Newsletter 31 (December 2012)

Calibration of Doxycycline and Enterococci: Recently we published a report in Pathology {Pathology (December 2012) **44**(7), 654} describing the calibration of doxycycline and enterococci that identified those isolates with a low level resistance to this antibiotic. We suggested that in these circumstances this antibiotic may be a useful agent for treatment of localised urinary tract infections with these organisms. The optimal disc potency was 60 μg which identified those isolates with MICs of 16 mg/L or less at a cut off zone with an annular radius of 6 mm. Unfortunately we have been unable to persuade Oxoid to supply discs of this potency and we were forced to repeat the calibration with the commercially available disc of 30 μg. The calibration with this potency yielded similar results except that the cut off zone was 4 mm annular radius. The results with the 30 μg disc are included in table 12.1.a until we are able to persuade the disc manufacturers to manufacture and supply the 60 μg disc.

Sporadic Oxoid Antibiotic Disc Failure: Two laboratories from SEALS Microbiology have reported unexpected absence of inhibitory zones with gentamicin, erythromycin and imipenem. On repeat testing, in each case, the organism appeared susceptible. This appears to be a rare event and occurred no more than once with each cartridge of discs. The cause is almost certainly a failure to load the disc with antibiotic during manufacture and we have notified the disc manufacturer but as yet we have not received a satisfactory response. In the meantime CDS users are advised that where they observe an unexpected resistant zone they repeat the test and please notify the CDS Reference laboratory of the details.