

Case report

Breakthrough daptomycin-, linezolid-, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* bacteremia during protracted daptomycin therapy: A case report

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ABSTRACT

Infections with multidrug resistant (MDR) *Enterococcus faecium* (*Efm*) are a growing problem. Vancomycin resistance in enterococci has long challenged treatment, necessitating the use of linezolid or daptomycin. Subsequently, daptomycin-, linezolid-, vancomycin-resistant *Efm* (DLVRE) infections have emerged. Case reports and guidelines for treating DLVRE infections are limited. Here, we describe the clinical and laboratory management of an MDR *Efm* protracted intraabdominal (IA) infection and breakthrough DLVRE bacteremia. Serial *Efm* resistance was evaluated using whole genome sequencing (WGS), susceptibility testing, and synergy analysis. Prior to *in vitro* synergy testing, combination antimicrobial therapy with daptomycin (DAP) and ceftaroline (CPT) was employed to treat the patient's central line-associated DLVRE bloodstream infection. *In vitro* antimicrobial testing revealed no synergy between daptomycin and ceftaroline; however, the patient's bacteremia cleared following initiation of both in conjunction with catheter removal. Sequencing of the DLVRE isolates revealed multiple genomic mutations which explained both linezolid and daptomycin resistance phenotypes and confirmed the presence of a plasmid containing the *vanA* operon. Sequential WGS of two additional bacterial isolates from the same patient revealed protracted colonization with a single DLVRE clone and suggested the development of bacterial subpopulations. Pairing clinical isolate susceptibilities with WGS and synergy testing should be encouraged in clinical practice to better inform antimicrobial management in cases of multidrug resistance.

Introduction

Nosocomial infections caused by multidrug resistant (MDR) *Enterococcus faecium* (*Efm*) are a significant challenge to patients and clinicians. As an important part of the gastrointestinal (GI) microbiota, enterococci may be exposed to serial courses of antimicrobials and persist, in part, because of the remarkable plasticity of their genome [1]. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in enterococci arises through both genomic mutation and acquisition of mobile elements [2]. Most enterococci demonstrate low-level intrinsic resistance to beta-lactam

compounds, moderate resistance to aminoglycosides and high level resistance to most cephalosporins and clindamycin [3,4]. Natural ampicillin resistance in *Efm* is attributed to the chromosomally-encoded penicillin-binding protein (PBP5) [5] which can encode a low-affinity allele (*pbp5-R*) responsible for ampicillin resistance in the dominant hospital-associated *Efm* clade [6]. Vancomycin resistance, driven by expression of multiple gene clusters (*van* operons), results in the replacement of terminal D-alanine residues of peptidoglycan precursors with either D-lactate or D-serine [4].

Treatment of vancomycin-resistant *Efm* (VRE) requires the use of

Abbreviations: WGS, whole genome sequencing; DAP, daptomycin; LZD, linezolid; CPT, ceftaroline; *Efm*, *Enterococcus faecium*; DLVRE, daptomycin-, linezolid-, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium*; PBP5, penicillin binding protein 5; IA, intraabdominal; MIC, minimal inhibitory concentration; DNSE, daptomycin-non-susceptible enterococci; CLABSI, central line-associated bloodstream infection; POD, post-operative day; PICC, peripherally inserted central catheter; LLQ, left lower quadrant; ST, sequence type; MDR, multidrug resistant; p1–5, plasmids 1–5.

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antimicrobial agents including linezolid (LZD) and daptomycin (DAP) [7]. Though overall resistance to either remains rare (< 1 % linezolid and < 2 % daptomycin) [8,9], resistance emerged shortly after each antimicrobial was clinically introduced [7,9]. Specifically, resistance to linezolid is linked to mutations in 23S ribosomal RNA genes or acquisition of *cfr* or *optrA*, which encode a ribosomal methyltransferase and an ATP-binding cassette transporter, respectively [9]. Daptomycin resistance is linked to mutations in two major groups of genes [4,8]. The first (*liaFSR* and *ycyFGHIJ*) encodes regulatory pathways that coordinate stress responses in the bacterial cell envelope. The second encodes enzymes that metabolize phospholipids, including glycerophosphoryl diester phosphodiesterase (*gdpD*) and cardiolipin synthetase (*cls*) [10]. The molecular understanding of both linezolid and daptomycin resistance is an active area of investigation [9,10].

Though rare (< 1 %), the prevalence of daptomycin-, linezolid-, and vancomycin-resistant *Efm* (DLVRE) is increasing [8,9]. Immunosuppression, neutropenia, receipt of an invasive medical procedure, and antimicrobial exposure increase a patient's risk for development of DLVRE [11]. There are limited data on efficacious treatment strategies for DLVRE. For daptomycin-non-susceptible enterococci (DNSE), combination therapy with daptomycin and a beta-lactam antibacterial is believed to act synergistically wherein the beta-lactam alters the charge on the bacterial cell membrane which improves daptomycin binding and bactericidal activity [12–14]. *In vitro* studies have demonstrated synergy between daptomycin and ampicillin, ceftriaxone, cefepime, ertapenem and ceftaroline (CPT) [15]. Of the many combinations tested *in vitro*, ceftaroline significantly lowered the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of daptomycin the most and showed the greatest enhancement in daptomycin binding [15]. Additionally, daptomycin and ceftaroline have also been employed successfully to treat *E. faecalis* endocarditis [13]. Ultimately, data are limited on the clinical impact of dual antimicrobial therapy on outcome of DNSE and DLVRE infections.

Here, we report successful treatment of breakthrough DLVRE central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) in the setting of a protracted polymicrobial intraabdominal (IA) abscess. Additionally, we applied whole genome sequencing (WGS) to characterize the genetic changes underlying linezolid and daptomycin resistance in this case.

Case presentation

A 64-year-old female with a history of small bowel obstruction and multiple laparoscopic abdominal surgeries presented to our institution for elective incisional hernia repair. The patient underwent lysis of adhesions and small bowel resection with mesh closure. Post-operatively,

the patient's course was complicated by the development of multiple loculated IA abscesses (1.5 × 6.6 cm, 2.0 × 3.3 cm, and 2.9 × 11.9 cm) and an enteric leak at the anastomotic site. A drain was placed into the largest pocket and aspiration cultures (60 mL of feculent material) obtained on post-operative day (POD) 10 were consistent with a polymicrobial abscess including *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, coagulase-negative staphylococcus, *Streptococcus constellatus*, *Candida albicans* and vancomycin-resistant *Efm* (Table 1, Isolate 1, VRE). Given an allergy to penicillin, the patient was initially treated with aztreonam and metronidazole. The patient was ultimately transitioned to culture-directed therapy (meropenem, fluconazole, and linezolid) for four weeks (Fig. 1). At the end of her antimicrobial course, clinical improvement was achieved, though several small IA and subcutaneous fluid collections (1.9 × 1.8 cm, 6.0 × 0.9 cm, 3.0 × 1.9 cm, 3.7 × 1.0 cm, and 2.0 × 0.7 cm) remained. Given the patient's prolonged exposure to antimicrobial therapy and in the context of her clinical and radiographic improvement, a decision was made to stop all broad-spectrum antimicrobials.

Four days after stopping antimicrobials (POD 50), the patient developed abdominal pain and leukocytosis of 26,600 cells/μL. An abdominal CT scan revealed multiple new, loculated rim-enhancing fluid collections (8.7 × 4.0 × 11.2 cm and 5.7 × 5.8 × 11 cm) and persistent small bowel enteric leak. She underwent an excision laparotomy with abdominal washout and IA cultures ultimately demonstrated a new linezolid resistant-VRE (Table 1, Isolate 2, LVRE). Meropenem, fluconazole and dose-optimized daptomycin (9.6 mg/kg/day) were initiated and continued for two weeks until ultimately transitioning to ceftriaxone, fluconazole and daptomycin. On POD 73, following an episode of emesis directly onto an existing peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), the patient developed a fever. Blood cultures from the periphery and PICC line both revealed new daptomycin resistant-LVRE (Table 1, Isolate 3, DLVRE). Ceftriaxone was discontinued and ceftaroline was added when the daptomycin non-susceptibility results became available. The PICC line was removed and blood cultures cleared the following day. After one week of combination antimicrobial therapy, the patient had a decrease in the size of the IA abscess (2.4 × 2.3 cm), resolution of leukocytosis, reduction of fevers and was discharged home off antimicrobials on POD 86 with an abdominal drain in place.

Five weeks after discharge (POD 122), the patient was readmitted with left lower quadrant (LLQ) abdominal pain and increased drainage from the abdominal drain site. CT scan revealed an additional abdominal wall fluid collection (8.1 × 1.0 × 0.9 cm) which was again drained. Cultures were polymicrobial and grew *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Enterobacter*

Table 1
Minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs μg/mL) for the patient's isolates of *Efm* as reported by the clinical microbiology laboratory.

Antibacterial	Isolate 1 (VRE)	Isolate 2 (LVRE)	Isolate 3 ^a (DLVRE)	Isolate 4 ^a (DLVRE)	Isolate 5 ^a (DLVRE)
Source	Peritoneal Fluid	Abdominal Fluid	Blood & PICC	LLQ Abdominal Wall	Abdominal Abscess
Ampicillin	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b
Daptomycin	–	2 S ^c	12 R ^c	16 R ^c	4 S ^c
Linezolid	2 S ^b	128 R ^c	≥ 256 R ^c	≥ 8 R ^b	2 S ^b
Ciprofloxacin	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b
Levofloxacin	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b
Erythromycin	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	≥ 8 R ^b	4 I ^b	≥ 8 R ^b
Gentamicin (synergy)	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b
Streptomycin (synergy)	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b	SYN-S ^b
Nitrofurantoin	64 I ^b	64 I ^b	64 I ^b	32 S ^b	64 I ^b
Tetracycline	≥ 16 R ^b	≥ 16 R ^b	≥ 16 R ^b	≥ 16 R ^b	≥ 16 R ^b
Tigecycline	≤ 0.12 S ^b	≤ 0.12 S ^b	≤ 0.12 S ^b	≤ 0.12 S ^b	≤ 0.12 S ^b
Vancomycin	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b	0.094 NI ^c	≥ 32 R ^b	0.125 NI ^c
Ceftaroline	–	–	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b	≥ 32 R ^b

R, resistant; S, susceptible; I, intermediate, NI, no interpretation; –, not reported.

^a Sequenced isolate.

^b MICs determined by Vitek-2 AST GP75.

^c MICs determined by MIC strip testing assays.

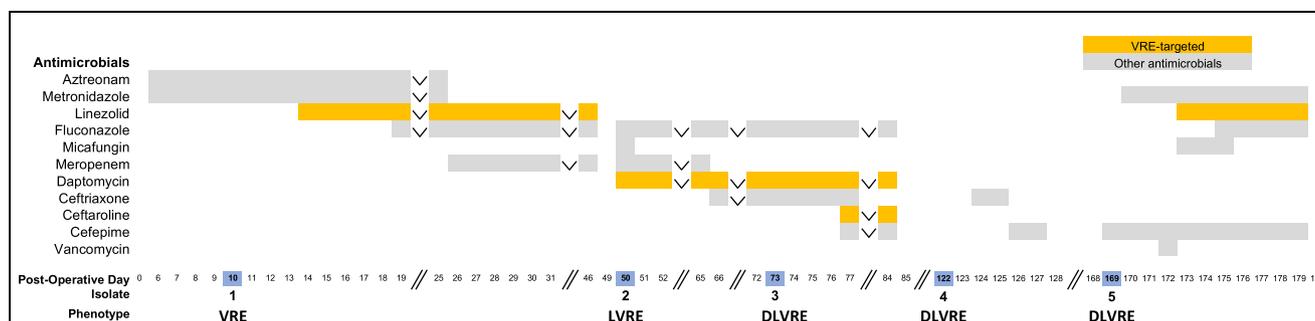


Fig. 1. Timeline of antimicrobial treatment and *E. faecium* isolate recovery. Post-operative day and *Efm* isolate recovery profiles (V, vancomycin; L, linezolid, D, daptomycin; bottom) are shown together with antibacterial and antifungal treatment regimens. Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) targeted antimicrobials are highlighted in orange and other antimicrobials are presented in light grey. Isolate post-operative day recovery dates are highlighted in blue. Inverted carot symbols signify that the antimicrobial agent in question was continued throughout the time period in question. Two vertical forward slashes denote time breaks.

cloacae, *Streptococcus anginosus*, *E. coli*, *E. faecalis* and DLVRE (Table 1, Isolate 4). The patient was diagnosed with an enterocutaneous fistula and briefly treated with ceftriaxone followed by cefepime. To spare the patient additional prolonged courses of broad-spectrum antimicrobials in the setting of clinical stability, the patient was discharged home off all antimicrobials on POD 128.

On POD 169 the patient was readmitted following a fall. While hospitalized, the patient developed a new leukocytosis to 16,400 cells/ μ L, LLQ abdominal tenderness and erythema. An abdominal CT scan demonstrated a new 5.8 cm abscess in the left anterior abdominal wall. The abscess was drained and cultures grew *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *K. oxytoca*, *E. cloacae*, *C. albicans* and DLVRE (Table 1, Isolate 5). The patient received a 10-day course of antimicrobials including cefepime, linezolid, metronidazole and fluconazole. Of note, Isolate 5 was initially reported as susceptible to linezolid (MIC of 2 μ g/mL on Vitek2 platform). However, upon post-hoc laboratory resistance testing, Isolate 5 was determined to be resistant to linezolid with an MIC of 12 μ g/mL (Table 2, Isolate 5). Despite this discrepancy which was unknown at the time of treatment, the patient’s clinical status improved. After one week of inpatient observation off antimicrobials, the patient was discharged home on POD 187. A detailed course of antimicrobial therapy is outlined in Fig. 1.

Post-hoc resistance testing reveals no synergy between DPT and CPT

Given that the patient’s CLABSI was resistant to daptomycin (DLVRE, Isolate 3) and developed while on daptomycin and ceftriaxone combination therapy, we made the clinical decision to treat with daptomycin and ceftaroline combination therapy based several studies suggesting improved synergistic effect between these agents for the treatment of daptomycin non-susceptible enterococci [12–15]. However, we did not have synergy AMR data available at the time of clinical decision making. Therefore, in a post-hoc analysis, we sought to confirm that synergy between ceftaroline and daptomycin existed for this isolate. First, we repeated both linezolid and daptomycin MIC testing. Using microbroth dilution, we determined the daptomycin MICs of Isolates 3, 4 and 5 to be

Table 2
Post-hoc laboratory MICs (μ g/mL) for the patient’s isolates of *Efm*.

Antibacterial	Isolate 3 (DLVRE)	Isolate 4 (DLVRE)	Isolate 5 (DLVRE)
Source	Blood & PICC	LLQ Abdominal Wall	Abdominal Abscess
Daptomycin	32 R ^{at}	16 R ^a	32 R ^{at}
Linezolid	48 R ^{bt}	> 256 R ^{bt}	12 R ^{bt}

R, resistant. ^aMICs determined by microbroth dilution according to CLSI protocols. ^bMICs determined by MIC strip testing assays (Liofilchem®). [‡]Results discordant between clinical microbiology laboratory and post-hoc laboratory MIC testing.

32, 16 and 32 μ g/mL respectively. The MICs of Isolates 3 and 5 were higher than that reported by the clinical microbiology laboratory and the linezolid MICs differed from those reported by the clinical microbiology laboratory using different methodology (Table 2). For Isolate 3, we performed microbroth dilution checkerboard experiments with daptomycin and ceftaroline. We observed no synergy between ceftaroline and daptomycin as the MIC of Isolate 3 remained 32 μ g/mL despite addition of ceftaroline.

Genomic evaluation of antimicrobial resistance in Isolate 3

We used genomics to understand the mechanisms behind evolving drug-resistance in our DLVRE isolates. Unfortunately, Isolates 1 and 2 had been previously discarded. WGS of Isolate 3 confirmed the identity of a sequence type (ST) 584 *Efm*. ST584 is a member of the pandemic clonal complex 17 that includes a collection of hospital-acquired *Efm* STs [16]. The complete genome of Isolate 3 included a single chromosome of 2.8 Mbp and 5 plasmids ranging from 228.3 kbp to 1.9 kbp. Plasmid sequences were similar to previously described *Efm* plasmids, although present in different configurations. For example, the majority of the sequence present in plasmids 2 and 4 has been described in substantially larger plasmids reaffirming that *Efm* plasmids are highly modular [2] (Supplementary Table S1).

Examination of the complete genome of Isolate 3 for known antimicrobial resistance determinants reasonably explained the observed susceptibility pattern (Table 3). Isolate 3 contained the low-affinity *pbp5-R* allele known to be associated with ampicillin resistance in *Efm* [4,6]. Plasmid 3 (p3) contained a *vanA* operon (Fig. 2), explaining the observed vancomycin resistance. Daptomycin resistance was attributed to the presence of chromosomal mutations in *liaS* (Thr120Ala), *liaR* (Trp73Cys) and *cls* (Asp131Ile). Other resistance mechanisms identified are described in Table 3.

The mechanism of linezolid resistance for Isolate 3 was not immediately apparent from interrogation of its complete genome sequence. A read-based analysis estimated that Isolate 3 contained three copies of the variant G2576T allele in the six copy 23S rRNA gene (48 % of aligned reads contained the G2576T variant allele, Table 3). The absence of these variants in the complete genome may be an artifact of the assembly method interacting with a multi-copy gene. The level of linezolid resistance has been shown to correlate with the number of variant alleles, particularly G2576T, in the 23S rRNA gene [9,17]. Other well characterized linezolid resistance determinants were not identified (Table 3).

Evolution of Enterococcus faecium during protracted infection

Given the patient’s repeated isolation of DLVRE, we chose to perform short-read sequencing on two additional *Efm* Isolates, Isolates 4 and 5. Isolates 4 and 5 were clonal with Isolate 3, possessing a total of 2 and 16

Table 3
Genomic mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance identified in Isolates 3, 4, and 5.

Antibacterial	Resistance determinants	Location in Isolate 3	Isolate 3	Isolate 4	Isolate 5
Ampicillin	<i>pbp5</i> (Val24Ala, Ser27Gly, Arg34Gln, Gly66Glu, Ala68Thr, Glu85Asp, Glu100Gln, Lys144Gln, Thr172Ala, Leu177Ile, Asp204Gly, Ala216Ser, Thr324Ala, Met485Ala, Asn496Lys, Ala499Thr, Glu525Asp, Glu629Val, Pro667S)	Chromosome	+	+	+
Linezolid	23S rRNA gene G2576T	Chromosome	~ 3/6 copies	~ 3/6 copies	~ 2/6 copies
Daptomycin	<i>liaS</i> (Thr120Ala)	Chromosome	+	+	+
	<i>liaR</i> (Trp73Cys)	Chromosome	+	+	+
Vancomycin	<i>cls</i> (Asp13Ile)	Chromosome	+	+	+
	<i>vanHAX</i>	Plasmid 3	+	+	+
	<i>vanSR</i>	Plasmid 3	+	+	+
Fluoroquinolones	<i>vanZY</i>	Plasmid 3	+	+	+
	<i>gyrA</i> (Ser83Tyr)	Chromosome	+	+	+
Aminoglycosides	<i>parC</i> (Ser80Arg)	Chromosome	+	+	+
	<i>aac(6')-I</i>	Chromosome	+	+	+
	<i>aph(3')-IIIa</i>	Plasmid 3	+	-	+
Trimethoprim	<i>ant(6)-Ia</i>	Plasmid 3	+	-	+
	<i>dfrF</i>	Chromosome	+	+	+
Tetracyclines	<i>dfrG</i>	Chromosome	+	+	+
	<i>tetL</i>	Chromosome	+	+	+
Streptothricin	<i>tetM</i>	Chromosome	partial and complete copy	partial copy	partial copy
	<i>sat4</i>	Plasmid 3	+	-	+
Macrolides	<i>msrC</i>	Chromosome	+	+	+
	<i>ermB</i>	Plasmid 3	+	-	+

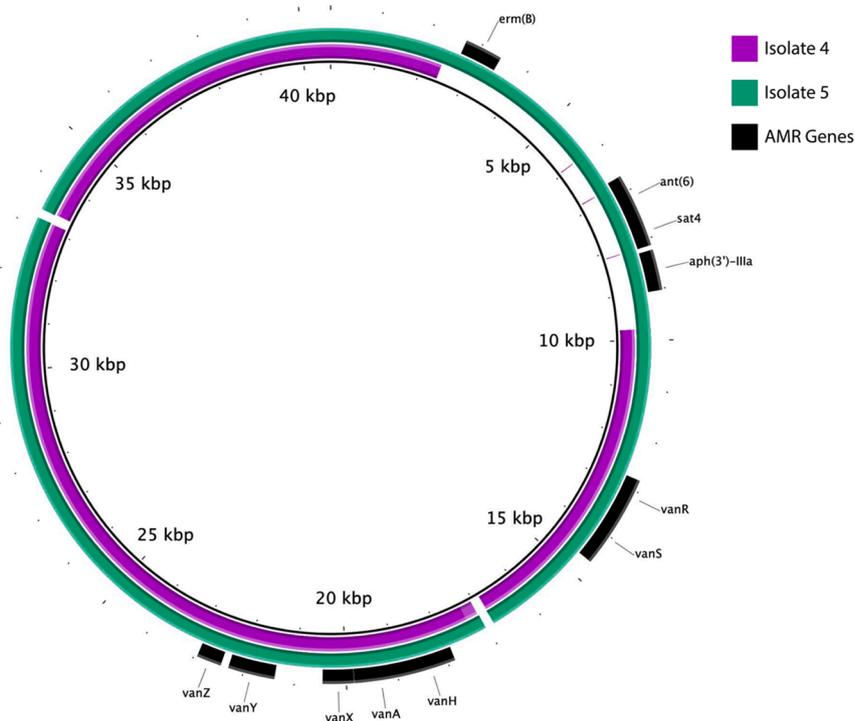


Fig. 2. Alignment of plasmid 3 from Isolates 4 and 5 to the vancomycin resistance plasmid 3 of Isolate 3. Regions present in Isolate 4 and 5 draft genomes are indicated in purple and green respectively. Identified resistance genes are indicated in black.

single nucleotide variants (SNVs) with Isolate 3 respectively (Supplementary Tables S2, S3). All SNVs present in Isolate 5 were previously observed in Isolate 4. Altogether, these findings strongly suggest persistent infection or colonization by a specific DLVRE clone.

Isolates 4 and 5 contained the same ampicillin, vancomycin, and daptomycin resistance elements as Isolate 3. Similar to Isolate 3, Isolate 4 contained an estimated three copies (56 %) of the G2576T 23S rRNA gene allele. Isolate 5, on the other hand, contained an estimated two copies (33 %) of the G2576T allele (Table 2). As G2576T allele copy

number correlates with level of linezolid resistance [17], this potentially explains the lower linezolid MIC of Isolate 5, but there may be other contributing factors or additional mutations given the substantially different linezolid MICs between isolates 3 and 4 which have similar percentage of reads containing the G2576T variant alleles (Table 1).

Additionally, we noted the absence of a substantial portion of plasmid 3 in Isolate 4 (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table S2), resulting in the loss of multiple resistance genes (Table 2, Fig. 2). This 7.4 kbp deletion was flanked by IS1216 family transposase genes, suggesting that it was

located on a mobile element. Interestingly, this sequence was present in a temporally later isolate, Isolate 5 (Fig. 2). This implies that multiple subpopulations of this ST584 DLVRE clone developed during protracted infection, as an intact p3 would have to have been present in the DLVRE population when Isolate 4 was collected to be found subsequently in Isolate 5.

Discussion and conclusions

Limited data exist on appropriate antibacterial choice in DLVRE bacteremia in the setting of protracted IA abscess [7]. In this challenging case, it is notable that our patient developed breakthrough daptomycin resistance and bacteremia while receiving high-dose daptomycin (9.6 mg/kg) in conjunction with beta-lactam therapy (meropenem followed by ceftriaxone). Given our limited options for therapy and based on prior clinical and experimental data [12–15], we elected to transition to ceftaroline in combination with daptomycin for synergy once the patient developed DLVRE bacteremia. While this patient improved rapidly, cleared her blood cultures and had a decrease in the size of her IA abscess, post-hoc laboratory analysis, unlike previous reports, did not demonstrate synergy between daptomycin and ceftaroline for this patient's DLVRE isolate [12–15]. Therefore, we believe that the patient most likely cleared her cultures once the source (an indwelling PICC line) was removed. More broadly available rapid MIC synergy testing would have been clinically useful in crafting this patient's antimicrobial regimen and minimizing ineffective antimicrobial exposures. Overall, the patient received a total of 57 days of broad-spectrum antimicrobials for protracted IA abscesses during her initial hospitalization. Therefore, this case also underscores the challenges that clinicians face when deploying culture-directed therapy in patients with protracted and uncontrolled infectious reservoirs. In settings where complete source control is not achievable, there is no clear answer on antimicrobial choice or duration. Following initial improvement, the patient remained persistently colonized with DLVRE as evidenced by its repeated recovery in the months following treatment. Larger studies are needed for further evaluation of daptomycin and beta-lactam antimicrobial combination therapy for DLVRE infections.

By deploying WGS in this limited series of DLVRE isolates, we identified possible genetic explanations for vancomycin, daptomycin and linezolid resistance. The molecular mechanisms underpinning the evolution of daptomycin and linezolid resistance in this case are limited by the lack of access to Isolates 1 and 2, but, by sequencing Isolates 4 and 5, we confirmed that the patient was persistently colonized over a protracted period with clonal subpopulations of DLVRE. This work, in conjunction with others, demonstrates the value of antimicrobial synergy testing and WGS during prolonged infection with VRE f to provide improved molecular understanding of the genomic changes responsible for acquired AMR, preferably at the time of antimicrobial decision-making [18]. Our post-hoc laboratory MIC testing revealed discrepancies in daptomycin and linezolid MICs for Isolates 3, 4 and 5 reinforcing the clinical challenges of selecting active antimicrobial regimens in cases of DLVRE infection. Additionally, we noted plasmid heterogeneity between Isolates 3 and 5 and Isolate 4 related to loss of a large plasmid segment on p3 containing several AMR genes. This implies that there were subpopulations of *Efm* that developed during infection. The concept of a single species bacterial "cloud of diversity" in prolonged infection is not new, but the impact of this diversity on successful antimicrobial treatment and infection outcome is clinically underappreciated [1,19]. We have shown here that subpopulations possess different armamentariums of AMR genes and may vary in clinically relevant degrees of resistance. These observations are often missed by traditional phenotypic testing of an isolated colony, potentially masking small subpopulations that harbor more difficult-to-treat antimicrobial resistant phenotypes and contributing to suboptimal antimicrobial therapy decisions.

With the increasing rates of MDR *Efm* infections, it is critical that we

understand how *Efm* adapts to prolonged antimicrobial pressure and recognize that traditional clinical resistance testing may not mirror population level AMR phenotypes. Further research is needed to elucidate the best course of treatment for patients with VRE requiring long-term antimicrobial therapy especially for those who develop daptomycin resistance despite dose-optimized daptomycin therapy [20]. In scenarios such as these, there is an urgent need for more rapid implementation of synergy MIC testing paired with genomic analysis to support real-time clinical decision making.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Nathan Pincus: Conceptualization, Software, Formal analysis, Data curation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Visualization. **Tejas Joshi:** Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Visualization. **Samuel Gatesy:** Methodology, Investigation, Resources, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Omar Al-Heeti:** Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **W. Justin Moore:** Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Supervision. **Kelly Bachta:** Conceptualization, Validation, Investigation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Ethics approval

This research study (STU00214816) was submitted for review to the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board and was deemed a study that does not include factors necessitating patient consent. Further IRB review and approval was, therefore, not required.

Consent

This case report was discussed openly with the patient in question and the patient provided verbal and written informed consent for its publication. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal on request.

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Competing Interests

N.P., T.J., S.W.M.G., O.A., W.J.M, and K.E.R.B declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Availability of data and materials

Sequencing and genome assemblies have been deposited to NCBI under BioProject accession no. [PRJNA787599](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA787599), with Isolate 3 denoted NMVRE-001 ([SAMN23828484](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/submitter/sam/SAMN23828484)), Isolate 4 denoted NMVRE-002 ([SAMN23828912](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/submitter/sam/SAMN23828912)), and Isolate 5 denoted NMVRE-003 ([SAMN23828937](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/submitter/sam/SAMN23828937)). Reads are available under SRA accessions [SRR17230443](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/submitter/sra/SRR17230443) to [SRR17230446](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/submitter/sra/SRR17230446). Assemblies are available under GenBank accessions [GCA_021228615.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/GCA_021228615.1), [GCA_021364775.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/GCA_021364775.1), and [GCA_021364755.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/GCA_021364755.1).

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Appendix A. Supporting information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at [doi:10.1016/j.idcr.2022.e01593](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.idcr.2022.e01593).

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