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ERRATUM

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Control of a nosocomial outbreak of vancomycin resistant *Enterococcus faecium* in a paediatric oncology unit: risk factors for colonisation

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In the section "Methods" (page 21) under "Microbiology" all references to g/ml or g should have read µ/ml or µg, i.e. micrograms per ml or micrograms. The correct version of the paragraph is as follows:

Microbiology

A modified Slanetz and Bartley agar (CM377, Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) [42] was selected for detection of VRE. Modifications included the addition of vancomycin (6 µg/ml), clindamycin (8 µg/ml), colistin (50 µg/ml) and amphotericin B (4 µg/ml) to reduce the growth of other bowel flora. Media were stored in the dark at 40 °C and were used within 1 week. Stool and rectal swab samples and 24-h environmental broth cultures were inoculated onto this medium, streaked, incubated at 37 °C and examined for *Enterococcus* colonies at 24 and 48 h. Colonies from each plate were subcultured for identification and sensitivity testing. Isolates were identified by

colony morphology, Gram stain, catalase reaction, group D antigen, PYR test (presence of pyrrolidonyl peptidase activity), growth in 4% and 6% salt broth and the API-20 S Streptococcus system (bioMérieux, Marcy L'Etoile, France) respectively. Initial sensitivity testing was performed on Isosensitest agar (Oxoid, Basingstoke, U.K.) using disk diffusion with ampicillin 10 µg, vancomycin 5 µg and 30 µg, teicoplanin 30 µg, gentamicin 100 µg, chloramphenicol 10 µg, erythromycin 5 µg, cefotaxime 30 µg and cefturoxime 30 µg disks. The MIC of vancomycin was determined using E-test (Epsilometer) antibiotic strips (AB Biodiscs, Solna, Sweden) using a susceptible strain of *E. faecalis* (ATCC 29212) as a control. Enterococci with a vancomycin MIC between 2 and 8 µg/ml were excluded from the study. All patient strains of VRE and a representative selection of environmental strains were referred to the Epidemiological Typing Unit, Laboratory of Hospital Infection, Colindale, U.K. for confirmation of identification by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using primers described Dutka-Malen et al. [9] and for molecular comparison using pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE).