



## Investigation of *Acinetobacter baumannii* resistance to carbapenems in Marseille hospitals, south of France: a transition from an epidemic to an endemic situation.

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Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections are a worldwide endemic nosocomial threat. Between December 2010 and April 2011, an increase of carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* infections occurred in several Marseille University Hospitals. The aim of this study was to investigate the increase of carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* infections and to characterize the mechanisms of carbapenem resistance. The increase was detected by a homemade computer surveillance program, known as EPIMIC, that monitors antibiotic resistance profiles on a weekly basis. During this period, positive samples of carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* were retrieved from patients hospitalized in different units. Genotyping of the isolates was performed using pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) and multi-locus sequence typing (MLST), and carbapenemase gene analyses were performed to detect the presence of carbapenemases and to determine the relationships of the isolates. Carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* were isolated in a total of 11 patients who were hospitalized in different hospitals units. We identified the presence of the bla(OXA23-like) carbapenemase-encoding gene in all of the isolates and found four major PFGE groups and different MLST groups. These results demonstrate a current evolution in the *A. baumannii* epidemiology in Marseille with a switch from an epidemic situation to an endemic situation and with several circulating clones.

Résumé en anglais

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