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2

3 **Effect of outpatient antibiotics for urinary tract infections on antimicrobial resistance among**  
4 **commensal Enterobacteriaceae: a multinational prospective cohort study**

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22

23 **Keywords:** fluoroquinolone, nitrofurantoin, urinary tract infection, Enterobacteriaceae, antimicrobial

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29 **ABSTRACT**

30

31 **Objectives:** We quantified the impact of antibiotics prescribed in primary care for urinary tract  
32 infections (UTIs) on intestinal colonisation by ciprofloxacin-resistant (CIP-RE) and extended-  
33 spectrum beta-lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBL-PE), while accounting for household  
34 clustering.

35

36 **Methods:** Prospective cohort study from January 2011 to August 2013 at primary care sites in  
37 Belgium, Poland and Switzerland. We recruited outpatients requiring antibiotics for suspected UTIs  
38 or asymptomatic bacteriuria (exposed patients), outpatients not requiring antibiotics (non-exposed  
39 patients), and 1–3 household contacts for each patient. Faecal samples were tested for CIP-RE,  
40 ESBL-PE, nitrofurantoin-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (NIT-RE) and any Enterobacteriaceae at  
41 baseline (S1), end of antibiotics (S2), and 28 days after S2 (S3).

42

43 **Results:** We included 300 households (205 exposed, 95 non-exposed) with 716 participants. Most  
44 exposed patients received nitrofurans (86 [42%]) or fluoroquinolones (76 [37%]). CIP-RE were  
45 identified in 16% (328/2033) of samples from 202 (28%) participants. Fluoroquinolone treatment  
46 caused transient suppression of Enterobacteriaceae (S2) and subsequent 2-fold increase in CIP-RE  
47 prevalence at S3 (adjusted prevalence ratio [aPR] 2.0, 95% CI 1.2–3.4), with corresponding number-  
48 needed-to-harm of 12. Nitrofurans had no impact on CIP-RE (aPR 1.0, 95% CI 0.5–1.8) or NIT-RE.  
49 ESBL-PE were identified in 5% (107/2058) of samples from 71 (10%) participants, with colonisation  
50 not associated with antibiotic exposure. Household exposure to CIP-RE or ESBL-PE was associated  
51 with increased individual risk of colonisation: aPR 1.8 (95% CI, 1.3–2.5) and 3.4 (95% CI, 1.3–9.0),  
52 respectively.

53

54 **Conclusions:** These findings support avoidance of fluoroquinolones for first-line UTI therapy in  
55 primary care, and suggest potential for interventions interrupting household circulation of resistant  
56 Enterobacteriaceae.

## 57 INTRODUCTION

58 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) imposes an important health and economic burden and the threat of a  
59 post-antibiotic future requiring major changes to contemporary healthcare provision [1, 2]. Antibiotic  
60 exposure is a key factor in the selection and dissemination of AMR and most human antibiotic use  
61 occurs in the community [3]. In addition to infection control measures and the development of new  
62 antibiotic agents, antibiotic stewardship should optimise use of existing antibiotics to minimise AMR  
63 [4]. Yet stewardship interventions are faced with a relative scarcity of evidence to quantify the  
64 relative merits of agent selection and duration of therapy. Moreover, recent studies have demonstrated  
65 the importance of accounting for the colonisation status of household contacts when assessing the  
66 impact of antibiotics on ambulatory patients treated with antibiotics [5].

67  
68 Our primary aim was to determine the impact of antibiotic class and treatment duration on the  
69 carriage of antibiotic resistant Enterobacteriaceae among individuals consuming antibiotics for  
70 urinary tract infections (UTIs), while accounting for household transmission of commensal  
71 microbiota. As secondary aims, we sought to assess epidemiologic factors associated with carriage of  
72 antibiotic resistant Enterobacteriaceae; and to determine the impact of antimicrobial use on the  
73 carriage of any Enterobacteriaceae.

74  
75 We adapted a conceptual model to develop *a priori* hypotheses regarding the impact of different  
76 antibiotic classes on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance [6, 7] (**Table 1**), and also hypothesised  
77 that any effects would increase with increasing treatment duration.

## 79 METHODS

80 This trial is registered with the ISRCTN registry, number ISRCTN26797709.

### 82 Design, setting and population

83 We performed a multinational prospective cohort study. From January 2011 to August 2013,  
84 ambulatory patients were recruited from established general practice networks in Antwerp (Belgium)

85 and Łódź (Poland)[8], and from ambulatory care clinics at the Geneva University Hospitals (Geneva,  
86 Switzerland). We recruited – as the ‘exposed’ index patient group – a convenience sample of patients  
87 prescribed antibiotics for suspected upper or lower UTIs or asymptomatic bacteriuria (**Table S1** for  
88 definitions). Antibiotic agent and duration were determined by the treating physician. We recruited an  
89 unmatched group of ‘non-exposed’ index patients presenting to the same clinics for an indication that  
90 did not require antibiotic therapy. Inclusion criteria applied to all index patients were age  $\geq 18$  years  
91 and current residence in a household with at least one other person. Exclusion criteria were treatment  
92 with systemic antibiotics or hospitalisation within the previous 30 days; residence in a long-term care  
93 facility; presence of an indwelling urinary catheter; renal transplant or renal replacement therapy; or if  
94 follow-up was unlikely to be possible. Non-exposed index patients were also excluded if they, or any  
95 member of their household, were currently being treated with antibiotics. We recruited 1–3 household  
96 contacts for each index patient. There were no age restrictions or exclusion criteria for household  
97 contacts.

98

### 99 **Data collection**

100 Investigators at each site completed a case report form (CRF) at the time of index participant  
101 recruitment. Each participant also completed a self-administered baseline paper questionnaire.  
102 Participants provided three faecal samples: baseline (Sample 1 [S1]); completion of antibiotic therapy  
103 (S2); and 28 days after the second sample (S3). For all participants from non-exposed households, S2  
104 was 7–10 days after S1. Participants collected their own samples using a disposable Protocult™ kit  
105 (Ability Building Center, Rochester, USA), and these were kept on ice for a maximum of 24 hours  
106 before being collected in person and frozen at  $-80^{\circ}$  Celsius until analysis.

107

### 108 **Variables**

109 The exposure of interest was antibiotic therapy, stratified by class and duration. We used chemical  
110 subgroups from the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification system to define antibiotic class  
111 [9], including J01MA (fluoroquinolones), J01XE (nitrofurans derivatives), J01XX01 (fosfomycin) and  
112 J01EE (trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole). Clinically relevant thresholds were used to dichotomise

113 duration into 'short' and 'long' where relevant. The main outcomes were detectable intestinal  
114 colonisation by ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBL-PE) and ciprofloxacin-resistant  
115 Enterobacteriaceae (CIP-RE), defined as detection of such organisms in faecal samples taken at the  
116 end of antibiotic therapy (S2) and 28 days after the end of therapy (S3). As a summary measure for  
117 the primary outcome, we computed colonisation prevalence by dividing the number of colonised  
118 participants by number of participants (according to participant type [index/contact] and antibiotic  
119 exposure) at each time point.

120

121 Secondary outcomes were detectable intestinal colonisation by nitrofurantoin-resistant  
122 Enterobacteriaceae (NIT-RE) for those participants receiving nitrofurantoin, and by any  
123 Enterobacteriaceae for all participants. Baseline covariates included age and sex, birth in or recent  
124 travel (within 12 months) to a high-risk country, animal contact, meat preparation, education level.  
125 High-risk countries were defined by location in the following geographic areas: Indian subcontinent,  
126 Southeast Asia, and Africa [10]. Colonisation of one or more household member with  
127 Enterobacteriaceae with the resistance phenotype of interest (dichotomous) was recorded as a time-  
128 varying covariate at each time point.

129

### 130 **Microbiological methods**

131 Microbiologic analyses from all sites were performed at a central laboratory (Laboratory of Medical  
132 Microbiology, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium). Faecal samples from all three time points  
133 were quantitatively screened for presence of resistant organisms. Stool suspensions (10%) were  
134 prepared in sterile physiological water with a stomacher (BagMixer 100 MiniMix, Interscience, Saint  
135 Nom la Bretèche, France), serially diluted (up to  $10^{-5}$ ), with two to three odd dilutions inoculated on  
136 the following media by spiral plating 100 $\mu$ l in a logarithmic mode (Eddy Jet, IUL Instruments,  
137 Barcelona, Spain): blood agar, CHROMagar Orientation (CHROMagar, Paris, France), CHROMagar  
138 ESBL, CHROMagar KPC and CHROMagar Orientation supplemented with 0.12 $\mu$ g/ml and 2 $\mu$ g/ml  
139 ciprofloxacin (CHROMagar CIP). Samples from households of patients receiving nitrofurantoin and  
140 control households were additionally cultured on CHROMagar Orientation supplemented with

141 64µg/ml nitrofurantoin. Cultures were read and quantified after being incubated at 37°C for 18-24  
142 hours and 24 hours, respectively. In case of no growth, these were re-incubated for 24 hours. Bacterial  
143 loads (CFU/ml of stool) were calculated separately for each colony colour.

144

145 The relative abundance of resistant *E. coli* in the gastrointestinal tract was determined by dividing the  
146 counts of resistant *E. coli* (sum of bacterial loads of pink colonies colour on supplemented  
147 CHROMagar) by the counts of all *E. coli* (sum of bacterial loads of pink colonies on CHROMagar  
148 Orientation) in each stool sample. Ten colonies of each morphology type were sampled from selective  
149 plates. Strains not identified as *E. coli* by colouration on the chromogenic agar underwent species  
150 identification by matrix-assisted laser desorption ionisation time-of-flight mass spectrometry.

151 Antibiotic susceptibility and phenotypic ESBL confirmation for all strains was determined by the disc  
152 diffusion method according to CLSI guidelines.

153

#### 154 **Sample size**

155 The null hypothesis was that there is no difference between the control and fluoroquinolone-treated  
156 index participants with regard to the increase in prevalence of detectable intestinal colonization with  
157 CIP-RE from S1 to S3. With a power of 0.8 and two-sided alpha of 0.05, we would need  
158 approximately 40 patients in each group to reject this null hypothesis with an absolute colonisation  
159 prevalence increase of 25% in the treated group and negligible increase (1%) in the control group. To  
160 facilitate multivariable analysis, we aimed for 70 households in the control, fluoroquinolone and  
161 nitrofurantoin groups.

162

#### 163 **Statistical methods**

164 The impact of antimicrobial class and duration on the colonisation status was evaluated using mixed-  
165 effects generalised linear regression models. We used Poisson models for the binary colonisation  
166 outcome to compute prevalence ratios [5]. Antibiotic class (categorised as 'nitrofurantoin',  
167 'fluoroquinolone' or 'other'), household exposure to the organism of interest, and potential  
168 confounders were included as fixed effects. Household exposure was a dichotomous variable for each

169 participant at each time point to indicate whether one or more participants in the same household  
170 (excluding that participant) was colonised by Enterobacteriaceae with the resistance phenotype of  
171 interest. Potential confounders were chosen on the basis of existing evidence [11], with final model  
172 selection performed using Akaike's information criterion [12]. To evaluate the impact of  
173 fluoroquinolone treatment duration, we selected 7 days as a clinical relevant threshold for 'short'  
174 duration [13]. We accounted for repeated measurements and the clustered study design by including  
175 random intercepts for participant, household and study site [14]. Households were included in the  
176 analysis if at least one faecal sample was collected at each time point and the CRF and questionnaire  
177 were available. We used multiple imputation for missing outcome values. We estimated the number-  
178 needed-to-harm (NNH) for antibiotic classes and resistant phenotypes. See supplementary material for  
179 further details regarding statistical analyses.

180

181 All analyses were performed using R, version 3.4.0 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna,  
182 Austria), including the 'lme4', 'MASS', 'mitml', and 'tidyverse' packages.

183

#### 184 **Ethics**

185 The study was approved by each centre's institutional review board: Geneva University Hospitals  
186 (protocol 10-123), Antwerp University Hospital (B30020109056), and Medical University of Łódź  
187 (RNN/127/10/KE z 13 lipca 2010 r). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

188

## 189 **RESULTS**

### 190 **Participants**

191 Recruitment is outlined in **Figure 1**. A total of 300 households (205 antibiotic-exposed and 95 non-  
192 exposed) consisting of 716 participants were included in the analysis: 69, 105, and 126 households in  
193 Antwerp, Geneva, and Łódź, respectively. Baseline characteristics and sample collection details are  
194 presented in **Table 2**.

195



196 Among the exposed index patients, 73% (149/205), 20% (42/205), and 7% (14/205) had presumptive  
197 diagnoses of lower UTI, upper UTI, and asymptomatic bacteriuria, respectively. Two antibiotic  
198 classes accounted for 79% (162/205) of prescriptions to these patients: nitrofurantoin (ATC  
199 code J01XE; 47 [23%] nitrofurantoin and 39 [19%] furazidin) and fluoroquinolones (ATC code  
200 J01MA; 68 [33%] ciprofloxacin and 8 [4%] norfloxacin). Fosfomycin (J01XX01) and trimethoprim-  
201 sulfamethoxazole (J01EE) accounted for 15 (7%) and 9 (4%) of the remaining prescriptions.  
202 Fluoroquinolones were more common among patients with upper UTI (86% [36/42]) than lower UTI  
203 (22% [33/149]) or asymptomatic bacteriuria (50% [7/14]). As they account for the bulk of  
204 prescriptions, we focused our analysis on fluoroquinolone and nitrofurantoin treatment.

205

206 The proportion of participants – stratified by participant-type, exposure and time point – with any  
207 Enterobacteriaceae (regardless of antibiotic susceptibility), CIP-RE, and ESBL-RE isolated from stool  
208 samples is presented in **Figure 2**. Detailed results from faecal samples are presented in **Table S2**.

209

### 210 **Ciprofloxacin-resistant Enterobacteriaceae**

211 The final model is presented in **Table 3**. The prevalence of CIP-RE was doubled 28 days after  
212 treatment with fluoroquinolones (adjusted prevalence ratio [aPr], 2.00 [95% CI, 1.18–3.36]), but not  
213 increased by nitrofurans (aPR, 0.98 [95% CI, 0.53–1.81]) or other antibiotics (aPR, 1.48 [95% CI,  
214 0.66–3.31]). Given the CIP-RE prevalence of 8% among non-exposed patients at S3, 12 patients  
215 would need to be treated with a fluoroquinolone in order to have one additional patient colonised by  
216 CIP-RE. Other factors associated with risk for colonisation by CIP-RE included household exposure  
217 to CIP-RE, age, and recent travel to highly endemic region (**Table 3** and **Figure S1**). When travel to  
218 high-risk region was further categorised into specific geographic regions, none were individually  
219 associated with increased prevalence of colonisation. There was an increased relative abundance of  
220 ciprofloxacin-resistant *E. coli* one month following the end of fluoroquinolone treatment (**Figure S2**).

221

222 Fluoroquinolones were the only class of antibiotics with sufficient variation in treatment duration to  
223 explore the impact of duration on emergence of resistance. Of 76 patients receiving fluoroquinolones,

224 33 (43%) and 43 (57%) received short and long treatment, respectively. The impact of treatment  
225 duration on emergence of ciprofloxacin resistance – as well as the presence of any Enterobacteriaceae  
226 – is presented graphically in **Figure S3**. There was no statistically significant difference between  
227 ‘long’ and ‘short’ duration with regard to the prevalence of CIP-RE at the final follow-up sample.

228

### 229 **ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae**

230 In contrast with CIP-RE, no epidemiologic risk factors were identified for colonisation by ESBL-PE,  
231 nor was fluoroquinolone treatment significantly associated with an increase in the prevalence of  
232 ESBL-PE colonisation within 28 days: aPR at 1.36 (0.35–5.20) (**Table S3**). However, as with CIP-  
233 RE, we found evidence of household clustering of ESBL-PE, with exposure to one or more household  
234 contacts colonised with ESBL-PE being associated with a 3.38-fold (95% CI, 1.27-9.01) increase in  
235 risk of ESBL-PE colonisation.

236

### 237 **Nitrofurantoin-resistant Enterobacteriaceae**

238 There were insufficient samples with NIT-RE to support a regression model. Of the 12 participants  
239 with positive samples, 11 belonged to control households. Three control households had two  
240 participants with NIT-RE samples.

241

### 242 **Colonisation with any Enterobacteriaceae**

243 Compared with S1, the proportion of samples from which any Enterobacteriaceae were detected  
244 decreased significantly at S2 among UTI patients treated with fluoroquinolones (aPR, 0.55 [95% CI,  
245 0.40–0.77]) (**Figure 2**). One month later (S3), the prevalence of Enterobacteriaceae returned to  
246 baseline (aPR, 1.00 [95% CI, 0.78–1.27]). The prevalence of Enterobacteriaceae remained stable  
247 throughout for all other groups, including household contacts of patients treated with  
248 fluoroquinolones, patients treated with nitrofurantoin and their household contacts, and participants  
249 from control households.

250

### 251 **Multiple-resistance**

252 The antimicrobial susceptibility profile of *E. coli* strains from the ESBL, ciprofloxacin and  
253 nitrofurantoin screening plates that were confirmed as having the resistance phenotype of interest  
254 (ESBL-positivity, ciprofloxacin resistance or nitrofurantoin resistance, respectively) are presented in  
255 **Table S4**. Amongst the 1,842 ciprofloxacin non-susceptible *E. coli*, 216 (11.7%) were ESBL-positive.  
256 None of the 19 nitrofurantoin-resistant *E. coli* were ESBL-positive.

257 **DISCUSSION**

258 This study confirmed that exposure to fluoroquinolone results in a significant reduction in the  
259 presence of Enterobacteriaceae in the gut immediately at the end of therapy. Though the numbers of  
260 patients with cultivable Enterobacteriaceae recovered 28 days later, this recovery was accompanied  
261 by an increased prevalence of CIP-RE. By contrast, nitrofurantoin had minimal impact on total  
262 Enterobacteriaceae and was neither associated with emergence of ciprofloxacin nor nitrofurantoin  
263 resistance. These findings are consistent with our *a priori* hypothesis based on a mechanistic  
264 conceptual model of the link between exposure to specific antibiotics and emergence of resistance  
265 (**Table 1**) [6, 7].

266

267 We were unable to detect a significant benefit in reducing the duration of fluoroquinolone treatment.  
268 While it is contrary to the notion that duration of exposure is positively associated with selection  
269 resistance,[15] this finding is consistent with a previous study in the hospital setting demonstrating  
270 that emergence of quinolone resistance was not associated with fluoroquinolone type or treatment  
271 duration [16]. As previously discussed by de Lastours et al. [16], this finding may be attributable to  
272 the relatively long half-life of ciprofloxacin in the intestinal tract and impact on the intestinal  
273 microbiota following even a single dose [17]. Indeed, with regards to the suppression of  
274 Enterobacteriaceae, we were equally likely to recover *any* Enterobacteriaceae at the end of treatment  
275 whether that treatment lasted for more or less than one week. Furthermore, if selection for resistant  
276 strains indeed occurs when fluoroquinolone levels fall below the MIC of least susceptible strains, and  
277 into the mutant selection window [18], then the crucial period would be following the cessation of  
278 treatment, regardless of its duration. Consistent with this concept, is the greater increase in proportion  
279 of participants colonised with CIP-RE after the cessation of fluoroquinolones than during treatment.  
280 This pattern has previously been reported among healthy volunteers [19]. Together, these findings  
281 suggest that the ‘damage is done’ early during the fluoroquinolone treatment course, and that  
282 antibiotic stewardship should therefore focus on the avoidance of fluoroquinolones rather than  
283 shortened duration as has been recently advocated [20].

284

285 In addition to the emergence of ciprofloxacin resistance, fluoroquinolones resulted in an increase in  
286 the relative abundance of resistant strains. This finding is significant given an increase in the relative  
287 abundance of resistant Enterobacteriaceae means that in the event of subsequent UTI, there is a  
288 greater risk of infection by the resistant strain [21]. In addition, an increase in the relative abundance  
289 of antibiotic resistant Enterobacteriaceae has been associated with a greater risk of environmental  
290 contamination by such strains in hospitalised patients [22] – and it is plausible that this may result in  
291 an increased risk of transmission in the community setting also [6].

292  
293 In contrast to country-level ecologic studies, we did not demonstrate an association between exposure  
294 to antibiotics and colonisation by ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae. We propose three  
295 explanations. First, two thirds of ESBL-producing *E. coli* from faecal samples remained susceptible to  
296 ciprofloxacin, so co-selection by ciprofloxacin may not be sufficiently frequent. Second, the  
297 prevalence of ESBL-PE colonisation in the community is lower than CIP-RE, so transmission events  
298 may be less likely to occur. Third, in contrast to ciprofloxacin resistance, ESBL are not the result of  
299 *de novo* mutation, so the ‘acquisition’ of ESBL-PE requires either pre-existing colonisation below the  
300 level of detection or acquisition from an external source.

301  
302 We noted household clustering for colonisation by both CIP-RE and ESBL-PE. This finding has  
303 previously been reported for resistance to trimethoprim [23, 24], ampicillin, trimethoprim-  
304 sulfamethoxazole, and doxycycline [25], and ESBL-PE [26-29]. Indeed, the transmission rate for  
305 ESBL-PE has previously been estimated as greater in the household than in the hospital setting [28],  
306 with neonates, infants and companion animals potentially favouring dissemination [24-26]. While  
307 transmission of AMR strains is likely to represent the ‘tip of the iceberg’ with regard to the shared  
308 household microbiome [30], it is notable for at least two reasons. First, household transmission of  
309 pathogenic, antibiotic-resistant strains may result directly in negative health outcomes, such as has  
310 been suggested for *E. coli* ST131, which is associated with both multidrug resistance and robust  
311 pathogenicity [31, 32]. Second, with the reservoir of Gram-negative resistance and the focus of its

312 transmission shifting from the hospital to the community [33], interruption of household transmission  
313 represents a hitherto largely neglected opportunity for interventions to tackle this problem.

314

315 These findings should be interpreted within the context of the study design. In the absence of  
316 randomisation, we cannot exclude residual confounding. In particular, patients receiving  
317 fluoroquinolones were more likely to be receiving treatment for upper UTI rather than cystitis.  
318 Second, our follow-up period of 28 days after end of treatment was relatively brief. However,  
319 quinolone-resistant *E. coli* selected from the intestinal microbiota of individuals exposed to  
320 ciprofloxacin are “highly adapted to a commensal lifestyle” and may persist for long periods  
321 following emergence [34]. Third, the number of index patients receiving antibiotics other than  
322 nitrofurans and fluoroquinolones was too low to assess their impact. Finally, we have not performed  
323 molecular characterisation of the ciprofloxacin resistance mechanisms or strain clonality. Important  
324 strengths of this study include the multinational participant recruitment which supports the  
325 generalisability of our findings to countries with varying prevalence of resistance, and our hypothesis-  
326 driven approach.

327

328 Exposure to fluoroquinolones transiently suppresses intestinal Enterobacteriaceae with a subsequent  
329 increase in the probability of colonisation by CIP-RE and the relative abundance of these resistant  
330 strains. This effect may not be attenuated by short treatment duration. These findings highlight the  
331 ‘collateral damage’ inflicted by fluoroquinolones and support recommendations to avoid their use in  
332 favour of agents with milder impact on commensal microbiota where possible [35]. Finally, we noted  
333 household clustering of CIP-RE and ESBL-PE, suggesting household transmission as a potential  
334 target for strategies to contain spread of AMR in the community.

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362

363 **Contribution to authorship**

364 Study design: all authors; recruitment and enrolment of participants: NA, SC, AK, MG-C, AS;  
365 acquisition of data: NA, SC, AK, MG-C, AS, JV, CL, SM-K; statistical analyses: AS; study  
366 supervision: HG, SM-K, MG-C, SH; drafting of the manuscript: AS, SH; review and approval of final  
367 draft: all authors.

368

369 **Transparency declaration**

370 All authors report no conflicts of interest relevant to this article.

371



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468 **FIGURE LEGENDS**469 **Figure 1.** Study flow diagram470 **Figure 2.** Prevalence of any, ciprofloxacin-resistant, and ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae.

471 Abbreviations: CIP-RE, ciprofloxacin-resistant Enterobacteriaceae; ESBL-PE, extended-spectrum

472 beta-lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae

474 **Table 1.** Summary of *a priori* hypotheses regarding the impact of fluoroquinolones and nitrofurans on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

Antibiotic exposure	Resistance type	Predicted impact	Rationale (potential mechanisms)
Fluoroquinolone	Ciprofloxacin	Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals are usually colonised by ciprofloxacin-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae AND resistance is conferred by single mutation(s).</li> <li>• Ciprofloxacin suppresses the endogenous flora that otherwise tends to block acquisition of the resistant organism AND individuals are exposed to infectious sources of the resistant organism during or shortly after the period of treatment.</li> <li>• Individuals may be colonised by both ciprofloxacin resistant and susceptible Enterobacteriaceae AND treatment increases the load of resistant organisms by killing the competitive susceptible strains.</li> </ul>
Fluoroquinolone	ESBL	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ciprofloxacin suppresses the endogenous flora AND individuals are exposed to ESBL-PE during or shortly after the treatment period.</li> <li>• ESBL-PE can be resistant to ciprofloxacin, and treatment shifts the balance of colonising organisms from mostly susceptible to mostly resistant.</li> </ul>
Nitrofurans	Nitrofurantoin	Weak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance can be conferred by single mutations, however high fitness cost &amp; low GI antibiotic levels reduce impact</li> </ul>
Nitrofurans	ESBL	Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nitrofurantoin resistance uncommonly conveyed by ESBL plasmids</li> </ul>
Nitrofurans	Ciprofloxacin	Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No potential mechanisms likely to have significant role</li> </ul>

475 **Table 2.** Characteristics of households and participants included in the analysis

Household-level characteristics	Household type			
	Non-exposed households (n=95)	Exposed households (n=205)		
Study site				
Antwerp	30 (32)	39 (19)		
Geneva	36 (38)	69 (34)		
Łódź	29 (31)	97 (47)		
Residents				
2	25 (26)	81 (40)		
3–4	56 (59)	98 (48)		
>4	14 (15)	26 (13)		
Children in household				
Any age <18	62 (65)	101 (49)		
<5 years & attends day-care	16 (17)	22 (11)		
Highest education level				
Primary	0 (0)	7 (3)		
Secondary	21 (22)	95 (46)		
Undergraduate tertiary	17 (18)	41 (20)		
Postgraduate tertiary	57 (60)	62 (30)		
Farm location	2 (2)	5 (2)		
Participant-level characteristics	Participant type			
	Non-exposed households		Exposed households	
	Index patients (n=95)	Household contacts (n=150)	Index patients (n=205)	Household contacts (n=266)
Demographics				
Age, median (IQR)	40 (33-49.5)	16.5 (7-39)	39 (30-53)	29 (13-49)
Female sex	71 (75)	67 (45)	190 (93)	84 (32)
Healthcare exposures in previous 12 months				
Hospitalisation	9 (9)	26 (17)	24 (12)	30 (11)
Antibiotic exposure	28 (29)	39 (26)	91 (44)	58 (22)
Urinary tract infection	14 (15)	NA	71 (35)	NA
Urinary catheter	2 (2)	NA	2 (1)	NA
Social exposures				
High risk travel <sup>a</sup>	11 (12)	16 (11)	19 (9)	25 (9)
Companion animal contact	43 (45)	71 (47)	91 (44)	122 (46)
Farm animal contact	4 (4)	7 (5)	9 (4)	12 (5)
Vegetarian	2 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	8 (3)
Raw meat preparation	77 (81)	63 (42)	163 (80)	116 (44)
Health and comorbidities				
Current pregnancy	2 (2)	NA	10 (5)	NA
Chronic kidney disease	0 (0)	NA	1 (0)	NA
Cardiovascular disease	8 (8)	NA	29 (14)	NA

Diabetes	3 (3)	NA	17 (8)	NA
Hemiplegia	0 (0)	NA	2 (1)	NA
Chronic skin condition	1 (1)	NA	2 (1)	NA
Chronic airways disease	1 (1.1)	NA	2 (1)	NA
Autoimmune disease	3 (3)	NA	2 (1)	NA
Liver cirrhosis	0 (0)	NA	1 (0)	NA
Neoplasia	1 (1)	NA	3 (1)	NA
Faecal sample collection				
Sample 1 collected	95 (100)	149 (99)	184 (90)	262 (98)
Sample 2 collected	95 (100)	148 (99)	204 (100)	264 (99)
Sample 3 collected	94 (99)	147 (98)	203 (99)	263 (99)

476 Result reported as *N* (%).

477 <sup>a</sup>Within 12-months prior to recruitment. NA, not applicable.



478 **Table 3.** Multivariable mixed-effects Poisson regression model for colonisation by ciprofloxacin-  
 479 resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CIP-RE)

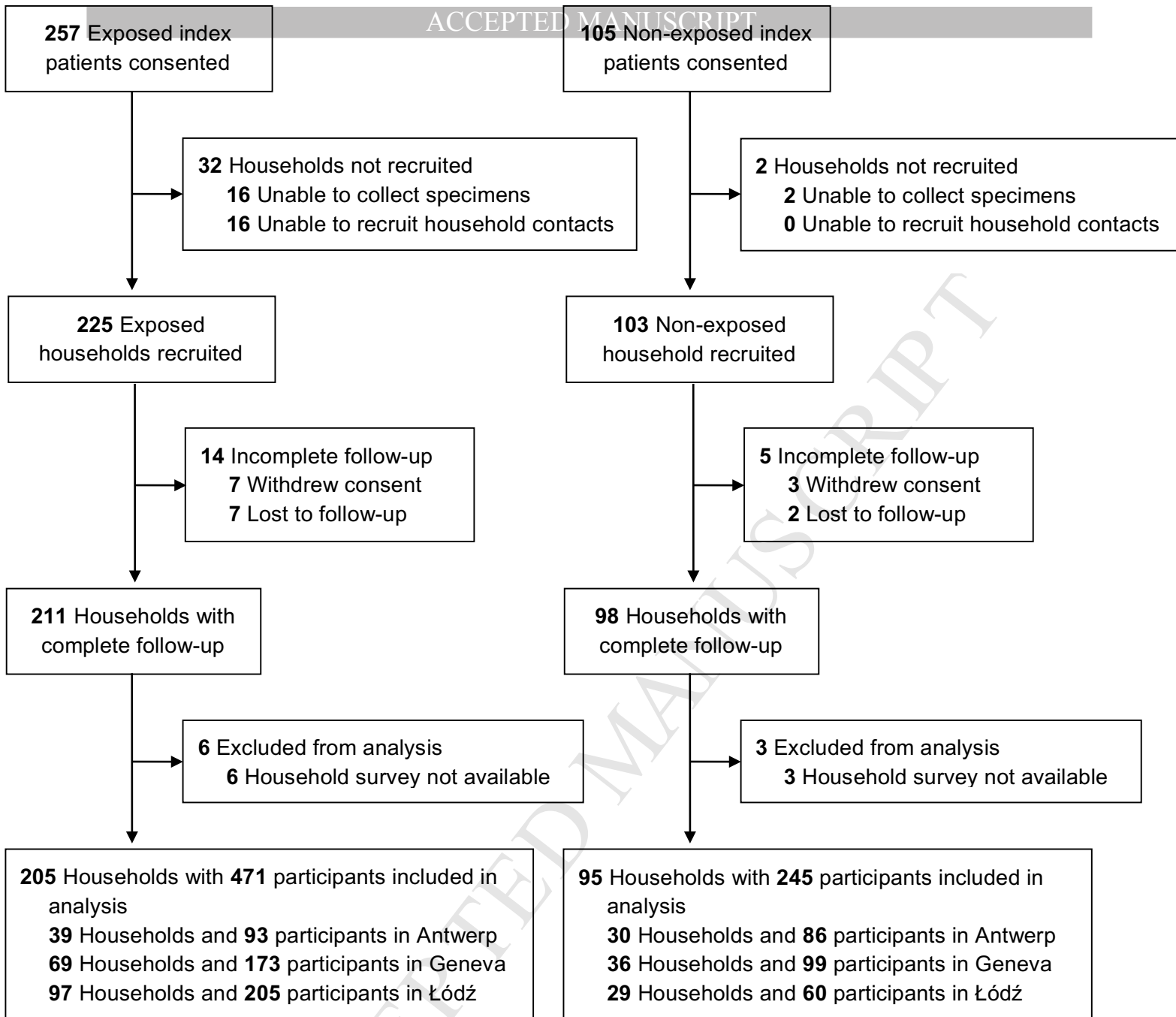
480

Exposure	No. (%) of participants (n = 716)	Prevalence ratio (95% CI)
Antibiotic exposure		
Immediately post-treatment		
nitrofurantoin	86 (12)	0.91 (0.47–1.76)
fluoroquinolone	76 (11)	1.46 (0.83–2.59)
other antibiotic	43 (6)	1.54 (0.69–3.44)
28-days post-treatment		
nitrofurantoin	86 (12)	0.98 (0.53–1.81)
fluoroquinolone	76 (11)	2.00 (1.18–3.36)
other antibiotic	43 (6)	1.48 (0.66–3.31)
Household type		
Control	245 (34)	reference
Antibiotic: nitrofurantoin	198 (28)	1.59 (1.05–2.43)
Antibiotic: fluoroquinolone	176 (25)	1.66 (1.07–2.57)
Antibiotic: other	97 (14)	1.48 (0.86–2.56)
Age group		
≥60	85 (12)	reference
40–59	204 (28)	0.76 (0.48–1.20)
19–39	254 (35)	0.56 (0.36–0.89)
5–18	128 (18)	0.59 (0.35–1.01)
<5	45 (6)	0.35 (0.15–0.80)
Travel to high-risk country within 12-months	71 (10)	1.92 (1.24–2.96)
Household exposure to CIP-RE	Time-varying	1.80 (1.28–2.54)

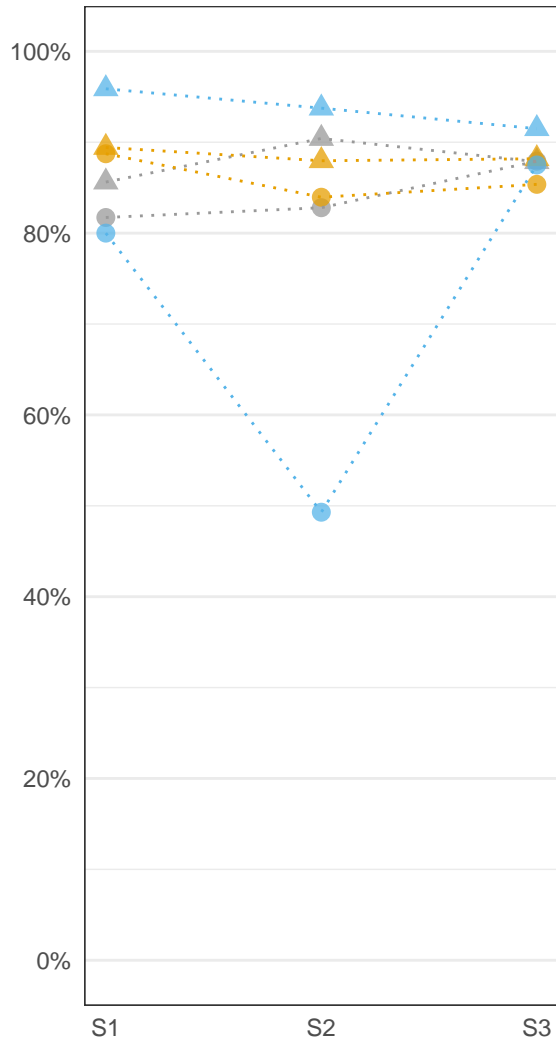
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482 Note: Multiple imputation used to account for 115 of 2148 (5%) observations with missing CIP-RE

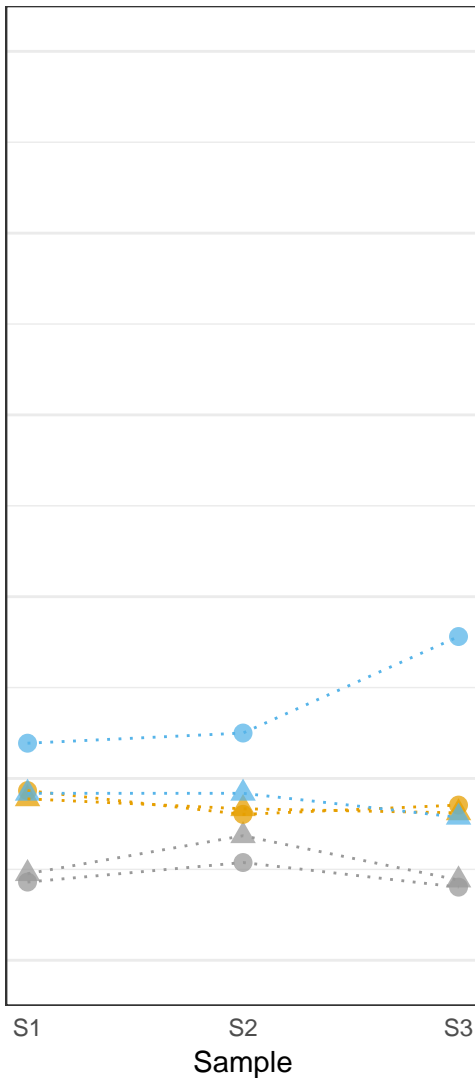
483 colonisation status. All other variables in the model were complete for all cases.



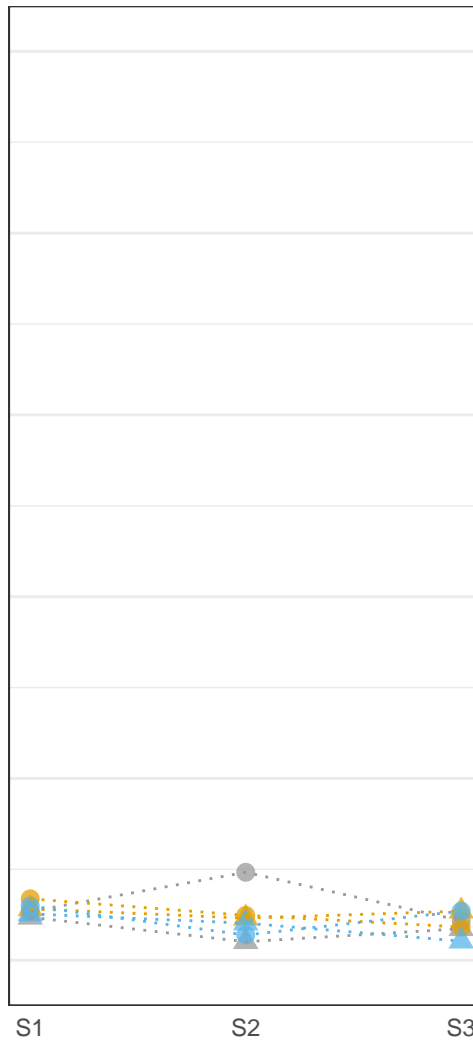
Any Enterobacteriaceae



CIP-RE



ESBL-PE



## Household exposure

- control
- nitrofurantoin
- fluoroquinolone

## Participant type

- index patients
- ▲ household contacts