

Foreword

The 2007 report of the scientific committee of the National Observatory for Epidemiology or Bacterial Resistance to Antibiotics (ONERBA) is the 6th report on data gathered by the 15 networks of microbiologists federated in ONERBA. This report also marks the 10th anniversary of the teamwork performed by the scientific committee of ONERBA which started in 1998. Reports from the first years (1998-2001) were distributed in a rather gross form looking alike hands out, and it is obviously no more the case nowadays.

The representatives of the 15 networks and of the 2 national reference centres (pneumococci and mycobacteria) constitute the core team of the scientific committee, which is in fact itself the « heart » of ONERBA. We thank all the colleagues of the scientific committee, and all the microbiologists participating in the different networks federated in ONERBA for their active collaboration to the surveillance of bacterial resistance in France.

The 2007 report first presents each of the networks federated in ONERBA in a detailed manner. In the four annexes (sub-population analysis, summary statistics of antibiotic resistance for the major bacterial species, antibiotic resistance in well-defined infections, multidrug-resistant bacteria), the results of surveillance are summarized in 107 tables and 49 figures, so that it is possible to have a broad overview of bacterial resistance in France. As much as possible, trends on resistance to antibiotics are presented so that it is possible to evaluate changes over time. There is a large amount of data on the main species (*E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*), but also on species that are seldom isolated in most laboratories (*P. multocida*, *C. koseri*).

In France, anybody interested in bacterial resistance to antibiotics is using ONERBA's data, as anybody in Europe is using EARSS data. As a matter of fact, ONERBA is, besides the regional observatories for pneumococci and the national reference center for pneumococci, the single source for French data on resistance sent to EARSS by compiling data on more than 16.000 bacteraemia, i.e. much more than most other European countries of the same size (Germany, Italy, Spain, UK).

As in the previous years, the 2007 ONERBA's report is presented in a bilingual « French-English » edition, and is available on ONERBA's website www.onerba.org.

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