

**Treatment options for MDR/XDR Acinetobacter baumannii**

Paul Tambyah

National University Hospital, Singapore

Multi-drug resistant, extremely drug resistant and even pan-drug resistant Acinetobacter infections are increasingly common in intensive care units and hospitals worldwide especially in Asia. The reasons for their emergence is not clear but the therapeutic options are clearly limited. There are very few new drugs on the horizon which have any activity at all against these pathogens so most efforts have been directed at novel combination therapies. Several combinations have been attempted including aminoglycosides, polymyxins, carbapenems and tiegecycline among other agents. These have had limited success and there are no randomized clinical trials to determine the most effective therapeutic regimens. Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies are critical to optimize the remaining antibiotics that are used and novel delivery approaches including aerosolisation have been tried. Ultimately, prevention is better than cure and intensive efforts in infection control have been documented to be successful in preventing these infections from occurring in the first place.