

Preface

The ambition of ONERBA, created in 1997, is straightforward: to give decision-makers and prescribers of antimicrobials, data that are sufficiently extensive and as representative as possible on bacterial resistance in France. One of the first goals of ONERBA was to provide its networks with methodological recommendations in order to enable data comparison. The financial support essentially provided by the national agency AFSSAPS contributed to our independence.

The 2003 report was drawn up in the same way as the previous report. A different colour ink cartridge can distinguish it from the 2002 report. Tables and graphs were encouraged as often as possible because of their didactical feature.

The statistics on antimicrobial resistance of each species are presented globally or by sample types and usually classified by network. For bacteria isolated from documented infections such as bacteraemia or meningitis, the analysis was improved by including, when available, the community or nosocomial origin, the type of sample, the type or ward for hospitals and the mechanisms of resistance to a family of antimicrobials. For veterinary networks, strains were mainly isolated from documented infections.

This dense but clear document is the result of the thorough and intense work of the Scientific Board (SB), the spearhead of the design and composition of these summary documents as well as of our scientific communication, whether meetings or publications. We heartily thank the SB for its never-ending dynamism in validating and analysing the data. The edition of a report overlaps the collection of the data for the following report. Most of the data are available on the Internet site www.onerba.org in advance of the publication of the annual report.

This English version consists in a simplified report gathering all of the numerical data. It should provide a baseline for European comparisons, especially because France has a very high antimicrobial consumption. It will also help decision-makers in the European marketing approval process.

The recent changes in the SB did not alter the quality of the work and our group can be reassured by the value of its statutes, that privilege the turnover of the members by elections on a regular basis. ONERBA works effectively by continually monitoring the resistance to antimicrobials as well as by prompting specific surveys focused at emerging resistant strains. Our ambition is to improve every year, even if some advances can only be made with adequate means. We thank AFSSAPS for its help and confidence. We will meet again for the 2004 report, already an intense preoccupation.

Dr Yves RIO,
President of ONERBA

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Notes

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.