

To the Editor

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Thanks to Dr. Özsoylu for his interest in our study about the "Antibiotic susceptibilities of enterococci isolated from Turkish children". Enterococci are selected in the study since they are one of the pathogens which cause nosocomial infections at increasing rates¹. Enterococci mostly cause urinary tract, wound and bloodstream infections (the clinical syndromes which are common in different bacteria). I believe that antibiotic susceptibility patterns of enterococci are more helpful than clinical data in the treatment of such infections, since one of the most important points about the enterococci is their antibiotic resistance which causes difficulties in the treatment.

Enterococci do not possess the common virulence factors like many other bacteria, and the intrinsic resistance to multiple antimicrobial agents (due to diminished affinity of PBPs or decreased permeability of the cell wall) is not a classical virulence factor². As they are resistant to most of the common antibiotics, they survive and proliferate and cause endogenous and exogenous infections.

1954 on page 14 should be 1994.

REFERENCES

1. Schaberg DR, Culver DH, Gaynes RP. Major trends in the microbial etiology of nosocomial infection. *Am J Med* 1991; 91 (Suppl 3B): 72.
2. Moellering RC. Enterococcus species, Streptococcus bovis and Leuconostoc species. In: Mandell GL, Bennett JE, Dolin R (eds). *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* (4th ed). New York: Churchill Livingstone Inc; 1995: 1826.

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