

007

EFFECT OF EARLY ENTEROCOCCUS SPECIATION  
ON ANTIBIOTIC SELECTION- PART 1 (A1),

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Rapid identification of enterococcus species and appropriate intervention with targeted antibiotics may reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with enterococcal blood stream infection. The purpose of this two part study is to evaluate the impact of a new microbiologic assay, known as PNA FISH, on the time delay between blood culture collection and the initiation of active antibacterial therapy. The PNA FISH assay can differentiate between certain enterococcal species soon after culture collection. The first phase this study will involve the retrospective review of all patients with enterococcal blood stream infections over a one year period prior to the use of the PNA FISH assay at the study location. The time delay between blood culture collection and the identification of a positive blood culture caused by enterococcus species will be determined. Additionally, the timing and choice of antibiotic therapy will be evaluated. A second phase of this study will be performed to evaluate the same parameters during a one year period after initiation of the PNA FISH assay at the study location. Timing and choice of antibacterial therapy, along with patient outcome measures, will be compared between the two study periods. Part one of the study will be presented.