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# **Antechodynamics and Antechokinetics: Dynamics and Kinetics of Antibiotic Resistance Molecules**

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76 **SUMMARY** Pharmacology of antimicrobial drugs comprises pharmacodynamics (PD) and  
77 pharmacokinetics (PK). PD refers to studying drugs' mode of action at different concentrations on  
78 their molecular targets and the resulting effect(s). PK refers to studying the way(s) by which drugs  
79 enter and are distributed to reach their targets in different compartments (such as tissues in the  
80 body) and how the local drug concentrations are modified in time, as by metabolism or excretion.  
81 PD and PK constitute pivotal knowledge to establish breakpoints used to identify the appropriate  
82 antimicrobial agents in therapy of infections. Antibiotic resistance is the biological force opposing  
83 antimicrobial pharmacological effects. However, we do not have a term similar to pharmacology  
84 for microbial resistance reactions. Here, we propose the new scientific field of Antechology (from  
85 classic Geek *antechó*, resistance) studying the dynamics and kinetics of antibiotic resistance  
86 molecules, opposing the effect of antimicrobial drugs. Antechodynamics (AD) refers to the study  
87 of the molecular mechanisms by which antibiotic molecules are chemically modified or degraded  
88 by particular bacterial resistance enzymes (primary effectors), or drive the modification of the  
89 antibiotic target inhibition sites by molecules released by the antibiotic action on the  
90 microorganism (secondary effectors). Antechokinetics (AK) refers to the study of the processes  
91 leading to bacterial spatial cellular (subcellular, pericellular, extracellular) localizations of the  
92 molecules involved in antibiotic detoxifying mechanisms. Molecules' local concentrations change  
93 over time due to their production, degradation, and, eventually, excretion rates. The AD and AK  
94 for the different antimicrobial families, and the relation PD/PK and AD/AK is examined here.

95

96 **KEYWORDS** Pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, antechology, antechodynamics,  
97 antechokinetics, antibiotic resistance

98

99    **INTRODUCTION**

100   **ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE DYNAMICS AND KINETICS, AN ACTION AND**  
101   **REACTION PROCESS**

102    “Pharmacodynamics” and “pharmacokinetics” are well-accepted terms in the chemotherapeutic  
103    community. The first (PD) refers to the study of the mode of **action** of drugs at different  
104    concentrations on their molecular targets and the resulting effect(s). The second (PK) refers to the  
105    study of how drugs enter and are distributed to reach their targets in different compartments (such  
106    as tissues in the body) and how the local drug concentrations are modified in time, for instance, by  
107    metabolism or excretion. In antimicrobial chemotherapy, both PK and PD are considered when  
108    choosing a given drug to treat a particular infection, as PK influences PD and vice versa (1, 2). In  
109    fact, both PK and PD are considered by International Committees on Antibiotic Susceptibility  
110    Testing (as CLSI in the US or EUCAST in Europe) to determine breakpoints categorizing  
111    microorganisms as susceptible and resistant to agents approved for use in treating infectious  
112    diseases.

113    Antibiotic resistance is the opposite biological force, *reaction*, to antimicrobial pharmaceutical  
114    *action*. However, we do not have a term opposing “pharmacology”. The question of how to  
115    designate the “science of resistance” was informally discussed in the 1970s by one of the authors  
116    of this work (FB) with the distinguished French microbiologist Yves A. Chabbert (1921-2018) –  
117    from the Pasteur Institute and one of the fathers of antibiotic susceptibility testing– and the  
118    distinguished Greek pharmacologist John Kosmidis (1936-2016), who immediately coined the  
119    word “Antechology”. The verb “to resist” in classic Greek is ἀντέχω (antechó). In this review, we  
120    propose an antechological reaction (resistance) mediated by bacterial molecules acting as the  
121    primary effectors of drug-specific resistance in a way that explicitly opposes, by degradation,

122 extrusion or chemical modification, the pharmacological action of antimicrobial molecules on  
123 primarily susceptible cells. We also consider here the secondary effectors. These are the bacterial  
124 molecules, eventually resulting from the effect of antibiotics on the cell, that are specifically  
125 triggering the synthesis of the primary effectors, or altering the antibiotic target (Fig 1). The  
126 concept of *reaction* excludes from antechology the resistance mechanisms associated with the  
127 intrinsic resistome, or the random, unspecific mutational alterations of the antibiotic targets, as,  
128 even if involved in selective processes, they do not constitute any specific *reaction* to the antibiotic  
129 effect.

130 As in drug pharmacology (pharmacodynamics), resistance mechanisms can be studied by  
131 measuring their effects on their targets, the antimicrobial agents; this is **Antechodynamics**. The  
132 molecular effectors of the “mechanisms of resistance” to most antimicrobials have been identified,  
133 as have the involved genes. However, the details about how they exert their antibiotic deactivation  
134 are not always well determined.

135 Similarly, we should also consider how the primary or secondary effectors of antibiotic resistance  
136 are produced in different periods of cellular time (as growth phases), under or without induction,  
137 how their concentrations vary in different intracellular and extracellular compartments depending  
138 on carriers, and how they are affected by natural processes of degradation, including in the  
139 environment. This is **Antechokinetics**. Certainly, antechodynamics and antechokinetics  
140 parameters interact between them and with pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics, to provide  
141 the complete frame of antimicrobial action. For example, PK/PD parameters ( $C_{max}$ , AUC,  
142  $t/MIC$ ,...) correlate with the *in vivo* efficiency of antimicrobials. Conversely, AK/AD parameters  
143 ( $K_{cat}$ ,  $K_m$ ,  $V_{max}$ ...) correlate with a bacterium's resistance level (i.e., its MIC). The interplay

144 between PK/PD and AK/AD is ultimately responsible for the success or failure of the antimicrobial  
145 treatment.

146 Antibiotic resistance mechanisms (note that in our view antechodynamics does not include  
147 mutational mechanisms, only molecules acting on antibiotics) have been reviewed on many  
148 occasions (3, 204). Strikingly, research in the field of the kinetics of antibiotic resistance  
149 mechanisms has been disdained (4).

## 150 **ANTECHODYNAMICS**

151 Antechodynamics refers to the study of the molecular mechanisms by which antibiotic molecules  
152 are chemically modified or degraded by particular bacterial resistance enzymes (primary  
153 effectors), or drive the modification of the antibiotic target inhibition sites **by** molecules released  
154 by the antibiotic action on the microorganism (secondary effectors). In both cases, the result is the  
155 detoxification of the antibiotic agent. Efflux pumps, as multimolecular entities poorly specific in  
156 molecular interaction/detoxification with particular antibiotics, are not directly counteracting the  
157 mode of action of antibiotics and will be treated in more detail in the antechokinetics section. In  
158 fact, many of these macromolecular complexes can specifically recognize antibiotic molecules and  
159 interact chemically with them to proceed to the extrusion from the cell, in a process that could also  
160 be considered from an antechodynamic perspective. Antechodynamics also deals with the  
161 combined effect of resistance mechanisms in providing resistance phenotypes to particular drugs.

162

163

164 **Primary effectors of antibiotic resistance: modifying and drug-degrading**  
165 **enzymes**

166 Antibiotic resistance mechanisms are frequently based on drug-inactivation enzymes, hydrolyzing  
167 or modifying the antimicrobial agent (5). The **affinity** of the resistance enzyme for the antibiotic  
168 substrate (target) is classically measured by **the  $K_m$  value**, determined by incubating the enzyme  
169 with varying substrate concentrations. This affinity expresses the intensity of **substrate**  
170 **recognition**, based on the functional **dynamics of ligand binding** (6). The **strength** of the link  
171 between the enzyme and the antibiotic depends on intermolecular interactions between these  
172 partners. This can be evaluated by **all-atom molecular dynamics** (MD) computational simulations  
173 (6). An alternative is **molecular docking**, able to model possible binding and provide scoring  
174 affinity functions by using a known tridimensional structure of a resistance enzyme, and the  
175 antibiotic substrate (7). Depending on the concentration of the antibiotic, a proportion of binding  
176 sites are filled with the substrate molecule; in fact, the  $K_m$  refers to that proportion. Indeed, the  
177 direct functional part of an antibiotic-detoxifying enzyme is the **active site** within the folded  
178 protein, where the antibiotic enters a pocket or groove and is captured by temporary hydrogen  
179 bonds, forming an enzyme-antibiotic complex. The antibiotic should bind at this (or at the vicinity)  
180 specific region, which catalyzes the detoxifying chemical reaction. It is formed by the folding  
181 pattern of the protein and appears as a pocket or groove that is shaped to accommodate the  
182 antibiotic. The difference among members of a single antibiotic family (as beta-lactams, or  
183 aminoglycosides) to resist a particular detoxifying enzyme (beta-lactamases or aminoglycoside-  
184 modifying enzymes, respectively) essentially depends on the **degree of molecular adjustment** to  
185 the active site. Because of that, the evolutionary biology of antibiotic-inactivating enzymes  
186 consists of the acquisition of mutations altering the topology of the active site to accommodate



187 new (previously non-accepted) compounds. That explains that these “modified sites” are  
188 frequently less effective in deactivating old antibiotics. For instance, acquiring resistance to third-  
189 generation cephalosporins normally results in less enzymatic activity over aminopenicillins  
190 (antagonistic pleiotropy or collateral susceptibility). However, the active site can still accept poorly  
191 bound molecules of old drugs, so that these “modern” conformations can be selected by old drugs  
192 (8).

193 It is to be noted that a high ligand binding does not necessarily correlate with a high enzymatic  
194 activity, but is required for such a function. The number of substrate molecules transformed per  
195 unit of time by an enzyme (its turnover rate) is traditionally expressed by the  $k_{cat}$  value. Therefore,  
196 enzymatic efficiency depends on both the affinity of the enzyme for its substrate ( $K_m$ ) and the  
197 turnover rate of the enzyme ( $k_{cat}$ ). Traditionally, this has been expressed by the ratio  $k_{cat}/K_m$ . In  
198 general, according to classic enzymology (9), what is expected for the catalytic reaction (covalent  
199 bond making and bond breaking) of a large molecule (an enzyme) and a small molecule (as an  
200 antibiotic) is to have a  $k_{cat}/K_m$  value ranging from  $10^8$  to  $10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ . Many antibiotic detoxifying  
201 enzymes have reached an “antechological perfection”, where they are no longer limited by bond  
202 making and bond breaking, but by the diffusion of the substrate in and out of the active site.  
203 Therefore, their catalytic efficiency might depend more on the possibilities of enzyme-antibiotic  
204 encounters, and the diffusion hurdles might be critical in the process, as has been shown for beta-  
205 lactamases (10). Moreover, the catalytic efficiency and diffusion could also depend on the  
206 macromolecular crowding of the cells (11).

207

208

209 **Beta-lactams.**

210 In the case of beta-lactams, the detoxification mechanism occurs by the action of a protease, the  
211 beta-lactamase, a globular protein composed of alpha-helices and beta-pleated sheets. In the case  
212 of A, C or D beta-lactamases, detoxification is based on nucleophilic Serine residue in the enzyme  
213 active site, which attacks the carbonyl moiety of the beta-lactam to form an acyl-enzyme  
214 intermediate; other amino acids of the vicinity may contribute to substrate binding, facilitating  
215 proton transfer, or orienting catalytic residues (12, 13). In class B beta-lactamases, the hydrolytic  
216 reaction is facilitated by one or two essential zinc ions in the active site (14, 15). More than 2,300  
217 potential beta-lactamases in 673 bacterial genera have been detected (16).

218 **Aminoglycosides.**

219 Aminoglycosides are deactivated by *N*-acetyltransferases (AAC), *O*-phosphoryltransferases  
220 (APH), and nucleotidyltransferases (ANT, frequently known as adenylyl transferases, AAD),  
221 modifying the antibiotic molecule. Most acetyltransferases (AACs) belong to the GCN5  
222 superfamily of acyltransferases and include slightly different ApmA enzymes (17). AACs transfer  
223 an acetyl group to a free aminoglycoside amino group, APH transfers a phosphate group to a free  
224 hydroxyl, and also ANT or nucleotidyl transferase transfers a nucleotide to a free hydroxyl. The  
225 consequence is altering drug transport or the binding of the drug at the site of antibacterial action,  
226 the 16S subunit at the tRNA acceptor site A in the 30S ribosomal unit (18–20). AAC(1) and  
227 AAC(3) target the amino groups found at positions 1 and 3 of the 2-deoxystreptamine ring,  
228 whereas AAC(2') and AAC(6') target amino groups found at the 2' and 6' positions of the 2,6-  
229 dideoxy-2,6-diaminoglucose ring. Typically acetylation interferes with the binding of  
230 aminoglycoside to 16S rRNA. O-Phosphorylation is exerted at aminoglycoside positions 3', 2'',  
231 3'off', 6, 9, 4 and 7'' (21). The process involves a succession of ATP binding to the enzyme (acting

232 as monomers or dimers), followed by binding and phosphorylation of the aminoglycoside, release  
233 of the modified inactivated drug, and rate-limiting dissociation of ADP (22). Adenylation follows  
234 the formation of a complex with adenosine monophosphate (AMP) and the aminoglycoside, with  
235 the involvement of pyrophosphate. A catalytic base is probably involved in a direct AMP transfer  
236 mechanism from nucleotide to the aminoglycoside. The chemical modification occurs at positions  
237 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9 of substrate aminoglycosides.

### 238 **Macrolides, lincosamides, streptogramins**

239 As a first example, macrolide 2'-phosphotransferase is an enzyme that phosphorylates the  
240 2'-hydroxyl group of the C5-linked desoxamine or mycaminose moiety of macrolides and  
241 ketolides. Phosphorylation involves the transfer of gamma-phosphate group of GTP to these  
242 antibiotics. The C5 phosphorylation prevents the binding of the drug by specific hydrogen bond  
243 interactions to the A2058 and A2059 of 23S rRNA, detoxifying the antibiotic action. There are at  
244 least 15 types of macrolide **phosphotransferases** (MPHs) differing in the spectrum of macrolide-  
245 ketolide inactivation (23, 24). Erythromycin can also be inactivated by the action of macrolide  
246 **esterases**. Esterases act on the critical ester-bond involved in the construction of the macrocyclic  
247 structure, linearizing and detoxifying the molecule, now unable to attach to the ribosomal binding  
248 target site to produce the bacteriostatic effect (25). There are several macrolide esterases in a  
249 variety of organisms (23). However, some macrolide-like compounds as ketolides, telithromycin,  
250 or solithromycin exhibit moderate to strong cidality against several bacterial species; probably that  
251 depends on the association/dissociation kinetics with the ribosome; long-term association leads to  
252 a bactericidal effect (26). The structure of the rRNA binding site (long-distance base pair) might  
253 also contribute to such association/dissociation kinetics (27). The more tightly associated  
254 molecules are possibly less prone to being inactivated by detoxifying enzymes. Long-term

255 exposure to macrolides might produce bactericidal effects (28). However, the dissociation constant  
256 ( $K_{\text{diss}}$ ) is very low for macrolides and ketolides ( $10^{-8}$  to  $10^{-9}$ ) (29).

257 Lincosamides (lincomycin, clindamycin) are inactivated by **nucleotidyltransferases** (NTAses) in  
258 the 3'-OH group of the drug, probably with the cooperation of chelation of magnesium cation. The  
259 modified lincosamide can not bind to 23S rRNA in the 50S subunit of the ribosome and cannot  
260 interfere with the peptidyltransferase reaction. In the microbial world, there are a big variety of  
261 NTAses, probably over 120 potential enzymes (30).

262 Streptogramins (as streptogramin B, virginiamycin, pristinamycin, dalfopristin) are mostly  
263 inactivated by **acetyltransferase** enzymes (31). In addition, **nucleotidyltransferases**, also  
264 inactivating lincosamides, and **hydrolases** of streptogramins are inactivating enzymes (32).

## 265 **Phenicol**

266 **Phenicol acetyl-transferases** are among the predominant resistance mechanisms to  
267 chloramphenicol and related drugs. These enzymes have amino acids with side chains involved in  
268 catalysis (acetylation), which depends on the appropriate folding and packing of the polypeptide  
269 chains, frequently forming heterotrimers. The process includes deprotonation of the primary (C-  
270 3) alcohol of the antibiotic, and the resulting oxyanion attacks the carbonyl carbon of the acetyl  
271 moiety of acetyl-CoA. The product is a tetrahedral intermediate sharing a hydrogen atom with the  
272 side chain oxygen of a serine residue, resulting in a close approximation of two oxygen atoms. The  
273 collapse of the tetrahedral intermediate yields the inactivated drug (33). The resulting chemical  
274 alteration of the antibiotic prevents the exertion of ribosomal peptidyltransferase activity. **Fusidic**  
275 **acid** can be inactivated by chloramphenicol acetyltransferases (34).

276

277 **Tetracyclines.**

278 Tetracycline molecules (including the modern compounds tigecycline, eravacycline, and  
279 omadacycline) can be degraded (destroyed) by flavin-dependent **monooxygenases** (tetracycline  
280 destructases) originally discovered in *Bacteroides fragilis* (35–38). Tetracycline destruction  
281 prevents access and binding to the 30S subunit's helix 34 of the 16S rRNA, which overlaps the  
282 anticodon stem-loop of the A-site tRNA, interfering with ribosomal protein synthesis.

283 **Fluoroquinolones.**

284 A variant of the gene encoding aminoglycoside **acetyltransferase** AAC(6')-Ib inactivates  
285 fluoroquinolones by *N*-acetylation at the amino nitrogen on its piperazinyl substituent (39). In  
286 addition, *Labrys portucalensis* F11, an Alphaproteobacteria, specialized in degrading fluoro-  
287 organic compounds, uses a **monooxygenase** replacing fluorine with a hydroxyl group, inactivating  
288 fluoroquinolones, particularly in the presence of high acetate. A similar case occurs in  
289 *Rhodococcus* (40). Fortunately, these mechanisms have not spread into pathogenic bacteria.

290 **Fosfomycin.**

291 The activity of fosfomycin can be impaired by Mn<sup>++</sup>-dependent **glutathione thiol-transferases**,  
292 also known as **metallo-glutathione transferases** (Fos enzymes) (41). FosA conjugate glutathione  
293 (GSH; L-γ-glutamyl-L-cysteinyl-glycine) or BSH/L-cysteine in the fosfomycin oxirane ring.  
294 Glutathione nucleophilic attack and degradation of fosfomycin is facilitated by the K<sup>+</sup> ion binding  
295 close to the active site, which increases the rate of reaction ~100-fold (42, 43). Conjugated  
296 fosfomycin is unable (or greatly reduced) to exert its mode of action on the active site cysteine  
297 residue of MurA (UDP-N-acetylglucosamine enolpyruvyl transferase) which is essential for  
298 bacterial cell wall synthesis.

299 **Rifampicin.**

300 Low-level rifampicin inactivation occurs by **glycosyl-transferases, nucleotidylyl-transferases,**  
301 **phospho-transferases** and **monooxygenases**. Still, these enzymes have not been spreading in  
302 most pathogens (44).

303 **Glycopeptides and lipopeptides**

304 To our knowledge, vancomycin-degrading enzymes have not been found in bacteria, but  
305 microsomes from hepatic cells can fragment the aminoglycoside and the polypeptide parts of  
306 vancomycin, probably involving mixed-function **oxidases or monooxygenases** (45). More  
307 research is requested to find similar functions in bacterial organisms, eventually leading to  
308 vancomycin resistance. However, a **deacylase** heterodimeric enzyme was found in *Actinoplanes*  
309 species, which can detoxify members of teicoplanin family of glycopeptides, also acting on the  
310 lipid tail and inactivating daptomycin, a lipopeptide antibiotic. In addition, daptomycin is  
311 detoxified by a **serin protease with hydrolase activity** in actinomycetes (46).

312 **Polymyxins.**

313 Polymyxins are cyclic peptides resistant to degradation by the currently known proteases, probably  
314 due to their cyclic structure, the presence of unusual amino acids, the attached lipid tail, and the  
315 strong binding with the bacterial envelope.

316 **Sulphonamides.**

317 Little is known about bacterial sulphonamides enzymatic degradation. However, *Microbacterium*,  
318 a genus belonging to Actinomycetota, can use sulphonamides as a single carbon source, using two

319 **flavin-dependent monooxygenases** possessing an acyl-CoA dehydrogenase domain and a **flavin**  
320 **reductase** (47).

321 **Nitrofurantoin.**

322 Some environmental strains that are capable of using nitrofurantoin as a source of carbon and  
323 energy; 1-aminohydantoin and semicarbazide were detected as nitrofurantoin biotransformation  
324 products; however, inactivating enzymes have not been well characterized (48).

325

326 **Secondary effector molecules triggering the expression of genes involved in**  
327 **antibiotic resistance.**

328 Here, we consider the secondary effectors of specific antibiotic resistance counteracting antibiotic  
329 action: those molecules that start the process(es) by which specific antibiotic detoxification occurs  
330 by primary effectors. In some cases, these molecules are encoded in the genome of susceptible  
331 organisms but either are not expressed or have a constitutive remarkably low expression,  
332 insufficient to provide a significant resistance phenotype. However, they can be overexpressed  
333 (de-repressed) in the presence of antimicrobials or by effector bacterial molecules resulting from  
334 the early action of antimicrobials on bacterial cells. The processes more frequently involved are:  
335 1) inducible hyperexpression of drug-degrading or modifying enzymes and 2) inducible  
336 modification of the antibiotic target site. Such gene expression leads to an antibiotic-resistant  
337 phenotype. The scarcely known field of molecules involved in the induction of genes involved in  
338 antibiotic efflux pumps, including antibiotics but also many non-antibiotic unspecific inducers of  
339 extrusion of a broad spectrum of chemical structures, will be mostly treated in the section of  
340 Antechokinetics. In this section, we briefly mention the induction of efflux pumps when the

341 antibiotic is presumptively considered the main (more specific) inducer of pump-mediated  
342 resistance, as in the case of antibiotic-triggered RNA-mediated regulation processes (49).

### 343 **Beta-Lactams**

344 The transcription of a group of beta-lactamase chromosomal enzymes, typically Class C serine  
345 beta-lactamases (frequently known as cephalosporinases, as AmpC), is strongly repressed under  
346 natural circumstances by the AmpR protein, a LysR-type transcriptional regulator. That occurs in  
347 certain clinically relevant microorganisms such as *Enterobacter cloacae* complex, *Klebsiella*  
348 *aerogenes*, *Citrobacter freundii*, *Morganella morganii*, *Serratia marcescens* complex, or  
349 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Their expression probably involves a high fitness cost in the absence  
350 of beta-lactams. The presence of the antibiotic is detected by the early effects it produces on the  
351 bacterial cell wall, releasing “**signaling**” **murein fragments (muropeptides)**, typically NAG-  
352 NAM disaccharides attached to a peptide chain containing 2- to 5 amino acid residues (50, 51).  
353 Such muropeptides are transported by AmpG symporter permease into the cytoplasm, and their  
354 catabolites, as 1,6-anhydroMurNAc-peptides, bind the uridine diphosphate (UDP)-N-  
355 acetylmuramic acid (52). Such complexes competitively displace UDP-MurNAC peptides that  
356 maintain the AmpR repression, acting as a negative regulator of AmpR, a tetramer molecule that  
357 recognizes D-ala-D-ala motif of the muropeptide, resulting in the activation of *ampC* transcription  
358 and AmpC beta-lactamase hyperproduction resulting in  $\beta$ -lactam resistance (53–55). The reason  
359 explaining the weak induction of AmpC in strains of *Serratia nevei* remains elusive at the time of  
360 writing (56).

361 Resistance to beta-lactam agents in Gram positives can be also inducible by the presence of  
362 antibiotics. In *Staphylococcus aureus* the activation of the synthesis of *blaZ*, the gene coding beta-  
363 lactamase is regulated by **the transmembrane sensor/signal transducer proteins BlaR1 and**



364 **MecR1**. The extracellular part of BlaR1 interacts with the antibiotic, activating the intracellular  
365 proteolytic activity of BlaR1 which cleaves the BlaI repressor and allows the synthesis of the beta-  
366 lactamase blaZ. A similar mechanism of induction (involving *mecRI* and *mecI*) applies to the  
367 synthesis of an alternative beta-lactam insensitive PBP2a encoded by *mecA* in MRSA (57, 58). In  
368 *Streptococcus*,  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics at low concentrations induce a decrease in the protein targets  
369 of these antibiotics (penicillin-binding proteins, PBPs) using the response **regulator protein**  
370 **CiaR**, which mediated **transcriptional increase of ccn-microRNAs** (ccn: central communication  
371 networks proteins) **and PBP degradation of pbp-mRNAs** (59).

### 372 **Aminoglycosides**

373 The expression of aminoglycoside acetylases and adenylylases located in type 1 integrons was  
374 proposed to be controlled by an aminoglycoside-sensing riboswitch RNA, influencing integron  
375 internal recombination (60). However, further work did not confirm such a view and proposed that  
376 the hyperexpression was due to the **increased translation rate of the integron cassettes** (61, 62).  
377 . **16S rRNA methyltransferases** acting on the aminoacyl site of 16S rRNA, where the binding of  
378 aminoglycosides occurs (A1408), confers high-level resistance to aminoglycosides. At least six  
379 types of these enzymes have been detected: ArmA, RmtA, RmtB, RmtC, RmtD, NpmA and  
380 NpmC (63–65). If in the current clinical resistance landscape ArmA has been frequently found in  
381 mobile genetic elements, from plasmids to ISCR elements (66). Expression analysis has shown  
382 that **aminoglycoside stress increases the expression of 16S rRNA methyltransferases**,  
383 including RsmI (67). Proteins similar to the previously mentioned 16S rRNA methylases are found  
384 in aminoglycoside-producing actinomycetes, suggesting that they might be inducible by low  
385 aminoglycoside concentrations.

386 Any decrease in the aminoglycoside concentration inside the cell will reduce the antimicrobial  
387 effect. Subinhibitory concentrations of kanamycin, probably disturbing the cell envelope, induce  
388 the acriflavine resistance protein **AcrD**, a **multidrug efflux pump** extruding aminoglycosides  
389 (also novobiocin, and fusidic acid), a member of the RND family of transporters energized by  
390 proton motive force. Efflux of aminoglycosides by the transporter should produce coupled  
391 transmembrane movement of H<sup>+</sup>. Aminoglycosides are captured in a binding site located within  
392 the ceiling of the central cavity of a AcrD trimer. Thus, it is likely that AcrD is capable of picking  
393 up aminoglycosides via this central cavity (68–70).

#### 394 **Macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins (MLS)**

395 The antimicrobial effect of MLS antibiotics, mostly based on the dissociation of peptidyl-tRNAs  
396 from the ribosome resulting in translational attenuation (reduced protein synthesis), has been  
397 proposed to be the mechanism by which the genes involved in resistance (typically *erm(B)* gene)  
398 is induced. Erm resistance proteins (about 50 orthologous genes have been reported) demethylate  
399 a single adenine (A2058) in nascent 23S rRNA, a component of the large (50S) ribosomal subunit.  
400 The effect of this **23S-methyl-transferase** is that the binding of MLS antibiotics to their target is  
401 impaired. In the absence of antibiotics, the methyl-transferase gene is inactive (non-transcribed in  
402 the normal folding structure of the mRNA of the *erm* gene) due to an attenuator upstream from the  
403 structural gene. The presence of the MLS antibiotic leads to physical rearrangements of the mRNA  
404 folding, exposing and stabilizing the 23S methyltransferase secondary sequence and allowing  
405 ribosomes to process with the translation of the resistance enzyme (71). The MLS effect of  
406 inducing resistance ultimately depends on ribosome stalling of the leader mRNA at Arg/Lys-X-  
407 Arg/Lys motifs (72, 73). A putative-inducing signal may be the ribosomal release of short peptides  
408 after the stalling event (74). In addition, it has been suggested that macrolides might allow passage

409 of some nascent peptides, contributing to a “selective translation” and peptide bond modulation  
410 (75). A new mechanism of inducible erythromycin resistance based on ribosome recycling has  
411 been observed in *L. monocytogenes*. The process is mediated by a **GTPase** named HflXr, a  
412 **ribosome splitting factor** that is specifically produced in the presence of antibiotics targeting the  
413 ribosome, such as macrolides and lincosamides (76).

#### 414 **Phenicol**

415 Similar dynamics of inducible resistance occur with phenicol. In this case, the **acetyl-transferase**  
416 and **CmlA efflux pump** genes are regulated by a translation attenuation process. In the absence  
417 of antibiotics, the ribosome binding site sites are sequestered by the secondary structure of their  
418 mRNA. Induction results when the ribosome becomes stalled at a specific site in the nine-codon  
419 leader as a consequence of antibiotic action. The resulting alternative mRNA stem-loop structure  
420 discloses the ribosome binding site allowing translation of chloramphenicol resistance genes (77).  
421 In the case of CmlA efflux pump, the protein is localized in the inner membrane. It extrudes  
422 chloramphenicol in a process driven by the proton motive force (78). **The Cfr rRNA**  
423 **methyltransferase**, methylating 23S rRNA at position A2503, has a broad detoxification range  
424 including chloramphenicol (79). Finally, the **ATP binding cassette proteins** PoxA and OptrA,  
425 are able to reduce the affinity of chloramphenicol (and linezolid) from the ribosome, resulting in  
426 chloramphenicol resistance (see below, oxazolidinones-resistance) (80).

#### 427 **Tetracyclines**

428 Tetracycline binds to the 30S ribosomal subunit preventing the access of charged tRNAs to the A-  
429 site. A widespread mechanism of tetracycline resistance is the direct induction by tetracycline of  
430 an specific efflux pump, TetA. In the absence of tetracycline, the transcriptional repressor TetR

431 constitutively binds the *tetA* promoter and inhibits the expression of the TetA resistance gene (81).  
432 The **direct binding of tetracycline to the *tetR* repressor** leads to its dissociation from the DNA  
433 and drives *tetA* expression, leading to antibiotic resistance. Another important mechanism of  
434 tetracycline resistance is mediated by secondary effectors such as ribosome protection proteins  
435 (82) induced by tetracycline exposure, and probably originated (for self-protection) in the original  
436 tetracycline producer, *Streptomyces rimosus*. The proteins TetM and TetO are frequently found in  
437 clinical strains, both Gram positive and Gram negative. These proteins are able to **displace**  
438 **tetracyclines** (not glycyclines, as tigecycline) from their target, in a way resembling the binding  
439 of elongation factor G to the ribosome, allowing the reassumption of protein synthesis. The  
440 conformation of the tetracycline binding site is probably modified by TetM, preventing rebinding  
441 of the drug (83). The process is favored by the GTPase hydrolysis.

#### 442 **Fluoroquinolones**

443 Fluoroquinolones act by binding at the DNA-ligation active site required for topoisomerases  
444 (topoisomerase IV and DNA gyrase) unwinding of the DNA, leading to DNA strand breaks and  
445 aborting the replication process. **Qnr pentapeptide repeat protein** protects the topoisomerases-  
446 DNA interface by binding to the topoisomerases units and the holoenzymes (84). Qnr proteins  
447 occur both in the chromosome and in bacterial plasmids. Subinhibitory concentrations of  
448 ciprofloxacin produce the induction of Qnr (*qnrS1*) by a mechanism independent of SOS response.  
449 **Qnr induction requires intact integration host factors (LhfA and LhFB)**, specific DNA-  
450 binding proteins involved in transcriptional control, and probably **DnaA** (initiating the process of  
451 replication) influences the induction process. However, the possible natural Qnr inducers remain  
452 elusive (85).

#### 453 **Fosfomycin**

454 Fosfomycin resistance is controlled by the bacterial two-component **signal transduction system**  
455 **CpxAR**. Fosfomycin, altering the construction of the cell wall, triggers this envelope stress  
456 response system. CpxR directly represses the expression of two genes, *glpT* and *uhpT*, which  
457 encode fosfomycin transporters into the cell (86).

#### 458 **Sulphonamides and Trimethoprim**

459 **The** antibacterial effect of sulfonamides depends on inhibiting the bacterial dihydropteroate  
460 synthase (DHPS) through chemical mimicry of its co-substrate p-aminobenzoic acid (pABA).  
461 Resistance is frequently mediated by the acquisition of ***sul genes*** (present in many mobile genetic  
462 elements), which code for sulfa-insensitive, divergent DHPS enzymes. The reason for insensibility  
463 is the sulphonamide binding in the DHPS pABA binding sites. Sul encodes an alternative **DHPS**  
464 **synthase with an additional phenylalanine** residue lacking in sensitive DHPS, which results in  
465 a conformational change, blocking the sulphonamide target. It can be suggested that the induction  
466 of the expression of *sul genes* could be dependent on the sulfonamide effect decreasing the  
467 **thymidine levels** (87). Similarly, trimethoprim resistance is typically achieved by acquiring  
468 trimethoprim-insensitive dihydrofolate reductases (DHFR) encoded in *dfr* genes or by the  
469 overexpression of the endogenous DHFR enzyme *folA*. Indeed, it has been shown that the **two-**  
470 **component system PhoP/PhoQ** is involved in trimethoprim resistance under the regulation of  
471 **MgrB**, such a way modulating the expression of *FolA* by influencing the synthesis of thymidine  
472 (88).

#### 473 **Glycopeptides and Lipopeptides**

474 Vancomycin resistance (particularly worrisome in *Enterococcus*) mostly depends on the  
475 expression of the resistance gene *vanA*. VanA, a **d-Ala-d-lac ligase**, mediates the replacement of

476 an ester for an amide in the peptide target molecule, converting d-Ala-d-Ala in d-Ala-d-lac in the  
477 terminal aminoacids in Lipid II, by forming five hydrogen bonds and multiple hydrophobic van  
478 der Waal forces, such a way altering the vancomycin binding site and reducing by 1000-fold the  
479 activity of the antibiotic (89). The induction of *vanA* (and the accompanying gene cluster) depends  
480 on a canonical **two-component regulation system** composed of the transmembrane sensor  
481 histidine kinase VanS and its cytoplasmic transcriptional regulator VanR, which allows *vanA*  
482 transcription (90). The presence of vancomycin is detected by the membrane sensory kinase VanS,  
483 which phosphorylates and activates VanR, a transcription regulator that drives the expression of  
484 the *vanHAX* resistance operon. Induction by internal signals cannot be excluded, as cell wall  
485 precursor accumulation (91). Interestingly, subinhibitory concentrations of beta-lactam agents  
486 might induce heterogeneous vancomycin intermediary-resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* (92).

487 Daptomycin resistance in *Enterococcus* is mediated by the LiaFSR system, a three-component  
488 **regulatory system responsive to cell envelope stress** produced by the antibiotic. The membrane  
489 stress response is controlled by **sensor histidine kinase-response** regulator pairs communicating  
490 by signal transduction. LiaR regulates the expression of the gene LiaX, which can bind daptomycin  
491 and regulate cell membrane remodeling, adapting the cell membrane to the DAP “attack” in the  
492 words of Axell-House et al. (93).

### 493 **Polymyxins**

494 Polymyxins (polycation proteins such as colistin or polymyxin B) target the negatively charged  
495 bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS). Physical disturbance of the LPS layer can be associated with  
496 other effects, such as damaging the function of essential respiratory enzymes located in the  
497 cytoplasmic membrane. Resistance results from chemical modifications of the LPS. Such  
498 processes involve the activation (triggered by extracytoplasmic Mg<sup>++</sup> and Ca<sup>++</sup> concentrations)

499 of **two-component systems PhoP/PhoQ and PmrA/PmrB**, involving an inner membrane sensor  
500 and a cytoplasmic regulator. In *Salmonella*, the result is the expression of PagL, a **deacetylase of**  
501 **the lipid A** moiety of the LPS. In *E. coli*, the two-component systems activate EptA (PmrC) and  
502 ArnT (PmrK), respectively **phosphoethanolamine and 4-amino-4-deoxy-L-arabinose lipid A**  
503 **transferases**, which results in a reduced negative charge and thus less colistin binding, leading to  
504 resistance and heteroresistance (94, 95). The widespread *mcr* plasmid genes determining colistin  
505 resistance have probably originated from EtpA orthologs, encoding phosphoethanolamine  
506 transferase which alters the structure of the binding site of colistin to lipid A in the bacterial  
507 lipopolysaccharide layer membrane (96); indeed, *mcr-9* is inducible by low antibiotic  
508 concentrations of polymyxins (97).

#### 509 **Oxazolidinones.**

510 Oxazolidinones (as linezolid) interact with the peptidyl transferase center of the bacterial  
511 ribosome, inhibiting protein synthesis. Oxazolidinone resistance gene, *cfr*, mediates resistance not  
512 only to linezolid, but also to phenicols, lincosamides, pleuromutilins, and streptogramin A type  
513 antibiotics by encoding a **methyltransferase that modifies the 23S rRNA** at position A2503 (79).  
514 Tedizolid is not affected by this resistance mechanism, as presents improved affinity not only  
515 against wild-type 23S rRNA but also Cfr-methylated 23S rRNA (98). In addition, linezolid is  
516 deactivated (together with chloramphenicol) by PoxTA and OptrA, apparently non-inducible **ATP**  
517 **binding cassette (ABC) proteins** of the F subtype, which distorts the P-site tRNA in the ribosome  
518 and contributes to reducing the affinity of the drugs for their binding site, in a sense “brushing”  
519 the drug from the ribosome (99).

520

521 **Fusidic acid**

522 Fusidic acid prevents the release of elongation factor G (EF-G) from the ribosome due to changes  
523 in EF-G conformational flexibility. After each translocation event, the A ribosomal site should be  
524 vacant to allow incorporation of the next incoming aminoacyl-tRNA species. Fusidic acid  
525 deactivation is produced by the FusB protein family, which encodes an **EF-G-binding protein**,  
526 acting when EF-G is either unbound or bound to the ribosome (100). The origin of these target  
527 protection small proteins is unknown, but they certainly preceded the anthropogenic production of  
528 fusidic acid (101). FusB seems to be a fusidic acid-inducible protein. Induction probably involves  
529 (as in the case of methylase genes in macrolide resistance ) a system of **translational attenuation**,  
530 involving fusidic-acid ribosomal stalling, resulting in the folding of the *fusB* leader mRNA; this  
531 folding releases the *fusB* Shine-Dalgarno sequestration, allowing transcription of the EF-G-  
532 binding protein that detoxify fusidic acid (102).

533 **Nitrofurantoin**

534 Nitrofurantoin, furazolidone, and nitrofurazone's antibiotic action depends on bacterial  
535 nitroreductases (mostly NfsA and NfsB), NAD(P)H-dependent flavoenzymes which activate the  
536 toxicity of the compounds. In fact, hyperexpression of these enzymes (for instance involving  
537 ***cpxA/R* two-component system** signaling) increases nitrofurantoin activity. Resistance to  
538 nitrofurans could result from a lower transcription of nitroreductases. Transcription/expression of  
539 *nfsA* is repressed by the oxidative stress **transcriptional regulator OxyR** and  
540 (postranscriptionally) by a small anti-sense RNA (*sdsN137*) in *E. coli*, and perhaps also the  
541 multidrug resistance regulator *mprA* (103, 104). As OxyR is activated by oxidative and nitrosative  
542 stress, it should reduce nitroreductase transcription and might thus inactivate nitrofurantoin effect.



## 543 **Combined effects of antibiotic resistance molecules**

544 Pharmacodynamic drug-drug interactions (DDIs) occur when the pharmacological effect of one  
545 drug is altered by that of another drug in a combination regimen. DDIs often are classified as  
546 synergistic, additive, neutral or antagonistic (105). Antechological resistance mechanism-  
547 mechanism interactions (MMIs) can be expected when molecules involved in antibiotic resistance  
548 might have different combined effects influencing antibiotic detoxification. In the multiresistant  
549 organisms present in nosocomial infections, an apparent “functional redundancy” of beta-  
550 lactamases, for instance multiple different carbapenemases in the same strain is not an infrequent  
551 finding (106). In some cases, this might produce a kind of polyploidy, but other explanations  
552 cannot be excluded. The reactive production of efflux pumps reduces the accumulation of  
553 antibiotics inside of the bacterial cells and might facilitate the induction of primary or secondary  
554 resistance effectors before the drug causes irreversible cell damage (107). This important topic of  
555 interactions between antibiotic resistance mechanism has been recently reviewed (3).

556

## 557 **Metabolic molecules influencing antibiotic detoxification**

558 A recent field of research in antibiotic resistance is the effect of metabolism on antibiotic  
559 resistance. In a sense, metabolic molecules can act as “non-canonical”, eventually poorly specific  
560 mechanisms of antibiotic detoxification, highly dependent on the nutritional and environmental  
561 conditions of the microorganism. Such an effect casts doubts about using the standard  
562 determination of minimal inhibitory concentrations in rich media as the only pharmacodynamic  
563 function used in susceptibility testing (108). For instance, rich media might contribute to a higher  
564 beta-lactamase concentration in the cell (109).Functional metabolomics studies have shown that

565 different metabolic states are related to antibiotic resistance phenotypes (110, 111). For instance,  
566 core enzymes involved in metabolic regulation might prevent the antibiotic-mediated induction of  
567 the tricarboxylic acid cycle functioning, reducing metabolic toxicity, basal respiration, and  
568 consequently drug lethality (112, 113). A particularly interesting fact in this process is the  
569 antibiotic induction of the “acetylome”, an ensemble of multiple acetylating enzymes, resulting in  
570 a decrease in antibiotic action (114). “Intrinsic” resistance to colistin in *Staphylococcus aureus*  
571 entirely depends on a functional ATP synthase (115, 116). It is difficult to differentiate if these  
572 effects due to metabolic functioning are consequences of the antibiotic action or adaptive cell  
573 responses (reaction) to the drug exposure. In any case, antibiotics frequently “disorganize” the cell  
574 metabolism, in some cases by altering the shape and subcellular structure of the microorganism  
575 (117). Such effects can produce a heterogeneous response to antibiotic action in exposed  
576 populations (118). Finally, some antibiotics, as sulfonamides or trimethoprim, are essentially  
577 antimetabolic drugs. Sulphonamides and trimethoprim are structural analogs and competitive  
578 antagonists of *p*-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) interfering with the dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR)  
579 and dihydropteroate synthase (DHPS), respectively, which are sequentially involved in the  
580 synthesis of folate for the production of nucleic acids. One of the very first mechanisms of  
581 resistance that was elucidated was sulphonamide resistance resulting from hyperproduction of  
582 para-aminobenzoic acid (119). Here we can see a stoichiometric example of metabolic resistance,  
583 and an important gene-dosing effect has been shown for both sulphonamides and trimethoprim.

584

585

586

## 587 **ANTECHOKINETICS**

588 Antechokinetics refers to the study of the processes leading to bacterial spatial cellular  
589 (subcellular, pericellular, extracellular) localizations of the molecules involved in antibiotic  
590 detoxifying mechanisms. These molecules' local concentrations change over time due to their  
591 production, degradation, and, eventually, excretion rates. Variations in the kinetics of antibiotic  
592 resistance mechanisms should influence the rate of interaction and detoxification of the antibiotic  
593 agents. To show what we know (and particularly what we do not know) about the effects of  
594 antechokinetics in antibiotic resistance, we are obliged to recall here, in a succinct way, the  
595 intracellular kinetics of the different drugs.

596 In an extended meaning of the field of “antechokinetics,” we could also consider the movement of  
597 antibiotic resistance genes across cells, species, and populations. This aspect will not be treated  
598 here; but reviews are widely available (120). This might also apply to the dissemination of  
599 resistance genes or resistance proteins in microvesicles, spherical nanoparticles composed of  
600 bacterial lipid membranes (121).

### 601 **Three previous questions on antechodynamics**

#### 602 **The question of efflux pumps**

603 The field of efflux pumps, a homogeneous group of trans-envelope multimolecular complexes, is  
604 **hard to contextualize in the antechodynamics field**; as stated before, we consider that, in most  
605 cases, they do not directly influence the mechanisms of resistance by antibiotic detoxification nor  
606 the molecules involved in resistance by target modification. The induction of efflux pumps by  
607 repressor inactivation can be achieved by ligand binding including metabolites, antibiotics,  
608 biocides, pharmaceuticals, additives, plant extracts, or compounds released by oxidative stress

609 (122). The genes regulated by the antibiotic-responsive cis-acting RNA elements include several  
610 different classes of multidrug antibiotics exporters and efflux pumps (123, 124). When the  
611 antibiotic itself is the inducer or is specifically captured by the pump proteins, we can consider  
612 these interactions in the antechodynamic field. As an example, in *E. coli*, tetracycline resistance  
613 TetA pump is inducible by subinhibitory tetracycline concentrations, releasing the effect of the  
614 repressor TetR (125).

615 In the antechokinetics perspective, the cellular density and perhaps the topology of efflux pumps  
616 could influence the effectiveness of antibiotic degrading mechanisms, not only by modifying the  
617 antibiotic concentration and thus the stoichiometry with these mechanisms, but eventually by  
618 scarcely known spatial relations with them (co-localization, influencing stoichiometry in cellular  
619 microspaces). In *Pseudomonas*, the maximal efflux efficiency occurs from the periplasm, being  
620 two orders of magnitude faster than from the cytosol (126). TetA (see above) selectively transport  
621 tetracycline from the cytosol to the periplasm in exchange of a proton (125). On the other hand,  
622 the *action* of the antibiotics on the cell alters the cellular chemical structure and their metabolic  
623 networks, and it can be suspected that certain molecules, including non-antibiotics could serve as  
624 inducers of the synthesis of efflux pumps (127). Antechokinetics could study the nature,  
625 expression, location, and degradation of these presumed molecules, possibly related to those  
626 involved in general stress responses.

### 627 **The question of the number of reduced affinity genes**

628 In our definition of antechology, and more particularly antechodynamics, we have discarded to  
629 formally include antibiotic resistance due to mutated targets with low affinity for the antibiotic, as  
630 they do not constitute any specific “reaction” against the “action” of the antibiotics. However, In  
631 some cases, they could be considered from an antechokinetics perspective, for instance, when the

632 number of molecules resulting from the expression of these genes modify the antibiotic resistance  
633 phenotype. For instance, where the beta-lactam resistance mechanism is not a beta-lactamase but  
634 a modified target with reduced affinity for the antibiotic, as in the case of staphylococcal cassette  
635 SCCmec element, the tandem amplification of this gene drives high-level methicillin resistance  
636 (128). To our knowledge, nothing similar has been observed for penicillin low-affinity proteins  
637 (about 5,000-20,000 per cell) in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, as PBP2x; however, the number of  
638 PBP2x molecules can be modulated in the activation of the HtrA serine protease that degrades  
639 PBP2x (129). As a final “classic” *example*, a mutant resistant allele of *gyrA*, encoded in a  
640 multicopy plasmid, was capable of producing a quinolone resistance phenotype when expressed  
641 by a formerly susceptible strain (130). Such examples show how, to a certain extent, there is a  
642 certain antechokinetic approach that can be applied to mutational events, but this perspective is  
643 not treated in the current work.

#### 644 **The question of intracellular topology in transcription-translation efficiency**

645 The interaction between antibiotic molecules, the antibiotic resistance molecules, and the bacterial  
646 organelles and cellular structures where they meet occurs in defined (yet variable) spaces of the  
647 cell. These encounters should depend on their relative density and their proximity in the space.  
648 Very few have been done to clarify this antechokinetic problem. As an example, the number of  
649 plasmid copies carrying antibiotic resistance genes is highly variable in an otherwise monoclonal  
650 population (131), which results in a populational tuning of gene expression under different  
651 exposure intensities to antibiotic agents. For instance, the spatial distribution in the cell of the  
652 plasmids and frequent carriers of antibiotic resistance genes might influence their interaction with  
653 the translating ribosomes by mRNAs. Apparently, during the growth cycle of bacilli, both large  
654 plasmids with active segregation systems and small plasmids frequently colocalize with the

655 microspaces with higher ribosome density in the poles of the cell and close to the cellular  
656 membrane, forming a transcription-translation microspatial factory (132, 133). The chromosomal  
657 genes encoding antibiotic resistance effectors are relatively distant, as the nucleoid is located near  
658 the cell center (134). However, the supercoiled DNA nucleoid (volume:  $1 \mu\text{m}^3$ ), with an average  
659 pore diameter of  $\sim 50 \text{ nm}$ , allows the internal circulation of free ribosomes, with an average size  
660 of  $\sim 20 \text{ nm}$ . On the contrary, polysomes, mRNAs with multiple bound ribosomes are much larger  
661 and diffuse to the areas of higher ribosome density (135). A significant point in antechokinetics is  
662 mRNA localization, meaning that mRNAs are directed to the subcellular microcompartments  
663 where their protein products are targeting (for instance, to degrade an antibiotic or protect a vital  
664 target) (134, 136). If a wealth of new knowledge is needed in this field, bacteria presumably have  
665 an intracellular “road map” network system apparatus involving motor proteins and cytoskeleton-  
666 like filaments, as those that have started to be known for plasmid partitioning (133).

667

## 668 **Antechokinetics in resistance to different antibiotic classes.**

### 669 **Beta-lactam resistance**

670 The access of beta-lactamases to bacterial cells occurs by transcription and translation of  
671 chromosomal genes, but, at least in pathogenic species, much more frequently by the uptake and  
672 expression (also in the progeny) of beta-lactamase genes acquired with mobile genetic elements,  
673 as plasmids, transposons (eventually containing integrons), or by the capture of free extracellular  
674 microvesicles containing the resistance proteins. In the case of gene capture, the biogenesis of the  
675 active enzyme starts a complex physiological process attracted some attention in the 1980s but  
676 was overshadowed by the genetics-bioinformatics obsession of recent research. The number of

677 beta-lactamase genes present in the cell, for instance, in relation to a plasmid (gene) copy number,  
678 the number of active ribosomes, or the position of the beta-lactamase gene in integron strings (that  
679 is, more or less distant to the promoter sequence), should influence the total concentration of beta-  
680 lactamase in the cell, but very few is known of about these aspects. The protein genes should be  
681 first transcribed, giving rise to pre-beta-lactamases, carrying an N-terminal signal leader sequence,  
682 which interacts with the general Sec secretion system, or the twin-arginine (Tat) translocation  
683 system. The Sec system involves a SecYEG integral membrane protein complex heterotrimer  
684 probably acting as a single protein-conducting channel. This tetrameric arrangement of SecYEG  
685 complexes and the highly dynamic peripheral bound ATPase SecA dimer together form a proton-  
686 motive force- and ATP-driven molecular machine that drives the stepwise translocation of targeted  
687 polypeptides across the cytoplasmic membrane (137). These secretion systems correlate with the  
688 type of beta-lactamases; TEM-1, AmpC, CTX-M, or KPC enzymes use the Sec system; more  
689 “chromosomal” beta-lactamases, such as L2, BlaC, or PenA (and also TEM-1!) can be exported  
690 by both systems (138). The altered COOH-terminal part of the leader signal sequence is attached  
691 to the outer face of the inner membrane. In some cases, the beta-lactamase, in its active form, can  
692 be permanently bound to the membrane, without being excreted (139). Leader sequences can be  
693 used to define beta-lactamase alleles (140). The leader sequence is proteolytically excised (by the  
694 leader peptidase) when the beta-lactamase molecule crosses the cellular membrane and is  
695 exported. Therefore, the export of the beta-lactamases localizes these proteins in the periplasmic  
696 space in gram-negatives, or protruding in part outside the outer membrane, or reaching the extra-  
697 membrane space, including the close exterior of the cell, mostly in the gram-positives. The signal  
698 sequence and first nine N-terminal amino acids of Lpp, the major *Escherichia coli* lipoprotein, are  
699 necessary for proper localization in the outer membrane (141). Possibly capsular material, mostly

700 polysaccharides, could retain beta-lactamases (142). There is a possibility of catalytically active  
701 beta-lactamases inside the cytoplasm. Still, they are unable, (probably dependent on the degree of  
702 excision of the leader peptide to be secreted (143). In some cases. Some enzymes (as TEM) cross  
703 the cytoplasmic membrane immediately following translation. That is due to the spatial  
704 connectivity between the cytoplasmic membrane and the dense “ribosome crown” below the  
705 membrane (117). It has been suggested that cytoplasmic chaperones influence the beta-lactamase  
706 protein oxidative folding, which results in membrane translocation (144). Then a rapid and  
707 energetically favorable folding process allows the transported enzyme to adopt the lowest energy  
708 conformation, ensuring that it will be soluble in the aqueous extra-cytoplasmic space (138). If beta-  
709 lactamases are produced and secreted in high quantity (as under induction) in the periplasm, they  
710 can form inclusion bodies with low catalytic efficiency (145); in fact, increasing the propensity of  
711 beta-lactamases to aggregate might be a therapeutical strategy (146). Both in Gram positives and  
712 Gram negatives, beta-lactamases can be transported into extracellular vesicles, occasionally  
713 captured by other closely located bacteria, sometimes unable to produce beta-lactamases by  
714 themselves (147, 148). The release of beta-lactamases during the bacterial lytic processes  
715 (bacteriophages, bacterial predators, envelope-disrupting antimicrobials) and their stability in the  
716 environment (as free molecules or granules) is a scarcely investigated field.

717 There is also meager information about the concentration of beta-lactamases in the different  
718 cellular compartments concerning induction, growth cycle, and shape-alternative cellular  
719 conformations. The volume versus surface of single cells and its consequences in the periplasm  
720 total volume should modify these concentrations (117, 149). This question is critical to evaluate  
721 the relationship between the quantity of beta-lactamase and resistance. In pharmacological terms,  
722 the parameter  $V_{\max}$  reflects the amount of beta-lactamase multiplied by the maximum number of



723 catalytic events each enzyme molecule can achieve per unit of time. Therefore, in principle,  
724 increasing the amount of beta-lactamase should increase resistance to beta-lactams (142, 150, 151).  
725 Probably shortly, fluorogenic-beta-lactam-based substrates could serve to measure beta-lactamase  
726 concentration/activity (152).

727 The correlation between levels of inducibility of chromosomal AmpC beta-lactamase and  
728 resistance level is a good example of the relation between the quantity of beta-lactamase and  
729 antibiotic resistance. Even if the classically considered “inducible” genus *Serratia*, containing the  
730 whole inducibility system AmpR-AmpC, contains low inducible species that are susceptible to  
731 cephalosporins (56). However, the relationship between the quantity of beta-lactamase and  
732 hydrolytic efficiency is not necessarily linear; the effect of efflux pumps, transcriptional regulators,  
733 and porins can influence the final phenotypic outcome (153). On the other hand, a critical but  
734 hitherto poorly explored point is the **speed of induction**; the canonical bacterial response could  
735 be eventually delayed to localize enough beta-lactamase in the periplasm to avoid cellular  
736 destruction. To overcome such a “death-before-induction,” some strategies have been suggested.  
737 A “rapid mechanism” based on an alternative signaling system in which a membrane-associated  
738 histidine kinase directly binds  $\beta$ -lactams, triggering the expression of a  $\beta$ -lactamase before  
739 muropeptide disturbance has been suggested (154). In the case of AmpC induction resulting from  
740 the lack of AmpR repression of the AmpC promoter, we can consider that AmpR is a LysR family  
741 master regulator whose deletion influences the expression of hundreds of genes (155). That might  
742 suggest that AmpR-mediated derepression of AmpC could be considered a side effect triggered by  
743 other bacterial stresses, not necessarily the antibiotic exposure. This probably includes “envelope  
744 stress”, as AmpC might contribute to the recovery of the damages in the outer membrane-  
745 peptidoglycan architecture (156).

746 Another process leading to variable concentration levels of beta-lactamases is gene amplification  
747 leading to an **increased number of copies** of a particular gene (polyploidy), which results in more  
748 resistant phenotypes. One of the first examples was the effect of multiple copies of the beta-  
749 lactamase TEM-1 (by cloning the enzyme in a multicopy plasmid) in the emergence of resistance  
750 to beta-lactam/clavulanate, a beta-lactamase inhibitor (157, 158). This is a general phenomenon in  
751 many species (159). But beta-lactamase polyploidy occurs more frequently by gene amplification  
752 (gene duplication in its simplest version); the steady-state frequencies of gene duplication are  
753 extremely high, typically ranging between  $10^{-5}$  and  $10^{-2}$  per cell per gene (160). Polyploidy is  
754 expected to occur under bacterial stress driving filamentation; however, it remains to be  
755 ascertained if the collective protective effect of an increased number of beta-lactamase molecules  
756 per elongated multinuclear cell is diluted by the increase in total cell volume.

757 Surprisingly, the degradation kinetics of beta-lactamases in the bacterial cell, the host (body,  
758 microbiota) or external environments under natural conditions has been scarcely examined in  
759 recent years. Body proteases (as trypsin) or microbial proteases (as ClpXP) seem to be inactive in  
760 degrading beta-lactamases and eventually might increase antibiotic resistance (161). Early  
761 observations with TEM-1 suggest that molecular folding exerts a critical role and that the disulfide  
762 bond can be essential in the process (162, 163). Outside the cell, AmpC beta-lactamase from *E.*  
763 *coli* is reversibly denatured by temperature in a two-state manner with a temperature of melting of  
764  $54.6^\circ$  (164).

### 765 **Aminoglycosides resistance**

766 Aminoglycosides (polycationic compounds) can bind the outer membrane lipopolysaccharide,  
767 followed by a displacement of magnesium ions (self-promoted uptake) and increase cytoplasmic  
768 membrane permeability, which might result in passive rapid uptake and eventually membrane

769 disruption (165); they do not enter through hydrophilic porins (18, 166). The first stage of uptake  
770 is followed by a slow, energy-dependent, electron-transport-mediated process. Aminoglycosides  
771 should immediately reach their ribosomal target, in the vicinity of the cytoplasmic membrane.

772 Even if the information is very limited, aminoglycoside resistance enzymes were classically  
773 considered cytoplasmically located. However, the efficiency of interaction and detoxification of  
774 aminoglycoside molecules acting on the ribosomes might suggest a condensation in the  
775 cytoplasmic sub-inner membrane “ribosome crown space”. Another possibility is the  
776 detoxification of the antibiotic before entering the cytoplasm. The efforts to locate  
777 aminoglycoside-modifying enzymes in the periplasm of gram-negatives have provided  
778 controversial results. Osmotic shock technology has been used to release the periplasmic  
779 molecules, but the possibility of contamination with cytoplasmic molecules cannot be discarded.

780 The examination of putative signal sequences involved in putative periplasmic transport has been  
781 addressed. Aminoglycoside acetyl-transferases have signal-like sequences integrating a long  
782 hydrophobic stretch of amino acids, but they might also have a stabilizing function. These  
783 sequences have not been found in aminoglycoside phosphotransferases. Experiments have been  
784 done by fusing beta-lactamases (TEM type) leader peptides in the acetylase (6′)-Ib. The cells with  
785 this hybrid protein, now periplasmically located, significantly increased aminoglycoside  
786 resistance. These results suggested that the cellular location of the modifying enzyme may be  
787 important in determining resistance levels (167). Later works, on the contrary, indicate that even  
788 if the TEM leader peptide is present, it is not processed (removed), so it becomes part of a mature  
789 AAC (6′)-Ib. The conclusion was that the protein is probably located in the cytoplasm and is  
790 evenly distributed in this compartment (168). In addition, *in vivo* imaging of this protein confirms

791 that it diffuses freely within the cytoplasm of the cell, but it tends to form inclusion bodies at higher  
792 concentrations in rich culture media (169).

793 The cellular concentration of aminoglycoside-modifying enzymes has effects on the bacterial  
794 resistance phenotype, as it is shown by gene amplification. Phosphotransferase *aphAI* results in  
795 clinical resistance to tobramycin (170). Also, bleomycin acts as a transcriptional inducer of the  
796 neo-ble-str operon contained in Tn5, and the increase of the phosphorylase *aph3'II* results in  
797 amikacin resistance (171, 172). In a much more recent study, the level of resistance to amikacin  
798 increases linearly with a higher concentration of AAC(6')-Ib until it reaches a plateau at a specific  
799 protein concentration (173).

#### 800 **Macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins (MLS) resistance**

801 Macrolides are hydrophobic molecules, their self-promoted uptake entry in the cell being favored  
802 by the hydrophobic nature of lipid A in the outer membrane LPS. The macrolides bind to the  
803 nascent peptide exit tunnel in the ribosome (74). The number of 50S ribosomal units where MLS  
804 drugs bind, inhibiting protein synthesis, is about 20,000/cell, but this number is variable with the  
805 growth phase and the bacterial species. The number of genes involved in the most frequent  
806 mechanism of macrolide resistance, 23S rRNA methylation, is comparatively low; as these genes  
807 are usually harbored by plasmids, only one gene is present per plasmid, and a generally few copies  
808 of the plasmids are harbored in the bacterial cell. If a single 23S rRNA methylase is sufficient for  
809 the methylation-deactivation process, resistance depends on the transcription rate under conditions  
810 of induction. To our knowledge, the number of intracellular macrolide molecules needed for an  
811 efficient induction of 23S rRNA methylase remains undetermined. We should also consider the  
812 ribosomal rescue and recycling rate after the prematurely terminated translation events (74, 75,

813 174). On the other hand, independently of ribosome stalling, macrolides might exert a protective  
814 role on mRNA decay, favoring ErmB hyperproduction (175).

### 815 **Tetracyclines resistance**

816 Tetracycline enters the bacterial cell by passive diffusion through the hydrophilic  $\beta$ -barrel protein  
817 bacterial porins (OmpC, OmpF), crossing the outer membrane and thus connecting the periplasmic  
818 space of Gram-negatives with pericellular space. The diffusion is facilitated by positive cation-  
819 tetracycline complexes, which dissociate in the periplasm to make a more lipophilic molecule able  
820 to cross the cytoplasmic membrane, an energy-dependent process involving proton motive force  
821 (176). There is a dense “ribosome crown” below the cytoplasmic membrane where most ribosomes  
822 are located. Certainly, the effect of tetracyclines should depend on the number of available  
823 ribosomal targets which depends on growth rate, and the bacterial species. The number of  
824 tetracycline molecules inside the cell is highly variable (1-100 micromolar, so that the number can  
825 reach  $10^9$  molecules). As stated in a previous section, the TetR promoter binds tetracycline,  
826 allowing induction of the TetA efflux pump, also, tetracycline can be displaced from his by 30S  
827 ribosomal target by TetM or TetO. This free tetracycline might then serve to induce TetA (if  
828 present). The spatial location of these mechanisms depends on the location of the mobile genetic  
829 elements that host the corresponding genes; it might be conceived that their resistance efficiency  
830 depends on their chances of meeting translating ribosomes, but this is a poorly investigated field.

### 831 **Fluoroquinolones resistance**

832 Uptake of hydrophilic fluoroquinolones occurs by passive diffusion using bacterial porins. The  
833 translocation across the bilayered cytoplasmic membrane seems to occur by permeation of the  
834 neutral form of ciprofloxacin, so that the zwitterionic ciprofloxacin, approaching the membrane in

835 stacks, diffuse through the membrane as neutral monomers (177). Depending on the external  
836 concentration, and the natural efflux systems (mostly AcrAB), calculations based on  
837 spectrofluorimetry and mass spectrometry yield a bias of a number of 263 ciprofloxacin  
838 molecules/cell (178). The average number of GyrA topoisomerase target molecules per cell has  
839 been estimated to be 2,200, which outnumbered that of ciprofloxacin molecules almost by a factor  
840 of 10 (179). This indicates that, assuming that all ciprofloxacin molecules are bound to a  
841 topoisomerase complex, roughly 90% of cellular topoisomerases are not inhibited by the antibiotic  
842 and should be able to unwind DNA and facilitate replication. The binding kinetics to  
843 topoisomerases is probably biphasic, with adhesion first and then cross-linking (180). *However,*  
844 *topoisomerase-ciprofloxacin complexes are poisonous to the cell as they produce replication-*  
845 *assisted double-strand breaks which are the ultimate cause of quinolone-mediated cell death.*  
846 *Therefore,* the number of cleaved complexes containing ciprofloxacin, topoisomerase, and DNA  
847 should determine the antibacterial action. In fact, the stoichiometry of fluoroquinolone  
848 action/resistance was suspected long time ago, as when mutated *gyrA* was cloned in a multicopy  
849 plasmid, that resulted in an increase in quinolone resistance (130). More recently, it has shown that  
850 ploidy facilitates fluoroquinolone persister survival (181).

### 851 **Trimethoprim resistance**

852 Trimethoprim can be detoxified by pumping out the molecule; efflux pumps can be inducible, as  
853 in the case of *Acinetobacter baumannii*. The efflux pump SxtP, a member of major facilitator  
854 superfamily, is activated by a **LysR-type transcriptional regulator**, SxtR (182).

855

856

857 **Glycopeptide and lipopeptide resistance**

858 Vancomycin molecules freely diffuse through the layers of Gram-positive peptidoglycan that  
859 enclose a Gram-positive bacterial cell to reach the peptide target (183). We have previously  
860 mentioned LiaX as a molecule determining daptomycin resistance. In *E. faecalis*, its N-terminal  
861 domain is released to the extracellular medium, where it binds daptomycin; the complex is  
862 probably recognized on the cell surface, maintaining the cell membrane stress adaptive response.  
863 The level of daptomycin resistance is probably related to an increase in LiaX molecules (93).

864

865 **CROSSROADS BETWEEN ANTECHOLOGY (AD/AK) AND**  
866 **PHARMACOLOGY (PD/PK)**

867 In the former sections, the reader can appreciate the operative interactions linking  
868 Antechodynamics and Antechokinetics of molecules involved in bacterial resistance against  
869 antimicrobial agents. The most evident example is the effect of changing concentrations of  
870 antibiotic resistance effectors (Antechokinetics), exerting different resistance antibiotic  
871 detoxification activities (Antechodynamics), as a result of the induction of expression of resistance  
872 genes. This relation parallels what occurs with antibiotic molecules in pharmacokinetics and  
873 pharmacodynamics. In fact, PD/PK, and AD/AK studies should be combined to provide data of  
874 potential therapeutical interest.

875 For a given antimicrobial agent, how many antimicrobial resistance molecules are needed to  
876 detoxify the antibiotic molecules present in the bacterial cell? In other words, how important is the  
877 determination of the stoichiometry of antibiotic and resistance molecules? The stoichiometric

878 values will probably be variable in different environments and cellular growth phases, and most  
879 importantly the presence of multimolecular mechanisms of resistance (as efflux pumps).

880 The starting point for these (scarcely developed) studies is the determination of intra-bacterial  
881 **antibiotic molecular concentrations per cell** considering different external concentrations of the  
882 antibiotic. In recent years, progress has been made by applying spectrofluorimetry (including  
883 microspectrofluorimetry), and mass spectrometry to achieve this goal. These techniques can be  
884 complemented with time-lapse imaging methods able to evaluate the antibiotic transport kinetics  
885 and the subcellular localization of antibiotics in individual cells, revealing the pharmacokinetic  
886 kinetic heterogeneity in bacterial populations. An important driver of the intracellular  
887 concentration of antibiotics in the cell (for a given external concentration) is the rate of antibiotic  
888 influx and efflux. Antibiotic structure-to-intracellular-accumulation (SICAR) studies,  
889 comprehending the rate of influx across the bacterial envelope (SICAR<sup>IN</sup>), the antibiotic efflux  
890 rate by particular mechanisms (SICAR<sup>EF</sup>) provide insights on antibiotic accumulation inside  
891 bacteria (184). However, these studies do not provide general de quantitation in terms of the  
892 number of molecules.

893 Second, the determination of the **number of target molecules of particular antibiotics**, and the  
894 number of molecules needed to inactivate a target molecule.

895 Third, the **number of antibiotic resistance molecules present in the cell** should be known. That  
896 is work for future research, as our currently available data concerning these parameters are  
897 incomplete. These calculations should consider the growth phase and metabolic conditions of the  
898 cell and the variability in antibiotic-resistance molecules (number of gene copy numbers, inductive  
899 processes). Gene copy numbers are dependent on tandem amplification and an increased number  
900 of mobile genetic elements carrying the resistance gene, eventually resulting from the insertion of



901 the gene in cryptic high-copy plasmids (185). The kinetics of the number of antibiotic resistance  
902 is work for future research, as our currently available data concerning these parameters are really  
903 incomplete.

904 As an example, using bacterial lysates after exposure to different **ciprofloxacin** concentrations,  
905 the intracellular concentrations in *E. coli* are about 30 times lower than the external ones; for  
906 instance, 0.08 µg/mL in the lysate when the external concentration is 2,5-3 µg/mL. That should  
907 correspond to about 200-500 ciprofloxacin molecules per cell (178), a close number to the  
908 estimated number of 300 gyrase molecules stably bound to the *E. coli* chromosome at any time,  
909 among the total number of DNA gyrase molecules determined by epifluorescence in the whole  
910 cell (186) distributed randomly throughout the cytoplasm (187). The number of Qnr ciprofloxacin  
911 inactivating molecules could be estimated to range from a few hundred to a few thousand  
912 molecules per cell (188). Now, the protection Antechodynamics of Qnr, in particular, the  
913 ciprofloxacin inhibitory interactions with DNA gyrase, should be also known (189).

914 Beta lactams inhibit different PBPs (mostly transpeptidases); these targets construct the  
915 peptidoglycan and, thus, should be mostly spatially linked to this sacculus. In Gram-negatives, the  
916 peptidoglycan is a 2.5-µm-thick structure located in a 15 nm wide periplasm, occupying from 20 to  
917 40% of the total cell volume (190, 191). As stated above, beta-lactamases are mostly located in  
918 the periplasm, protecting against beta-lactam inhibition of PBPs. However, different beta-lactams  
919 target different PBPs, which are not homogeneously located in the cell. PBP2, involved in bacterial  
920 elongation, is located in a spot at the lateral wall and also at the cell division site. PBP3, involved  
921 in cell division, is located in the space corresponding to the division septum (192). This target's  
922 compartmentalization is probably assured by the fibrillar actin-like structures of the protein MreB  
923 (193). The local stoichiometry of PBPs and beta-lactamases should certainly be better known to

924 understand the effect of different concentrations of beta-lactam agents. The number of PBP  
925 molecules in *Staphylococcus aureus* has been estimated (more than 20 years ago) from  
926 approximately 150 to 825 PBPs/cell (194). In spite of having thinner peptidoglycan, early  
927 calculations for *E. coli* yielded about 2,000 PBPs/cell, but many of them are carboxypeptidases  
928 (195). The number of beta-lactamase molecules per cell in resistant organisms is highly variable,  
929 probably ranging from  $10^3$  to  $10^6$  molecules per cell under different conditions. The whole plot  
930 should also consider the number of beta-lactam molecules in the cell, but against expectations, the  
931 information is also scarce, more focused on changes in indirect markers, such as fluorescence,  
932 immunoblotting of the resistance beta-lactamase, or mRNA transcription of the resistance gene,  
933 rather than in the intracellular molecular concentrations (196, 197).

934 In general, it is difficult to find this type of data for most antibiotics and their inactivating  
935 molecules (198). To add complexity, the three main parameters that are needed (the number of  
936 antibiotic molecules in the cell, the number of target molecules, and the number of antibiotic  
937 resistance molecules) should probably be considered in the different subcellular locations,  
938 including membrane microdomains (199).

939 Something to consider as an extension of the scope of the AD/AK are the presumable future fields  
940 are antechotoxicodynamics (ATD) and antechotoxicokinetics (ATK), mimicking what occurs with  
941 antimicrobial drugs (200). Similarly, as drugs may produce toxic effects in the hosts, including  
942 their normal microbiota, bacterial resistance mechanisms could be toxic for the resistant bacterial  
943 organisms, the microbiota, or directly the human or animal hosts. Such perspective has been  
944 extensively treated in the case of mutational “fitness costs” of resistance, or those associated with  
945 the presence of mobile genetic elements carrying resistance genes, which is critical to envisage  
946 possible bioremediation strategies (201–203). In conclusion, and in spite of our apparent extensive

947 knowledge of the processes and mechanisms associated with bacterial antibiotic resistance, the  
948 study of such mechanisms of resistance should be “continuous, resilient, and steady” (204). We  
949 hope that the antechological approach that we are proposing might offer novel research challenges  
950 leading to a complete understanding and eventually to the control of antibiotic resistance.

951

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### 1538 **Author Bios**

1539 To be submitted after the acceptance of the manuscript.

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1547 **Table I: Antechodynamics: primary detoxifying effector molecules causing**  
1548 **direct effect on antimicrobial agents**

<b>Antibiotics</b>	<b>Primary detoxifying effector molecules</b>
Beta-lactams	Beta-lactamases (proteases-hydrolases)
Aminoglycosides	Acetyl-transferases, Phospho-transferases, Nucleotydyl-transferases
Macrolides, Lincosamides, Streptogramins	Phospho-transferases, Esterases, Nucleotydyl-transferases, Acetyl-transferases, Hydrolases.
Phenicols	Acetyltransferases
Tetracyclines	Monooxygenases
Fluoroquinolones	Acetyl-transferases, Monooxygenases
Fosfomycin	Metallo-glutathione-transferases
Rifampicin	Glycosyl-transferases, Nucleotydyl-transferases, Phospho-transferases, Monooxygenases
Glyco-Lipopeptides	Monooxygenases (?), Deacylases, Serin-protease-hydrolases
Sulphonamides	Flavin-Monooxygenases, Flavin-Reductases

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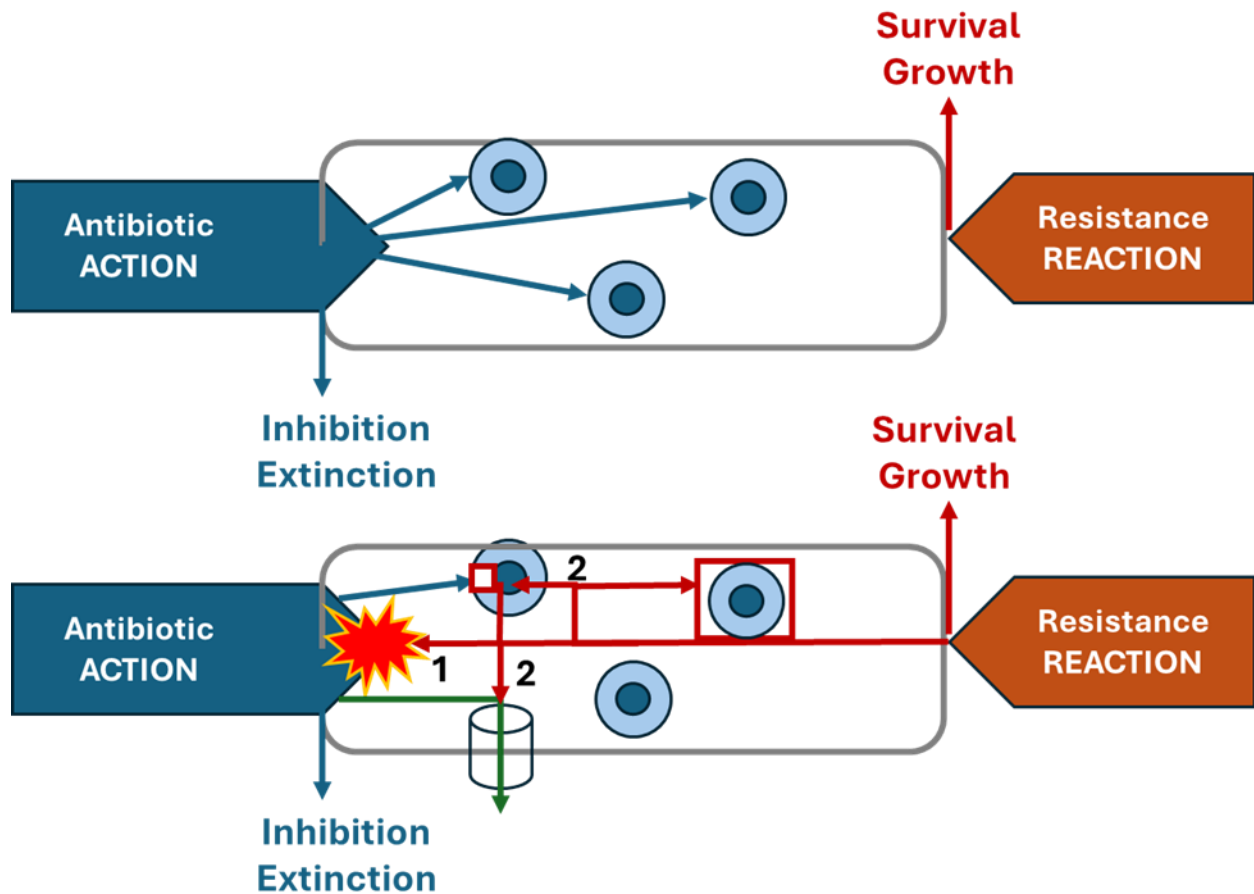
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**Table II: Antechodynamics: secondary effector molecules triggering the expression of genes involved in antibiotic resistance.**

<b>Antibiotics</b>	<b>Secondary effector molecules triggering antibiotic detoxification</b>	<b>Detoxification mechanism</b>
Beta-lactams	Muropeptides (murein fragments), Transmembrane sensor transducers MicroRNAs transcriptases	Induction beta-lactamases Induction beta-lactamases PBP degradation
Aminoglycosides	AttC-site integron recombinases 16SrRNA methyl-transferases AcrD efflux pump synthases	Increase acetyl-transferases Increase nucleotydyl-transferases Reduced ribosome binding Efflux pump AcrD
Macrolides Lincosamides, Streptogramins	23S-rRNA methyl-transferase	Reduced ribosome binding
Phenicols	23S-rRNA methyltransferase ATP binding cassette proteins	Reduced ribosome binding
Tetracyclines	<i>tetR</i> repressor-tetracycline complex TetM and TetO proteins	Expression efflux pump TetA Tetracycline target displacement
Fluoroquinolones	Qnr pentapeptide repeat protein, requiring integration host factors	DNA target protection
Fosfomycin	Two-component signal transduction	Decreased uptake
Sulphonamides	Two-component signal transduction activated by reduced thymidine levels	Increase in thymidine levels
Glyco- Lipopeptides	Two-component signal transduction	d-Ala-d-lac ligase, modifying the target in the cell wall
Polymyxins	Two-component signal transduction	Induction of lipid A acetylase, phosphoethanolamine, or 4-amino- 4-deoxy-L-arabinose transferases: target modification
Oxazolidinones	23S-rRNA methyltransferase ATP-binding cassette	Reduced ribosome binding Target modification
Fusidic acid	Elongation Factor-G-binding protein	Target protection
Nitrofurantoin	Two-component signal transduction	Lower transcription of nitroreductases with reduced nitrofurantoin effect.

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1571 Fig 1. Antibiotics action and Resistance reaction. Blue circles, antibiotic targets; when disturbed (dark green  
 1572 arrows), the result is bacterial extinction or growth inhibition. Molecules involved in resistance counteract  
 1573 antibiotics' action (red arrows), destroying or altering the antibiotic (blast) by antechodynamic primary (1)  
 1574 effectors, or secondary (2) effectors, acting by triggering primary effectors, preventing antibiotic-target  
 1575 binding (red squares), or pumping out the antibiotic (cylinder), as a result of the antibiotic action on targets.  
 1576 The result is bacterial cell survival or growth. Antibiotic pharmacology predicts antibiotic effectiveness;  
 1577 antechology predicts antibiotic resistance.

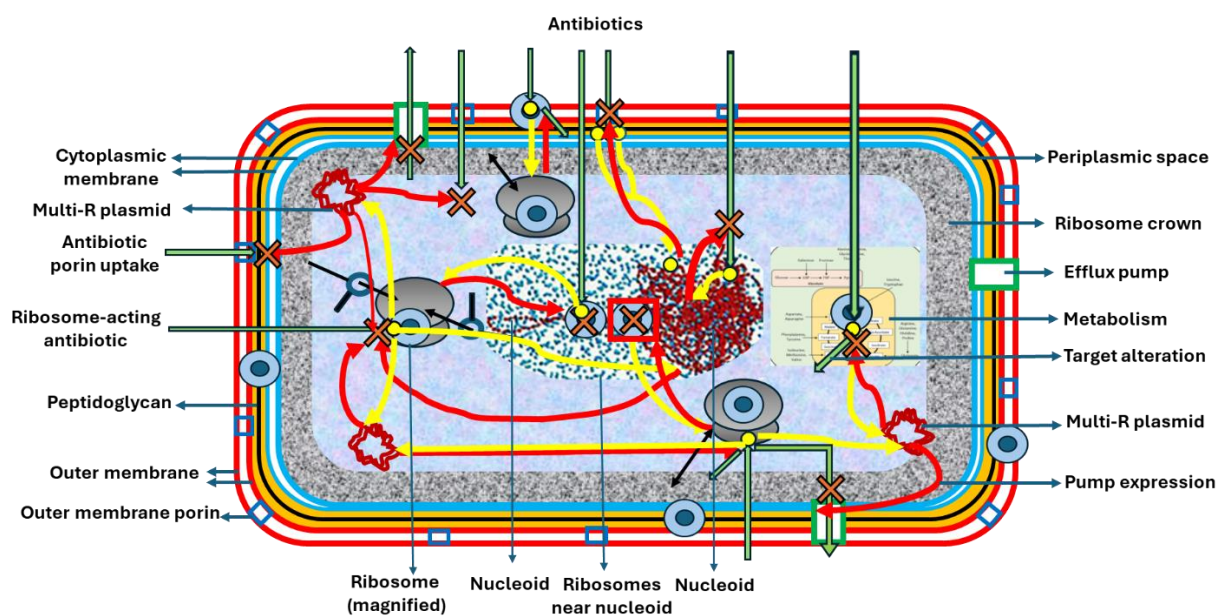
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1584 Fig 2. A schema of antechodynamic and antechokinetic processes in a bacterial cell. Blue double circles

1585 represent antibiotic targets. The dotted frame represents the bacterial ribosomes, mainly located in the

1586 region below the cytoplasmic membrane; the double grey ovals are a magnification of the ribosomes (see

1587 magnifying glasses). Green arrows represent antibiotics entering and eventually being detoxified, either

1588 destroyed, structurally modified to prevent binding to the target, or pumped out (red-bladed-crosses).

1589 Antechodynamic primary effector molecules (red lines) are directly targeting (often destroying or

1590 modifying) the antibiotic. Antechodynamic secondary effectors (yellow lines) are molecules resulting from

1591 antibiotic action that activate primary effectors or modify the antibiotic target preventing drug binding. The

1592 intracellular spatial trajectories of the detoxifying molecules (red and yellow lines), as their relative

1593 abundance in relation to the target density and their stability in the cell, are much less known aspects; this

1594 is the field of Antechokinetics. See the text for more detailed information.

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