Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*: 
a five-year Experience at a Teaching Hospital in Southern Taiwan

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Vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE) had emerged continually and brought problems of treatment and infection control. From January 2003 through December 2007, all patients with cultures positive for VRE from clinical specimens at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital-Chiayi were reviewed retrospectively. We recorded the clinical characteristics of these patients, underlying diseases and outcomes. A total of 23 patients were identified. 11 were males and 12 were females. The mean age was 71.6 years. From 2003 through 2007, the percentage of VRE increased from 0.23% to 2.22%. The percentage of *E. faecium* increased 4.8-fold from 2005 through 2007 (from 1.48% to 7.11%). The most common isolation site was from urine. Thirteen (56.5%) patients had been hospitalized at intensive care unit (ICU). Sixteen (69.6%) patients received broad-spectrum antibiotics, and most were cephalosporins. Nine patients had diabetes mellitus, and it was the most common underlying disease. Seven (30.4%) patients had invasive infections and five of them died. The patients who died tended to be elderly, longer hospital stay, prior ICU admission and broad spectrum antibiotic use. Closely monitoring the prevalence of VRE, education for infection control and rational antimicrobial usage were encouraged to improve VRE-associated problems. (*Infect Control J* 2010;20:23-32)

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