



EUCAST

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
ON ANTIMICROBIAL
SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

To European laboratories

During 2009 EUCAST was tasked with developing a disk test calibrated to the recently harmonised European breakpoints. After consulting all European countries in a questionnaire it was decided to build the new agar diffusion test on known and frequently used systems – 0.5 MacFarland inoculum, Mueller Hinton Agar and paper disks. Disk diffusion breakpoints were published in December 2009. These will be tentative during 2010. Ongoing work will undoubtedly result in minor changes and refinements to the method, e.g. ceftazidime and cefepime clinical breakpoints are likely to be changed slightly during the spring of 2010 and disk correlates will be changed accordingly.

We have offered to help manufacturers of AST materials and systems in any way we can; but have made it clear that EUCAST does not validate or endorse particular commercial systems for use with EUCAST breakpoints". Manufacturers have been advised to undertake and publish scientific evaluations of their products. At ECCMID in 2009 such evaluations were presented and more are scheduled for ECCMID in 2010.

Users of European breakpoints are advised to consult with EUCAST before choosing AST systems other than:

1. MIC determination using European breakpoints
2. The EUCAST disk diffusion test method or national disk diffusion methods (e.g. CA-SFM and BSAC) calibrated to European breakpoints
3. Automated susceptibility testing with systems validated for use with European breakpoints.

Users of European breakpoints are advised to require documentation that AST systems will perform according to the standards determined by EUCAST.

Rosco Diagnostica has distributed a letter concerning EUCAST breakpoints and their validity for users of Rosco tablets. Although comments have been received from Rosco, EUCAST has not in any way been involved in the calibration of Rosco products for use in the EUCAST European disk diffusion test. No documentation has been submitted to EUCAST to explain why Rosco does not adhere to EUCAST recommendations and we have seen no documentation for a correlation between MICs and zone diameters in the Rosco system.

We remind users that in the terminology of EUCAST:

- dash (-) in the breakpoint table denotes "inappropriate drug – breakpoints denied". Should there be a need for this antibiotic to appear in the report it is appropriate to include an "R" without testing.
- "IE" in the EUCAST tables denotes "insufficient evidence – breakpoints denied". Should there be a need for this antibiotic to appear in the report it is appropriate to include an MIC without interpretation or with information on EUCAST non-species related breakpoints

Gunnar Kahlmeter, EUCAST