

Infective **endocarditis** & **OPAT** : an overview

Dr. Cristina Suárez ID/Microbiology Consultant, Barts Health NHS Trust

OPAT lead for St Bartholomew's Hospital

4th September 2025 – BSAC Regional OPAT workshops 2025

Disclaimer #1

Do you see IE patients in your service ?



Under license [CC BY-ND](#)



**Is my OPAT
service set up
to deal with IE
patients?**

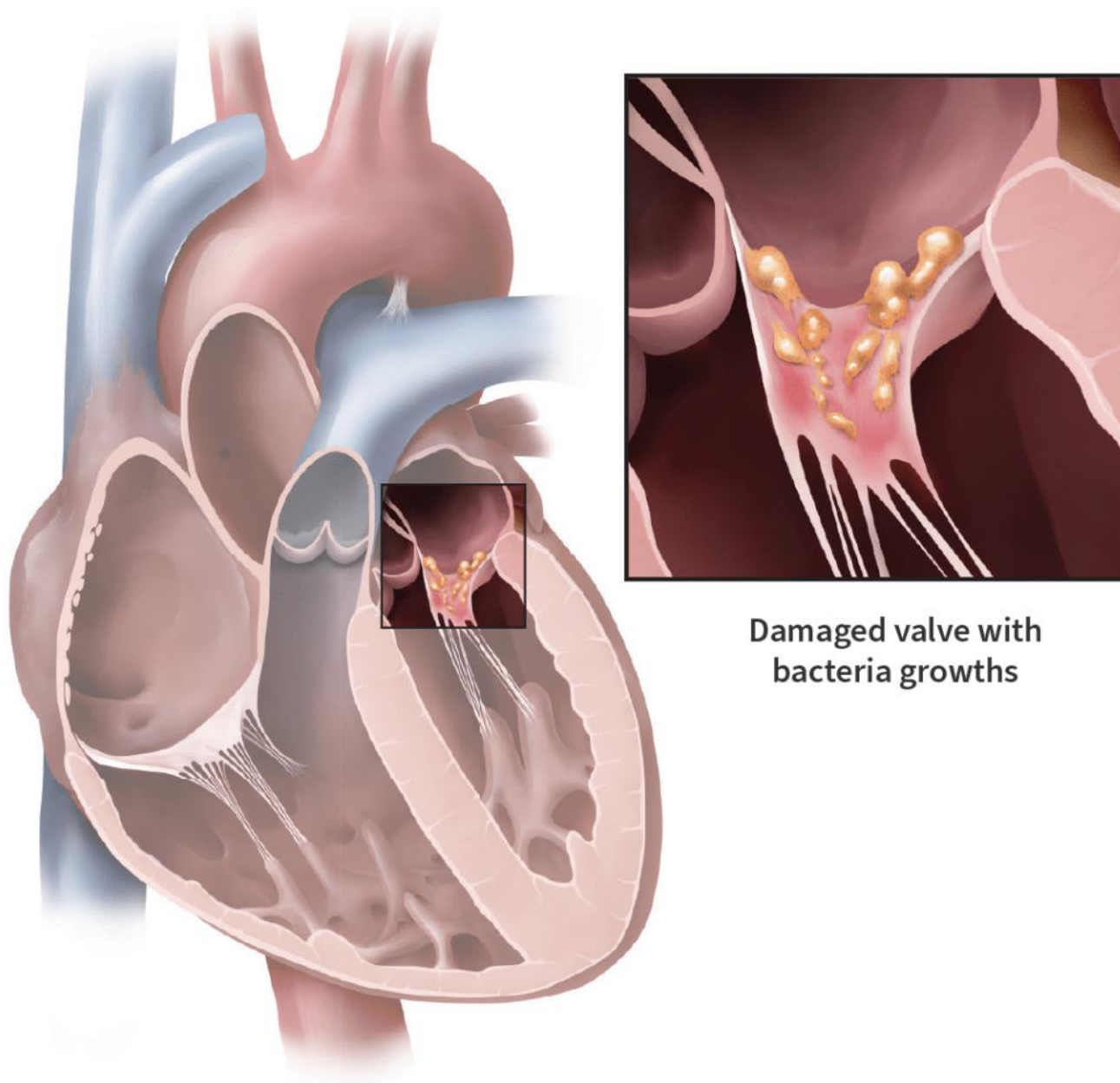
Introduction

Case

The OPAT - IE cohort at SBH 2022 - 2025

Perspectives





Damaged valve with
bacteria growths

Presentation

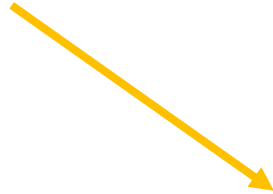
n



Patient



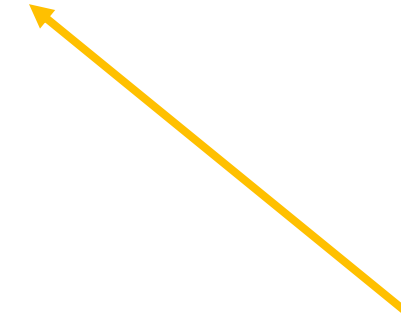
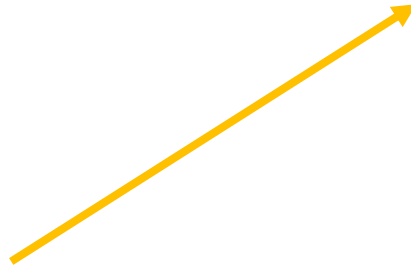
Organism



outcome

ABx

maybe



Surgical options



Young

Oral streptococci, low pen MIC

No embolic disease

Low surgical risk, has an operation

OR surgery is not needed

Elderly

Comorbidities

Strep pneumoniae

High surgical risk

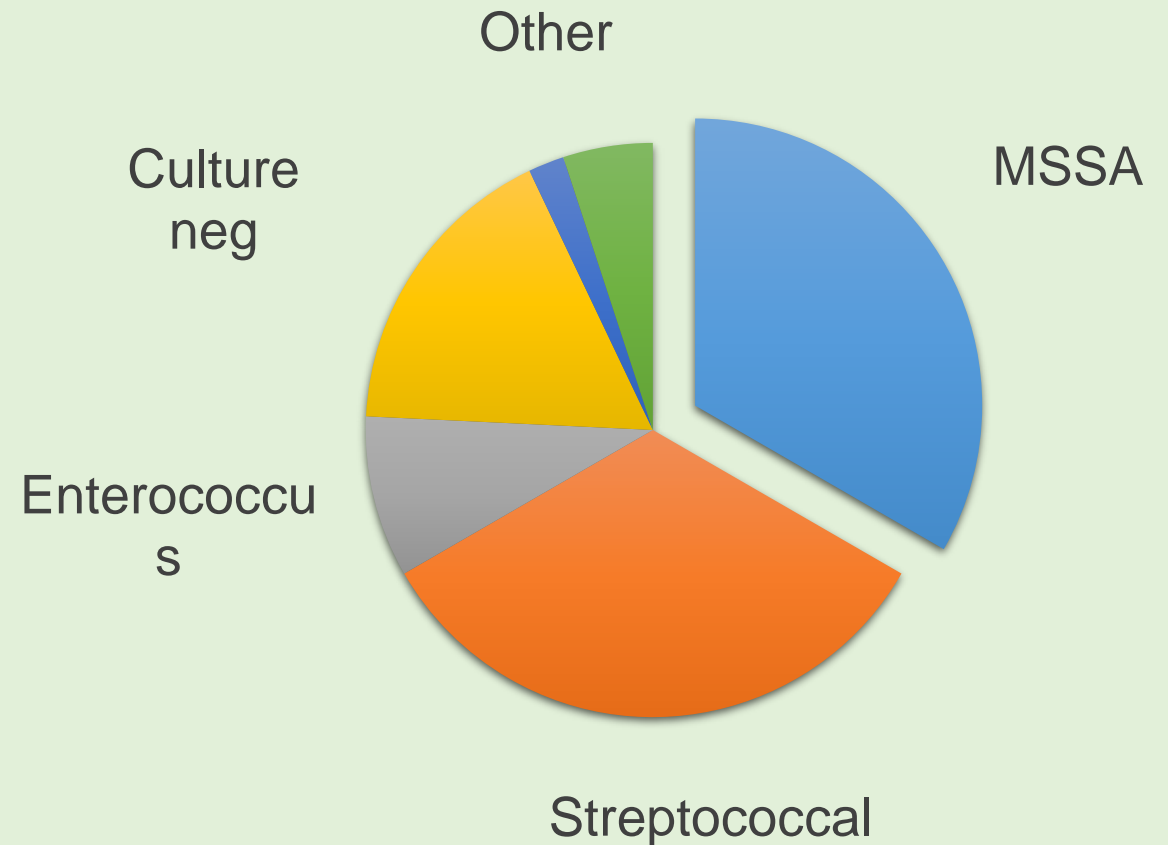
Not operable

INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS at SBH

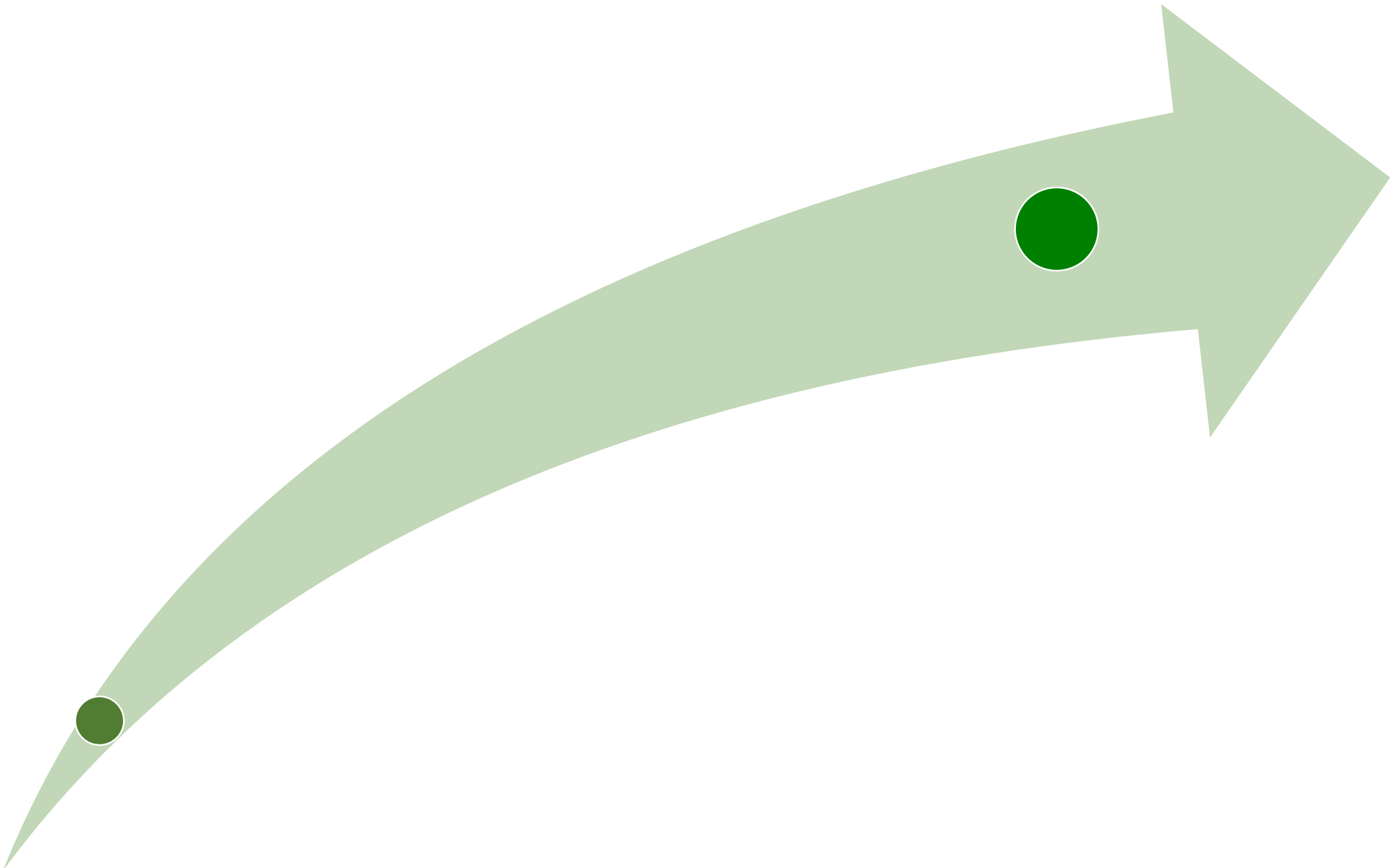
150 episodes / year
LOS 27 days (17 – 43)
1 – 2 OPAT / week

OPAT since 2022

Native Valve IE: organisms



Data : courtesy of Maria Cue and Christopher Primus IE MDT
at SBH







71 yo male

Jan 2024 Aortic root replacement

Feb 2024 VRE bacteraemia – short treatment (7 days)
Dapto – eosinophilia

Dec 2024 Prosthetic aortic valve IE by *E. faecium* (vanc S)
Large vegetation, aortic root involvement
BC = *E faecium* 20 and 21/12

High risk surgery but potentially operable
Patient not keen in surgery

Referred to OPAT



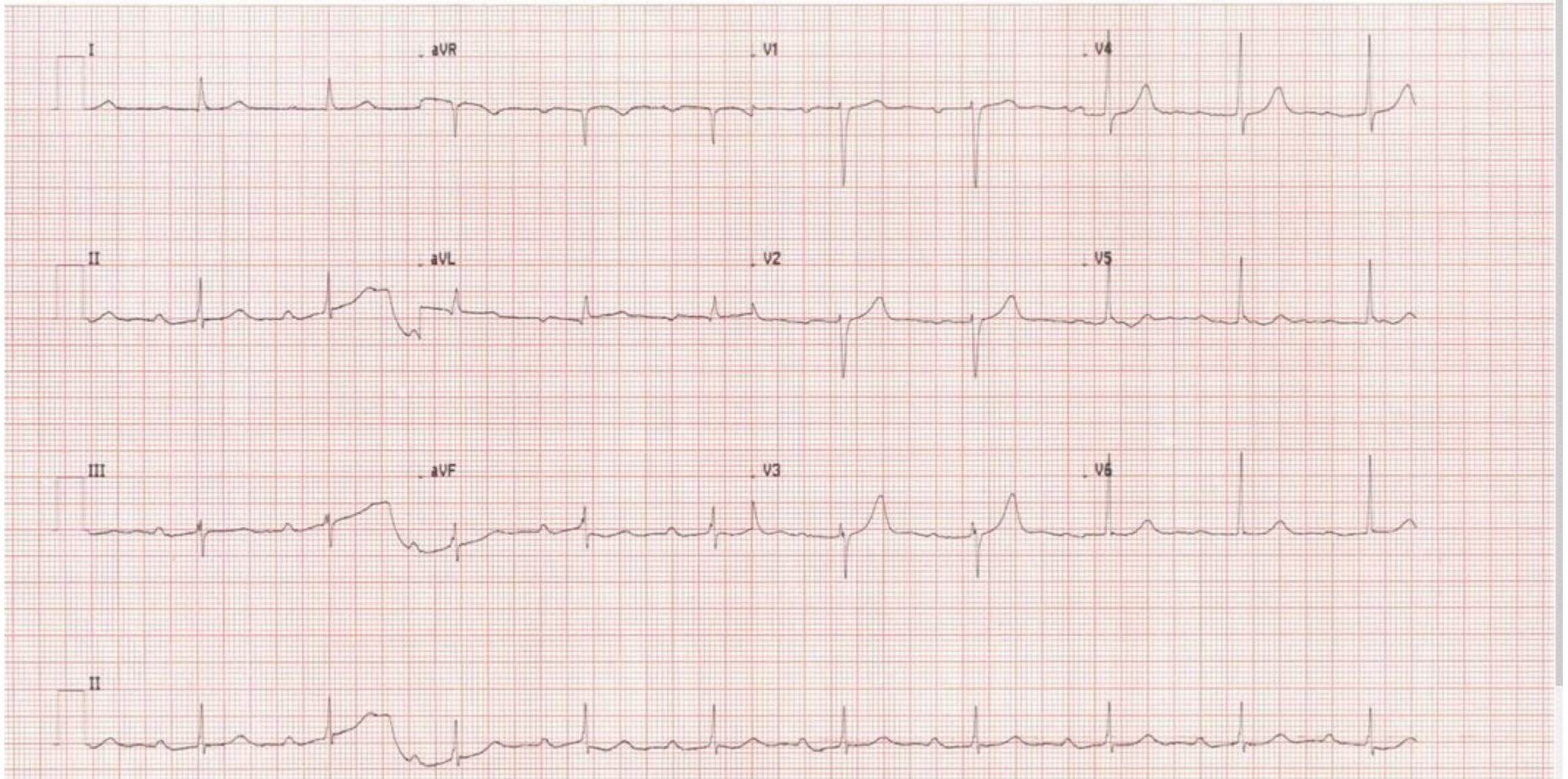
ABx Vancomycin – 5 days to therapeutic levels
Vanc 30/12 – 13/1 – good levels
gent x 3 weeks in total

OPAT renal adjusted teicoplanin * 3 loading doses, 12 mg/kg (800 mg)
then half dose daily (400 mg)
intermittent face-to-face review *

17/1 day1 OPAT
17/1 teic level – low
21/1 teic level – low *
24/1 teicoplanin increased to 500 mg
29/1 new level, teic up to 800 mg awaiting levels
29/1 teic level back – still low

30/1 OPAT review





New QT prolongation

170 to 316 ms

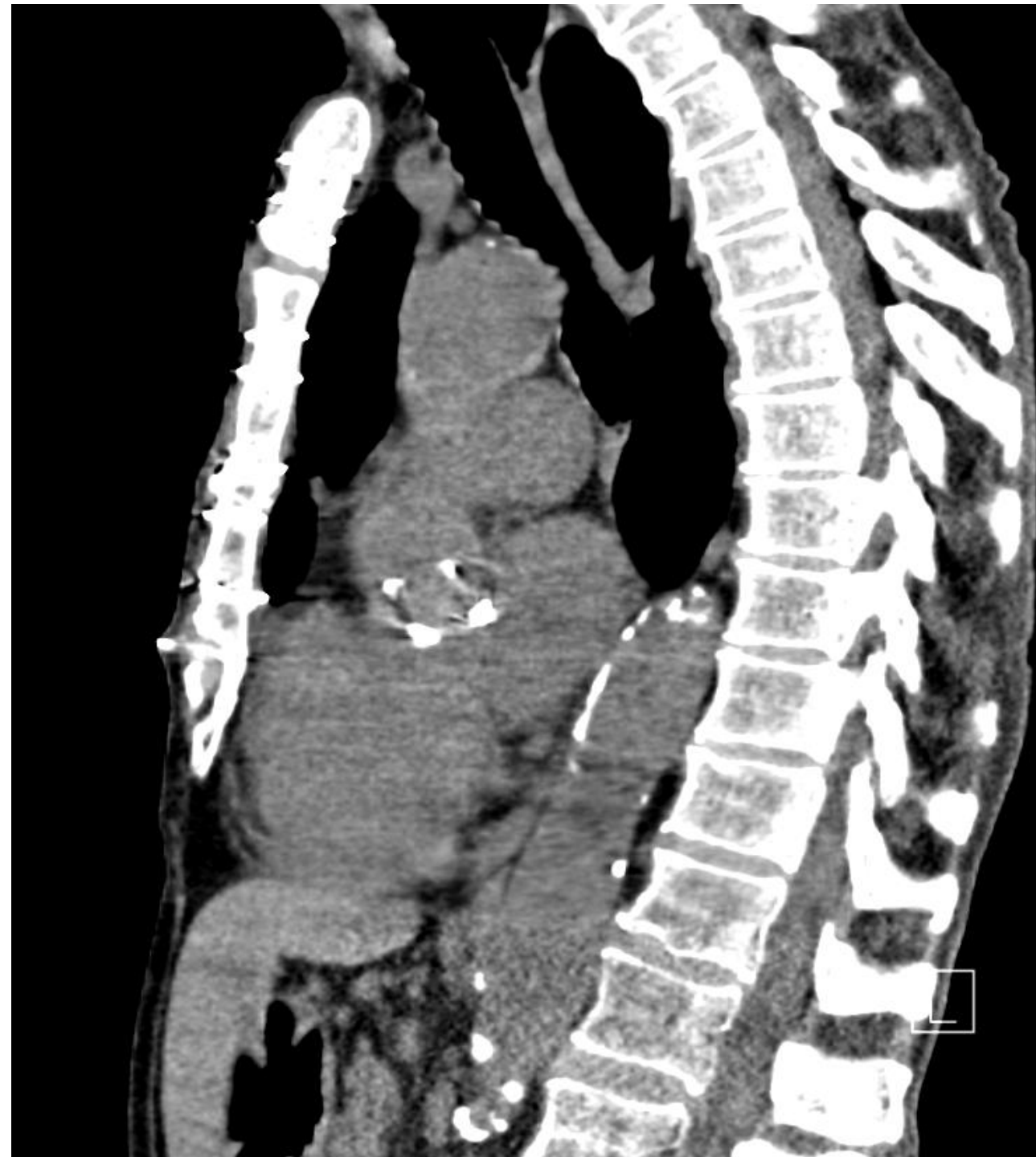
Known possible aortic abscess
Subtherapeutic teic
Not surgery
Prolonging QT



? Evolving aortic abscess



Admission (same day)
Vanc
CT + echo

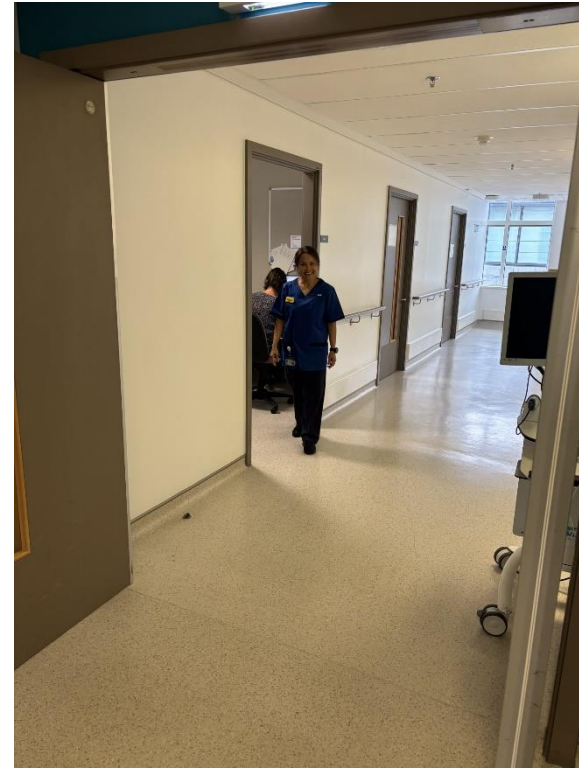
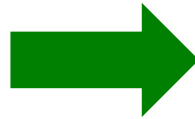


#1

Complications

Potentially severe

May need to act
on **URGENTLY**



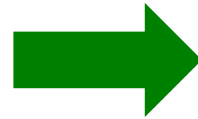
IE MDT

Readily available
Responsive
Integrated

#2

**Face-to-face
review**

Frequency?



Clinical review

Post-op/wound/HF...

MDT review if needed

Hospital-based

Introduction

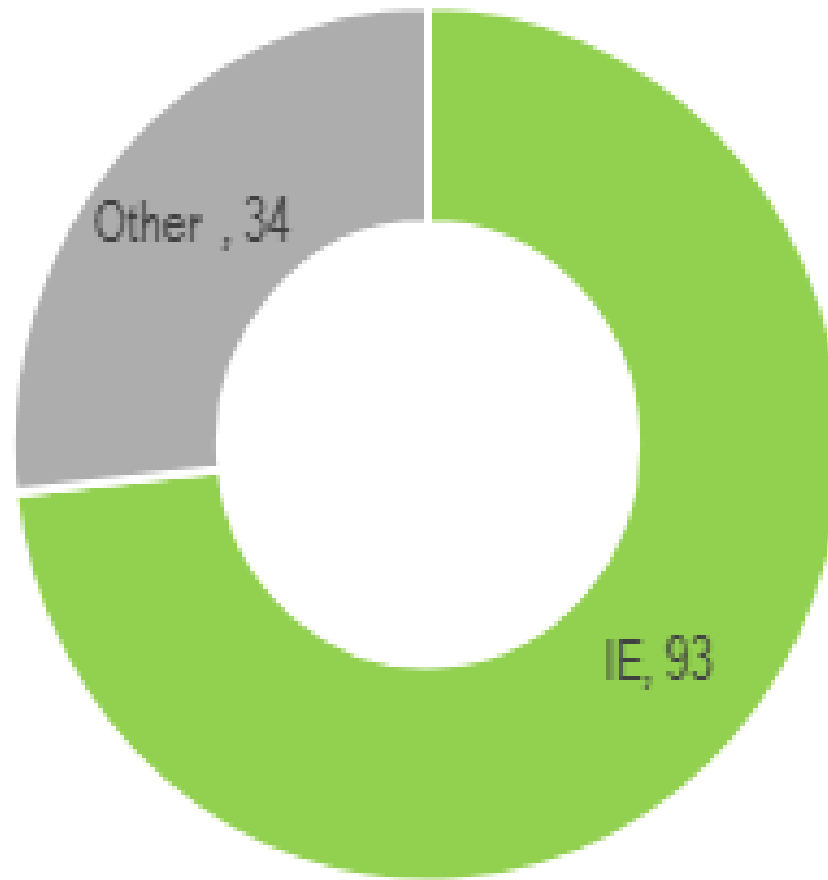
Case

The OPAT - IE cohort at SBH 2022 - 2025

Perspectives



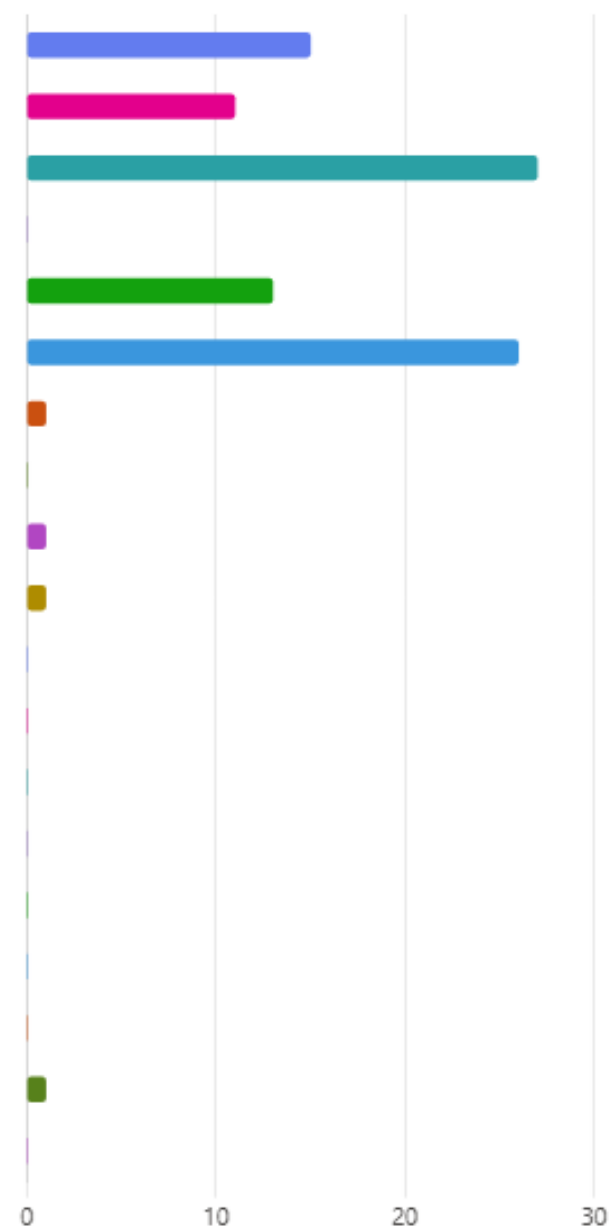
OPAT diagnoses (2022 - 2025)



Total = 127

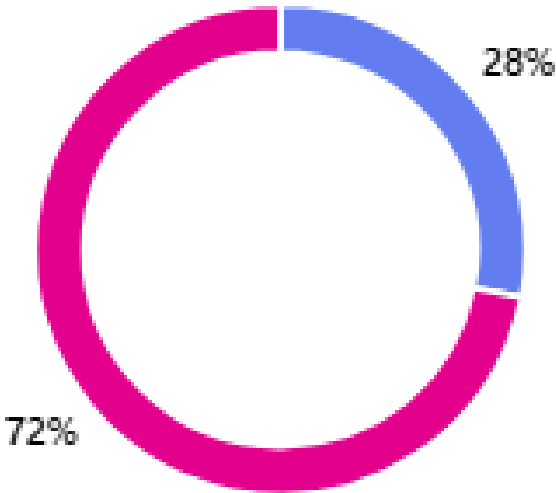
9. Antibiotic to be used for OPAT

● Benzylpenicillin	15
● Flucloxacillin	11
● Teicoplanin	27
● Vancomycin	0
● Daptomycin	13
● Ceftriaxone	26
● Ceftazidime	1
● Piperacillin-tazobactam	0
● Meropenem	1
● Ertapenem	1
● Amikacin	0
● Gentamicin	0
● Tigecyclin	0
● Ambisome	0
● Micafungin	0
● Ganciclovir	0
● Dalbavancin	0
● Other	1
● I don't know	0



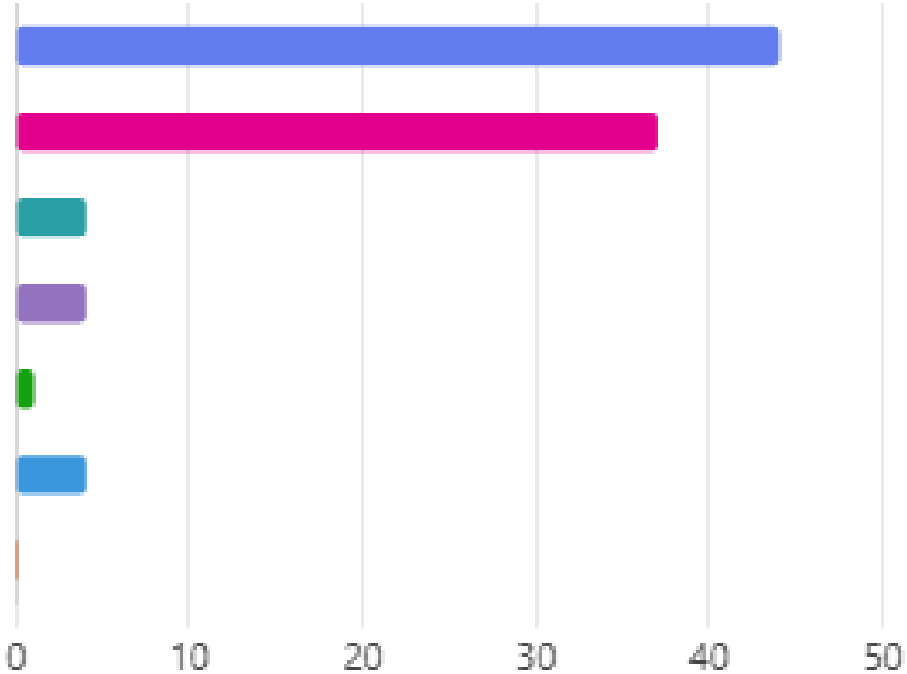
12. Elastomeric device

● Yes	25
● No	64



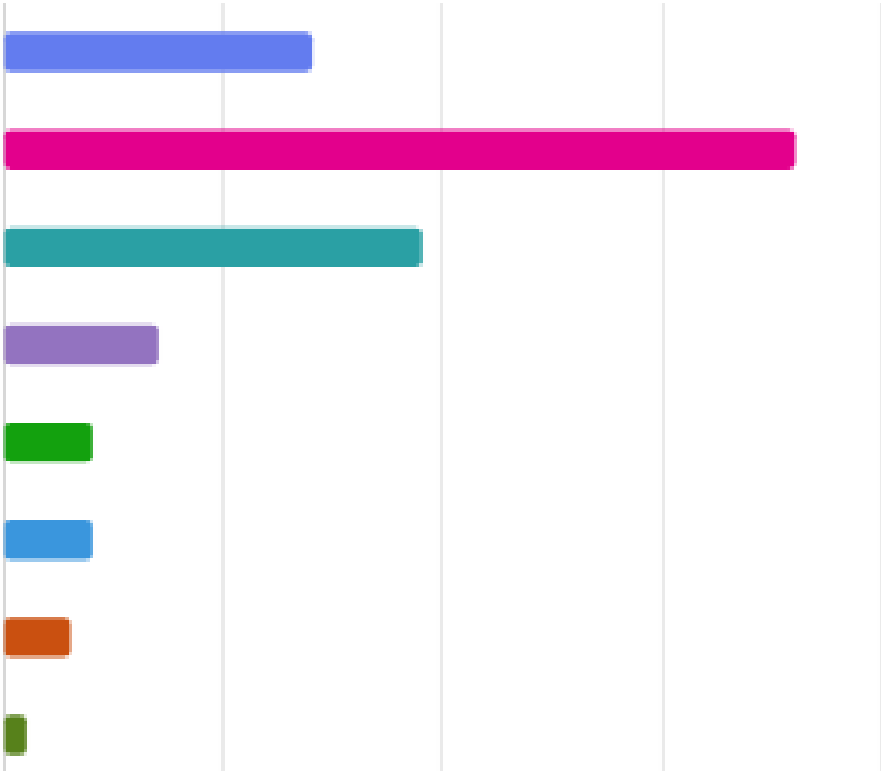
15. Method of administration

● Self-admin	44
● DN-admin	37
● Third party (Baxter subcontract) - admin	4
● Ambulatory care/ antibiotic centre	4
● Dialysis	1
● Virtual ward	4
● Other	0



16. Indication for OPAT at SBH

● Endocarditis, native, no surgery	14
● Endocarditis, native, post-surgery	36
● Endocarditis, prosthetic valve/conduit/GUCH no surgery	19
● Endocarditis, prosthetic valve/conduit/GUCH, post-surgery	7
● Device (pacemaker, ICD) infection, no explantation	4
● Device (pacemaker, ICD) infection, post-explantation	4
● Vascular aortic graft (no valve) infection, includes GUCH, no surgery	3
● Vascular aortic graft (no valve), includes GUCH, post-surgery	1



Median time on IVs (OPAT)

9 days

Median follow up (OPAT)

26 days

Q75

35 days

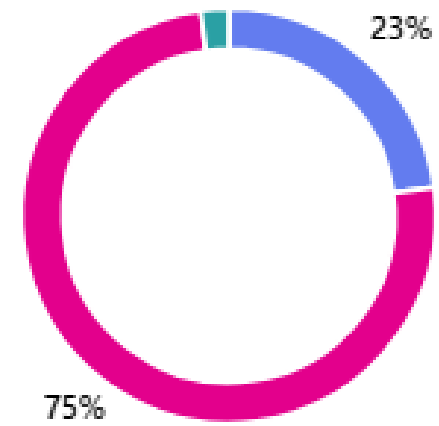
Max

177 days

22. Switch to orals at the end of IVs

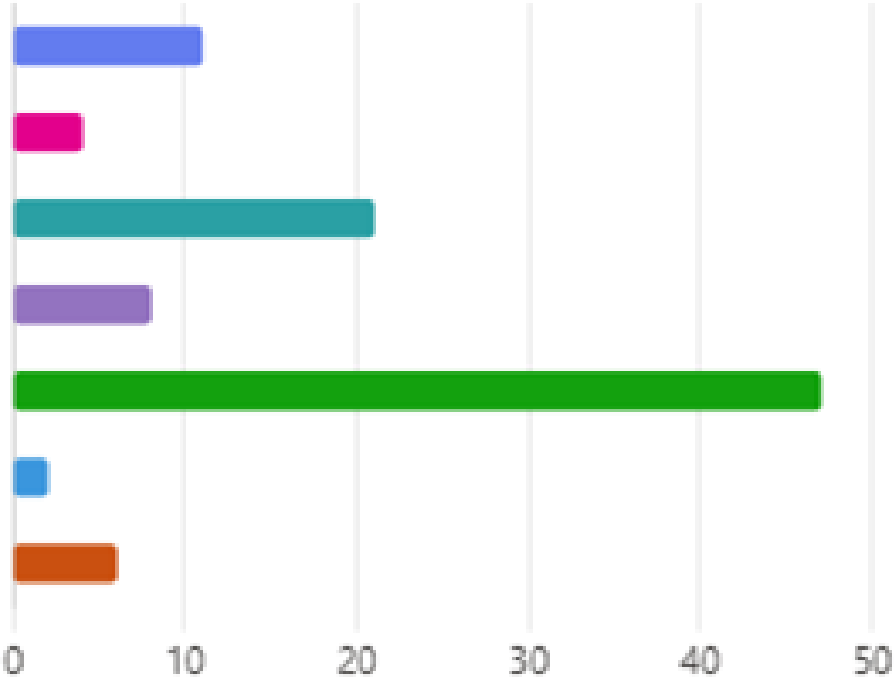
[More details](#)

● Yes	21
● No	69
● Lost	2



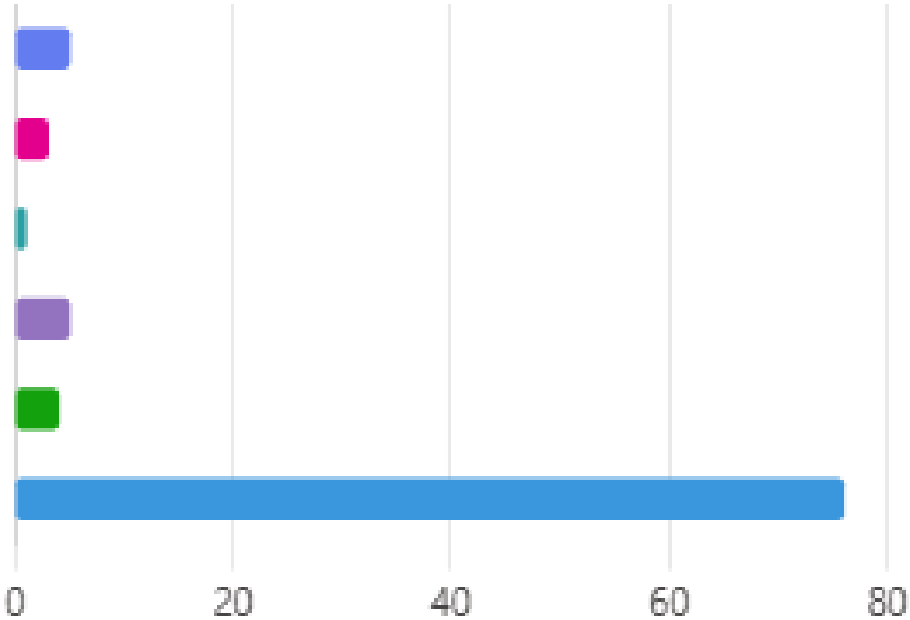
24. Complications during OPAT episode, any

Yes, cardiac/ endovascular/ surgery related	11
Yes, extra-cardiac/ distant infection (consequence of IE)	4
Yes, other typically OPAT related (antibiotic/line infection thrombosis /administration etc)	21
Yes, other not typically OPAT - related (UTI, fracture, fall, non line DVT), includes other NEW...	8
No	47
Lost	2
Other	6



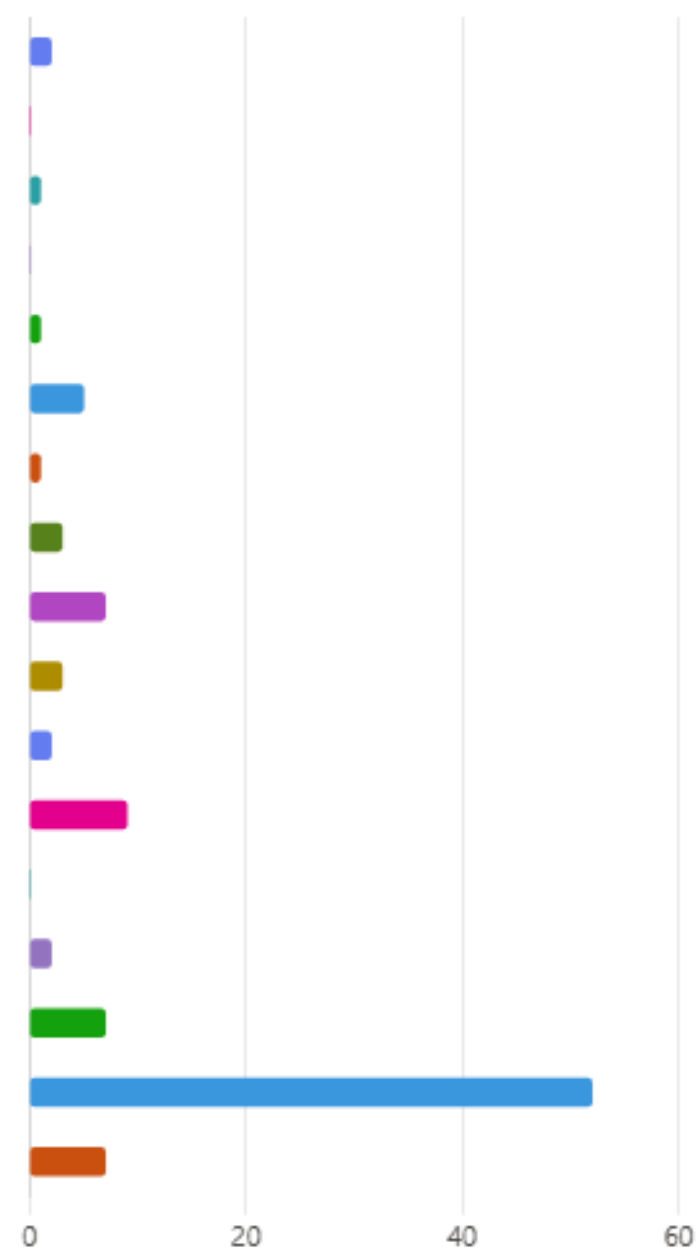
25. If new/unexpected cardiac /endovascular complications, select

ECG / rhythm	5
Valve - related (HF/ abscess)	3
Surgical site - related (abscess /seroma)	1
Uncontrolled endovascular infection	5
Other	4
No complications	76



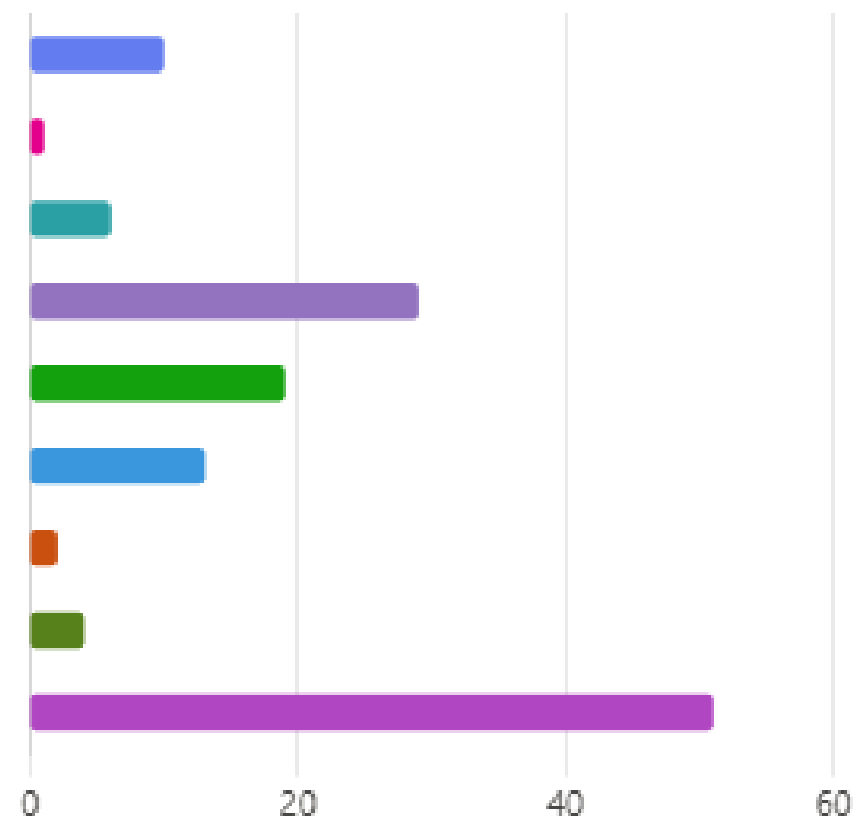
26. Non-cardiac complications, select

Extra cardiac / distant infection (IE - related)	2
Line - misplaced	0
Line - infection	1
Line- thrombosis	0
Line - blockage	1
Line, other	5
Antibiotic - infusion related	1
Antibiotic - cytopenia	3
Antibiotic - renal	7
Antibiotic - liver / cholecystitis	3
Antibiotic - rash or other HS	2
Antibiotic - other	9
Claudication of OPAT system in place	0
Other New infection (no IE-related)	2
Other	7
No complications	52
Other	7



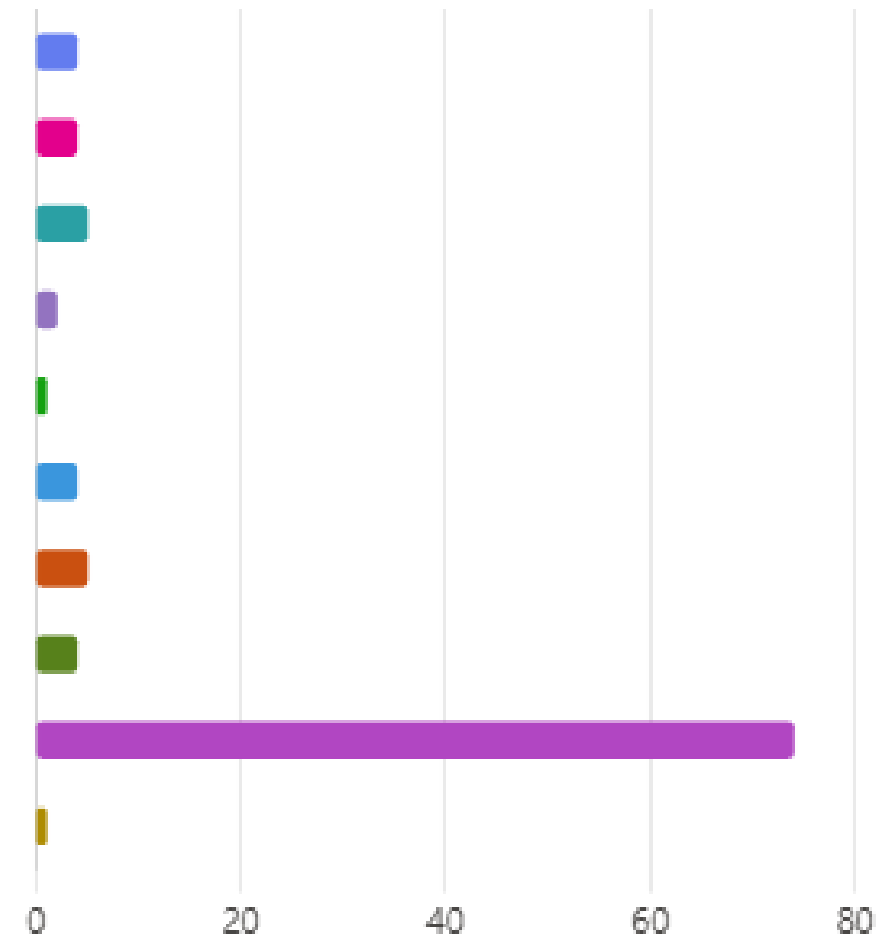
32. Cardiac/Endovascular- related procedures (during OPAT and within 3 months after OPAT completion)

● Surgery (planned/unplanned)	10
● Washout/ non-surgical debridement	1
● Pacemaker	6
● Re-imaging	29
● Re-discussion at MDT (other than opat)	19
● Change of antibiotic duration / strategy	13
● Death	2
● Other	4
● No	51



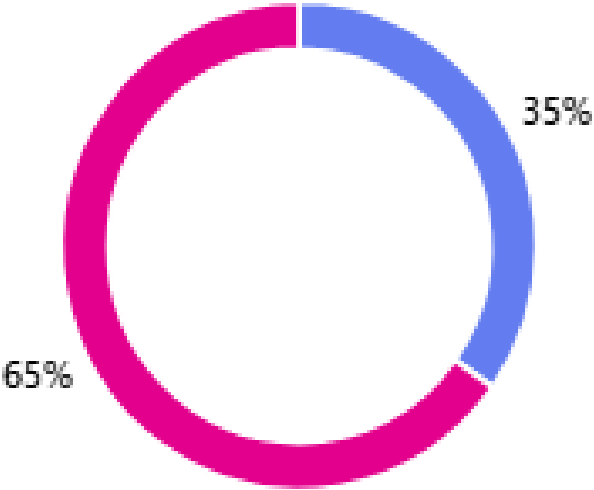
31. Readmission during planned opat episode

● Yes - sepsis/uncontrolled infection includes septic emboli from IE	4
● Other new infection (line or non-IE related)	4
● Yes - heart/valve/graft mechanical failure	5
● Yes - rhythm issues	2
● Yes - echo findings	1
● Yes - failure of treatment	4
● Yes - other complications from antibiotic treatment (cytopenia, reactions, renal/liver etc)	5
● Planned readmission eg for surgery	4
● No	74
● Other	1



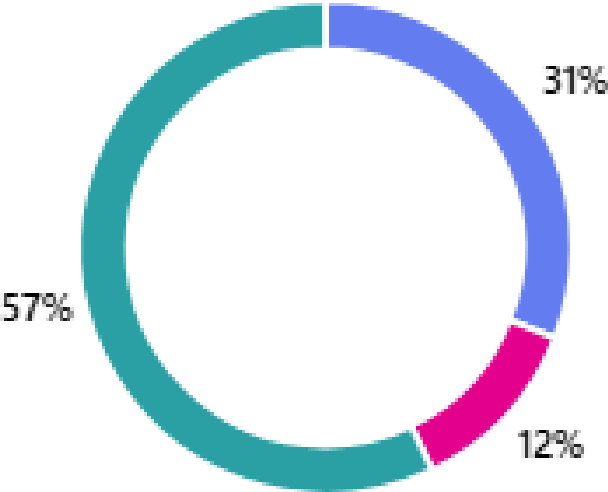
27. Was the parent/ IE team opinion/intervention required during OPAT episode (subjective opinion as per OPAT consultant)

● Yes	31
● No	58
● Not sure / maybe	0



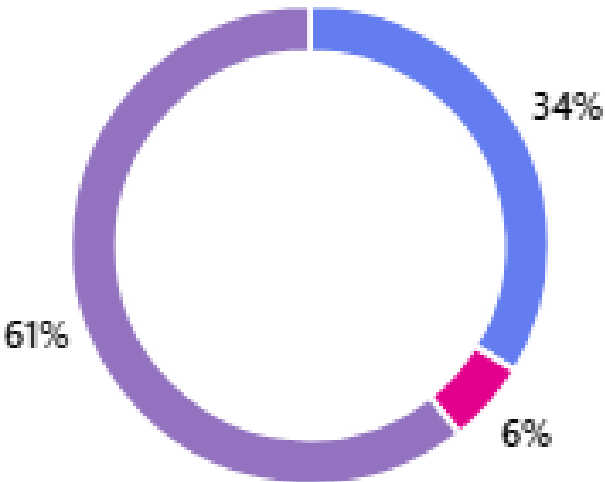
28. Did the patient actually receive any parent / IE team input during OPAT episode

● Yes	26
● No	10
● Not required	48



29. If there were complications that required IE/parent team input. Did the OPAT team get involved in managing the complications
- to any extent (full management, delegation of tasks, hand over to team etc)

● Yes	30
● No	5
● A bit unclear	0
● There were no complications	54



...

30. Try to score the degree of involvement of the OPAT team in managing/escalating complications during the episode

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Not so much, parent team picked the complications up

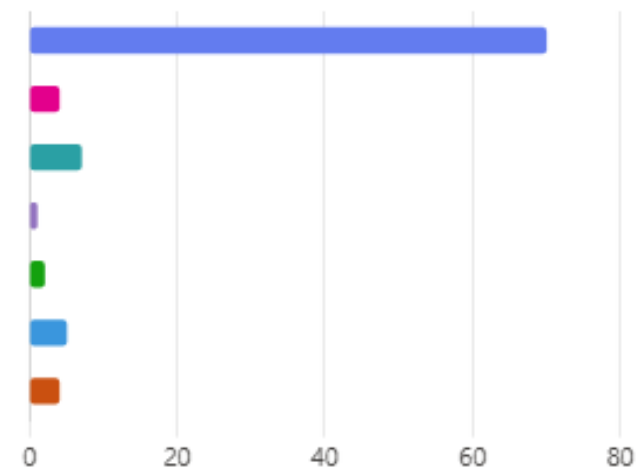
OPAT team identified complications, warned the parent team and intervened making arrangements for readmission, rediscussion

Median “involvement” (1 to 10 scale)

7

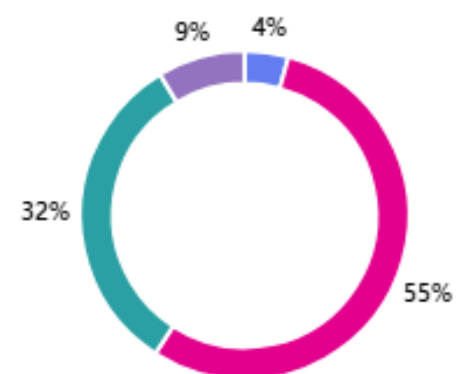
33. Outcome 3 months after end of OPAT follow up

● Alive, cured	70
● Alive, relapse within 3 months	4
● Alive, chronic infection on suppression	7
● Alive, chronic infection not on suppression	1
● Death	2
● Not 3 months follow up yet	5
● Lost	4



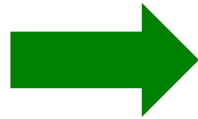
34. Outcome 1 year after end of OPAT follow up

● Dead	4
● Alive	51
● Not 1 year follow up yet	30
● Unknown/lost	8



#3

There will be
complications



Who will identify
them and deal
with them?

OPAT team?

Vs

**Very close follow-
up by the parent
team**

Safety and clinical outcomes of outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy for infective endocarditis in Christchurch, New Zealand: A retrospective cohort study

Patrick O Campbell ¹, Kate Gallagher ², Simon C Dalton ², Sarah C L Metcalf ²,
Nicholas M Douglas ³, Stephen T Chambers ⁴

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 37331565 DOI: [10.1016/j.ijid.2023.06.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2023.06.008)

Free article

Abstract

Objectives: We examined the safety and clinical outcomes of outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT) for patients with infective endocarditis (IE) in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Methods: Demographic and clinical data were collected from all adult patients treated for IE over 5 years. Outcomes were stratified by receipt of at least partial OPAT vs entirely hospital-based parenteral therapy.

Results: There were 172 episodes of IE between 2014 and 2018. OPAT was administered in 115 cases (67%) for a median of 27 days after a median of 12 days of inpatient treatment. In the OPAT cohort, viridans group streptococci were the commonest causative pathogens (35%) followed by *Staphylococcus aureus* (25%) and *Enterococcus faecalis* (11%). There were six (5%) antibiotic-related adverse events and 26 (23%) readmissions in the OPAT treatment group. Mortality in OPAT patients was 6% (7/115) at 6 months and 10% (11/114) at 1 year and for patients receiving wholly inpatient parenteral therapy was 56% (31/56) and 58% (33/56), respectively. Three patients (3%) in the OPAT group had a relapse of IE during the 1-year follow-up period.

Conclusion: OPAT can be used safely in patients with IE, even in selected cases with complicated or difficult-to-treat infections.

Keywords: Christchurch; Home intravenous antibiotic treatment; Infective endocarditis; New Zealand; Outpatient parenteral antibiotic treatment.



Clinical predictors of outcome in patients with infective endocarditis receiving outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT)

Oyewole Chris Durojaiye ^{a,b}  · Robin Morgan ^c  · Naziha Chelaghma ^d  · Evangelos I Kritsotakis ^{e,f} 

Affiliations & Notes  Article Info 

- a Department of Infection and Tropical Medicine, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield S10 2JF, United Kingdom
- b Department of Microbiology, Royal Derby Hospital, Derby DE22 3NE, United Kingdom
- c Department of Infection and Tropical Medicine, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield S10 2JF, United Kingdom
- d Department of Cardiology, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 0RB, United Kingdom
- e Laboratory of Biostatistics, School of Medicine, University of Crete, Heraklion 71003, Greece
- f School of Health and Related Research, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom



Get Access



Cite



Share



Set Alert



Get Rights



Reprints



Show Outline

Highlights

- Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) is increasingly used to treat infective endocarditis (IE).
- Pre-existing renal failure and multimorbidity were associated with OPAT failure.
- Previous IE and cardiac complication were associated with poor long-term outcomes; cardiac surgery was a protective factor.
- OPAT is safe and effective for treating IE, including cases deemed to be at increased risk of complications.
- We examined risk factors for treatment failure and poor outcomes in patients with IE managed with OPAT.

Higher rate of complications
than general OPAT patient

Introduction

Case

The OPAT - IE cohort at SBH 2022 - 2025

Perspectives



Our cardiologists say....

The OPAT service has revolutionised the way we treat patients

Clearly important to be **hospital-based or have very closed links** with cardiology

The **team should be united**, with the patient being assessed by both teams or preferably, a team working together

Once the risk of late emboli / complications has fallen (2 weeks)

Our patient Peter valued

Feeling **safe and under close supervision** and control – despite not being in a hospital bed

Having **easy access to the information** one needs at different points in the journey





Our CNS says: consider the following...

Complex and long journeys for patients -> closer relationship

Physical and **psychological** impact

- Advocacy
- Navigating the system
- Counselling

Middle person

- Importance of multidisciplinary approach
- Parent team accountability

Pharmacy point of view

Complex patients, polypharmacy, comorbidities

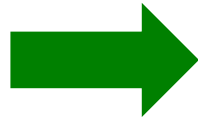
More likely toxicity

Levels, interactions

Logistics - longer treatments than usual

#4

More demanding
for ALL the
members of the
team



Do you have the
capacity?

Is your service well
resourced for this?

Complex

Demanding

MDT

**Training &
knowledge**

Increased nursing time

Know your cohort

Work in teams

Adapt your OPAT service

Is your service ready?



Under license [CC BY-ND](#)

