapy. 4 of them were treated with ranitidine and 8 with PPI.

## Conclusion

The cause of increased number of diarrheas could be in accordance with use of certain medicines, but it is not possible to confirm that it was pseudomembranous colitis, due to poor organization of collecting and sending samples for stool-specimens