

S177

2-hour Symposium

Bloodstream infections in the era of MDR and XDR Gram-negative bacteria

Speeding up the laboratory diagnosis of bloodstream infection

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In an era of increasing antibiotic resistance the risk of clinical failure due to ineffective empiric antibiotic therapy increases. This results in worse outcome in sepsis patients as rapid institution of effective antibiotic therapy is crucial in this condition. The laboratory based diagnostics of sepsis including species ID and susceptibility testing must in response to this be speeded up to be relevant for patient outcome. During the last years several techniques, such as molecular methods and MALDI-TOF, have entered the microbiological laboratory and proven effective in reducing the time to species ID. In addition new techniques for rapid susceptibility testing have been proposed. Still, if rapid methods are introduced without an effective infrastructure including 24/7 open laboratories, transports, electronic report systems and physicians aware of the potential of rapid microbiology these techniques will only be of limited clinical importance.