

The broth microdilution method allows for the detection of macrolides, fluoroquinolones and rifampicin resistant *L. pneumophila*

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LEGIONELLES
Centre National de Référence



Antibiotic resistance: a growing issue in *L. pneumophila*

Classically described as "**constantly susceptible**" to:

Rifampicin

Fluoroquinolones

Macrolides

Antibiotic resistance: a growing issue in *L. pneumophila*

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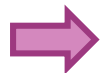
However,

In vitro, easy selection of **resistant** mutants

Nielsen *et al.*, 2000

1st **ciprofloxacin-resistant** clinical strain

Bruin *et al.*, 2014

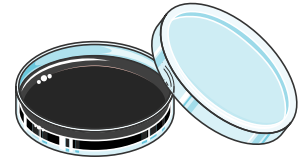


Need for a **standardized method** to detect *Legionella* **resistant** strains

Selection of *L. pneumophila* resistant strains

From the reference strain *L. pneumophila* Paris (ST1), selection of **resistance** to:

Rifampicin



By serial passages with ↗ **sub-inhibitory concentrations** of **rifampicin** on BCYE

Resistance

**10 independent
resistant lineages**

Unpublished work, French National
Reference Centre of *Legionella*

Reference
strain Paris



Resistance ↗



Resistance ↗↗



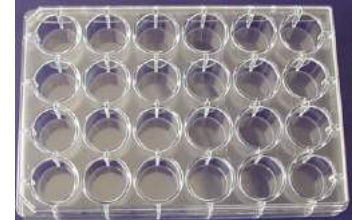
Resistance ↗↗↗

Increasing antibiotic
selection pressure

Selection of *L. pneumophila* resistant strains

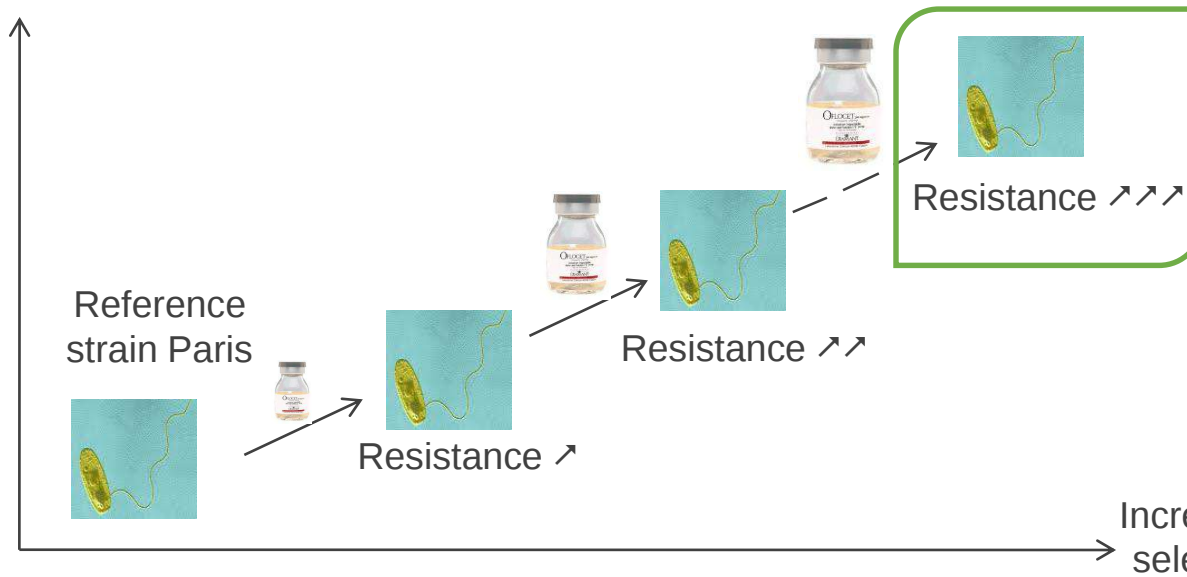
From the reference strain *L. pneumophila* Paris (ST1), selection of **resistance** to:

Fluoroquinolones



By serial passages with ↗ sub-inhibitory concentrations of **moxifloxacin** in liquid medium

Resistance



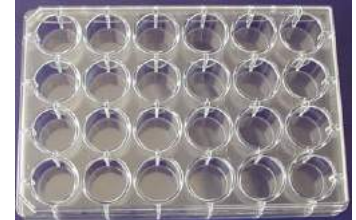
8 resistant lineages

Almahmoud et al., 2009

Selection of *L. pneumophila* resistant strains

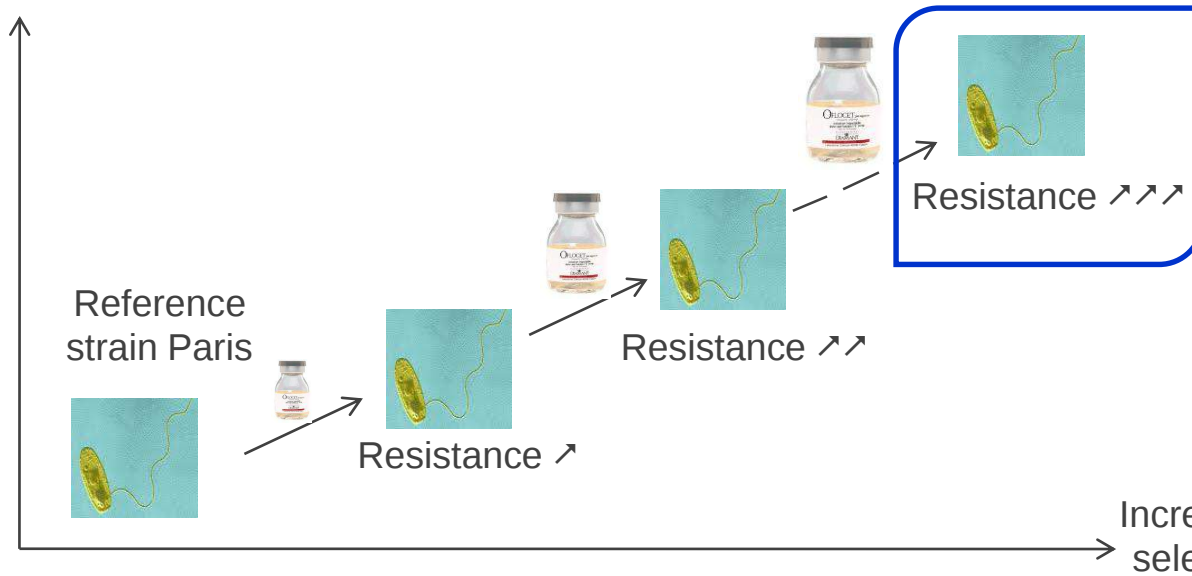
From the reference strain *L. pneumophila* Paris (ST1), selection of **resistance** to:

Macrolides



By serial passages with ↗ sub-inhibitory concentrations of erythromycin or azithromycin in liquid medium

Resistance



12 resistant lineages:
6 selected with erythromycin
6 selected with azithromycin

Unpublished work, French National
Reference Centre of *Legionella*

Objectives of our study

Determine the **minimum inhibitory concentrations** (MICs) of
rifampicin, fluoroquinolones and macrolides
by **broth microdilution method** for:

2 reference strains

109 clinical strains:
L. pneumophila serogroup 1,
(variable STs, severity levels)

Chidiac *et al.*, 2012

**10 rifampicin
resistant strains**

**8 fluoroquinolone
resistant strains**

**12 macrolide
resistant strains**

Comparison of MICs distributions



Distinct distributions ?

Susceptibility testing by broth microdilution method



Bacterial suspension
of each strain



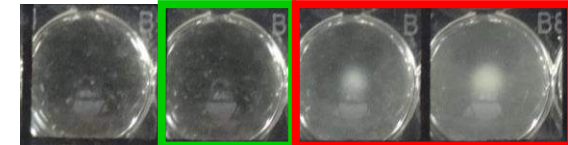
Decreasing 2-fold
concentrations of
antibiotics



Incubation 48 hours at 35°C

MIC

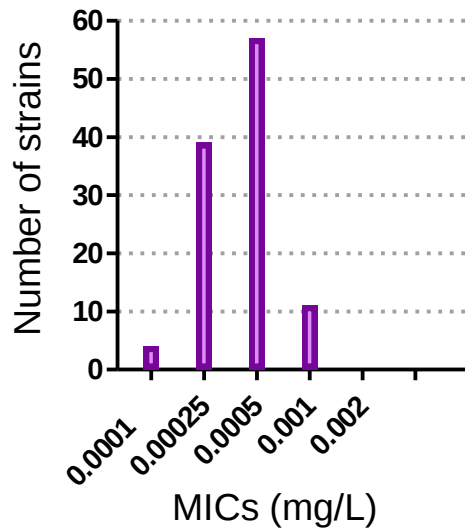
Growth



Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs)
= lowest antibiotic concentrations inhibiting visible bacterial growth

Rifampicin susceptibility

Clinical strains MICs:
0.00012 – 0.001 mg/L



Median: 0.0005 mg/L

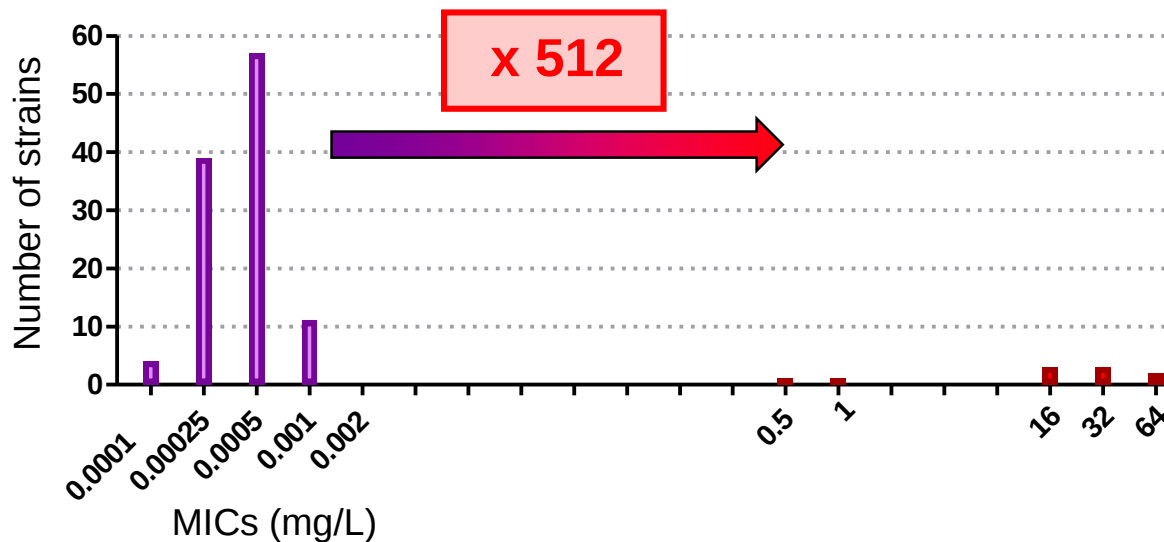
Resistance mechanisms: mutations in *rpoB* gene encoding **RNA polymerase**

Clinical strains MICs:

0.00012 – 0.001 mg/L

Resistant strains MICs:

0.5 - 64 mg/L



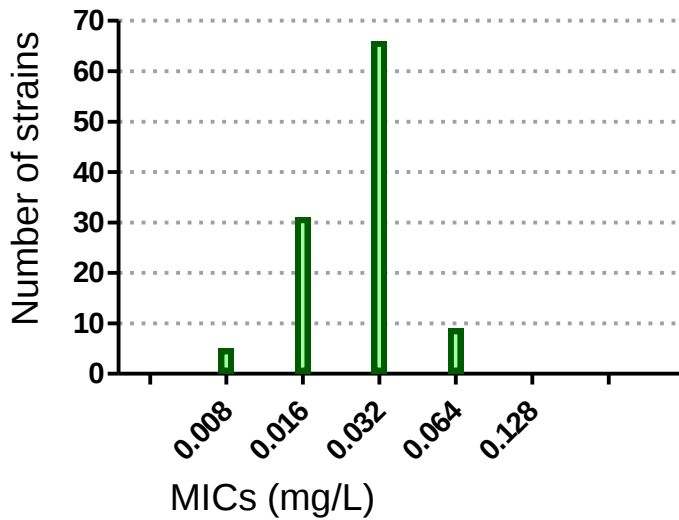
Mutation in *rpoB*

Median: 0.0005 mg/L

Median: 24 mg/L

Moxifloxacin

Clinical strains MICs:
0.008 – 0.064 mg/L

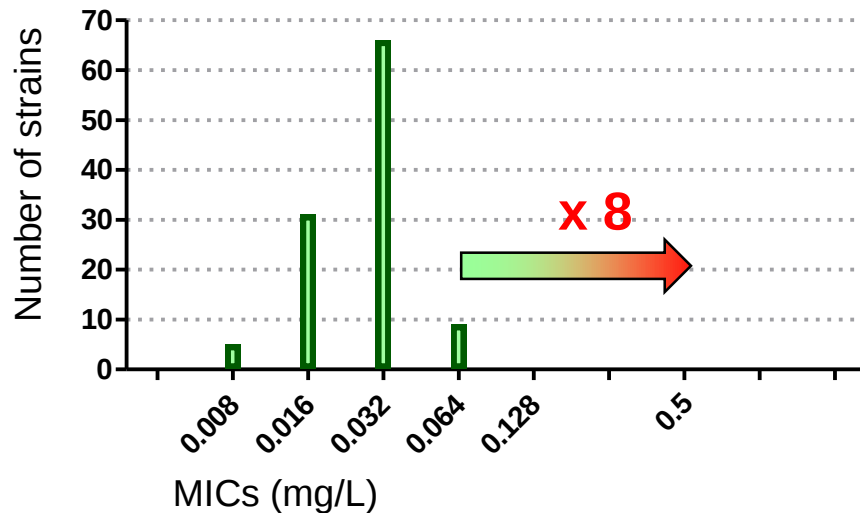


Median:
0.032 mg/L

Resistance mechanisms: mutations in **DNA gyrase** (*gyrA*)

Moxifloxacin

Clinical strains MICs:
0.008 – 0.064 mg/L



Median:
0.032 mg/L

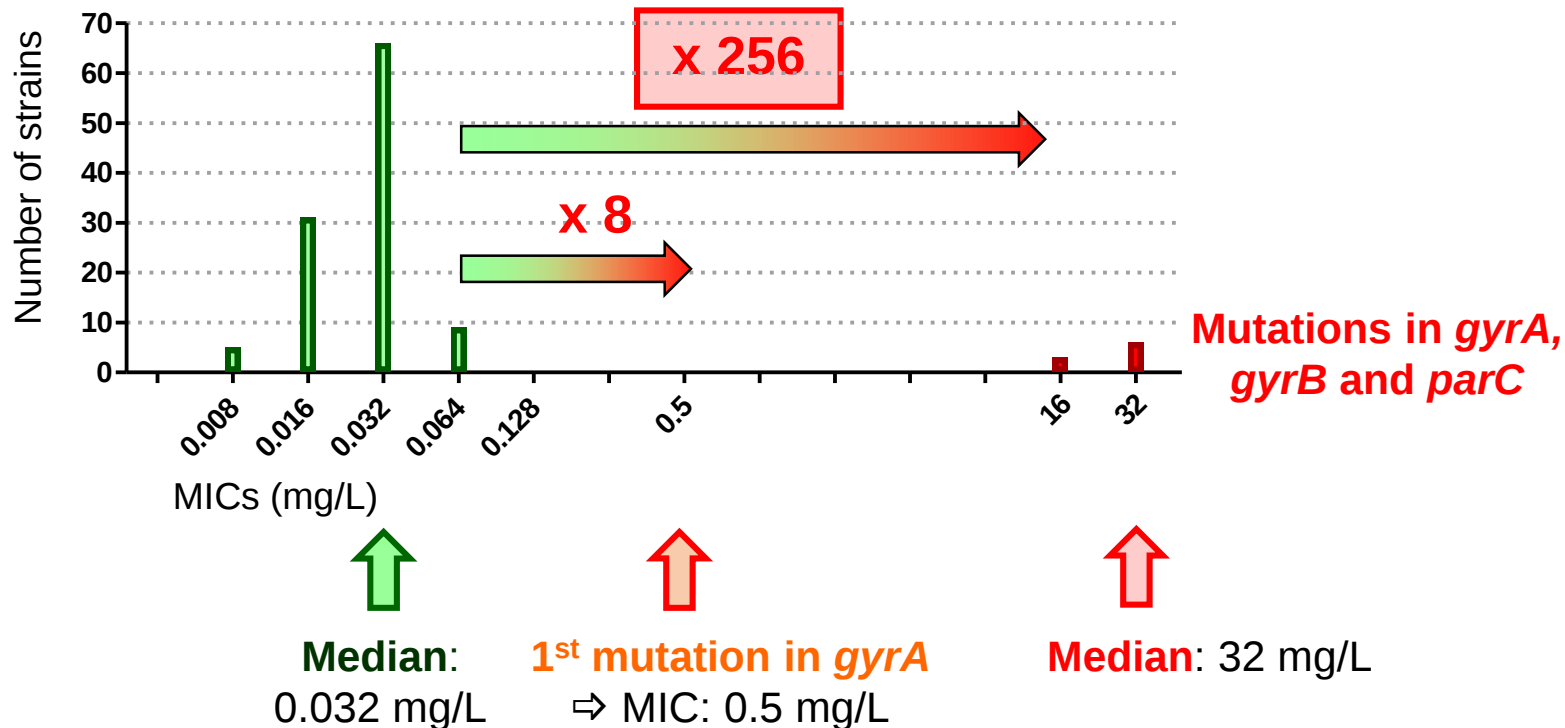
1st mutation in *gyrA*
⇒ MIC: 0.5 mg/L

Resistance mechanisms: mutations in **DNA gyrase** (*gyrA*, *gyrB*) and **topoisomerase IV** (*parC*)

Moxifloxacin

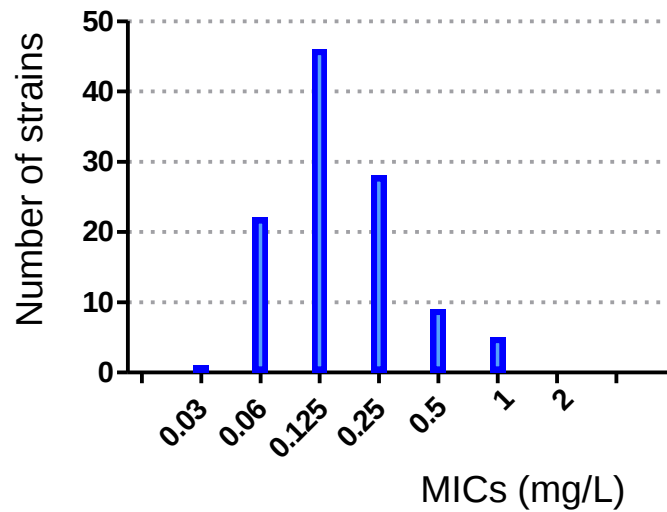
Clinical strains MICs:
0.008 – 0.064 mg/L

Resistant strains MICs:
16 – 32 mg/L



Erythromycin

Clinical strains MICs:
0.003 – 1 mg/L

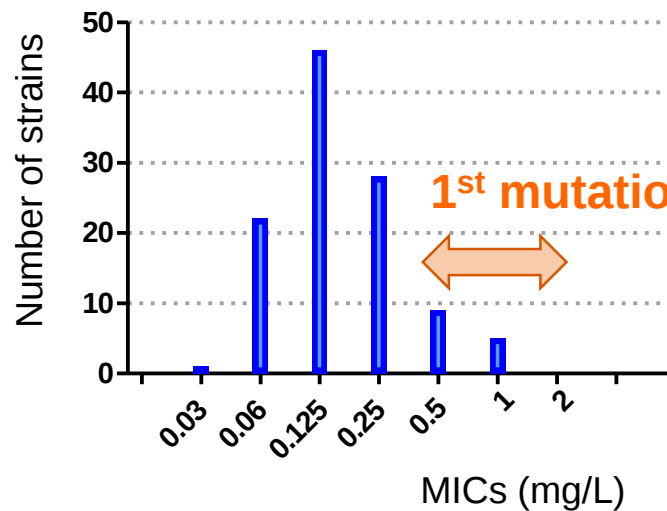


Median: 0.125 mg/L

Resistance mechanisms:
mutations in genes encoding **ribosomal proteins L4 / L22**

Erythromycin

Clinical strains MICs:
0.003 – 1 mg/L

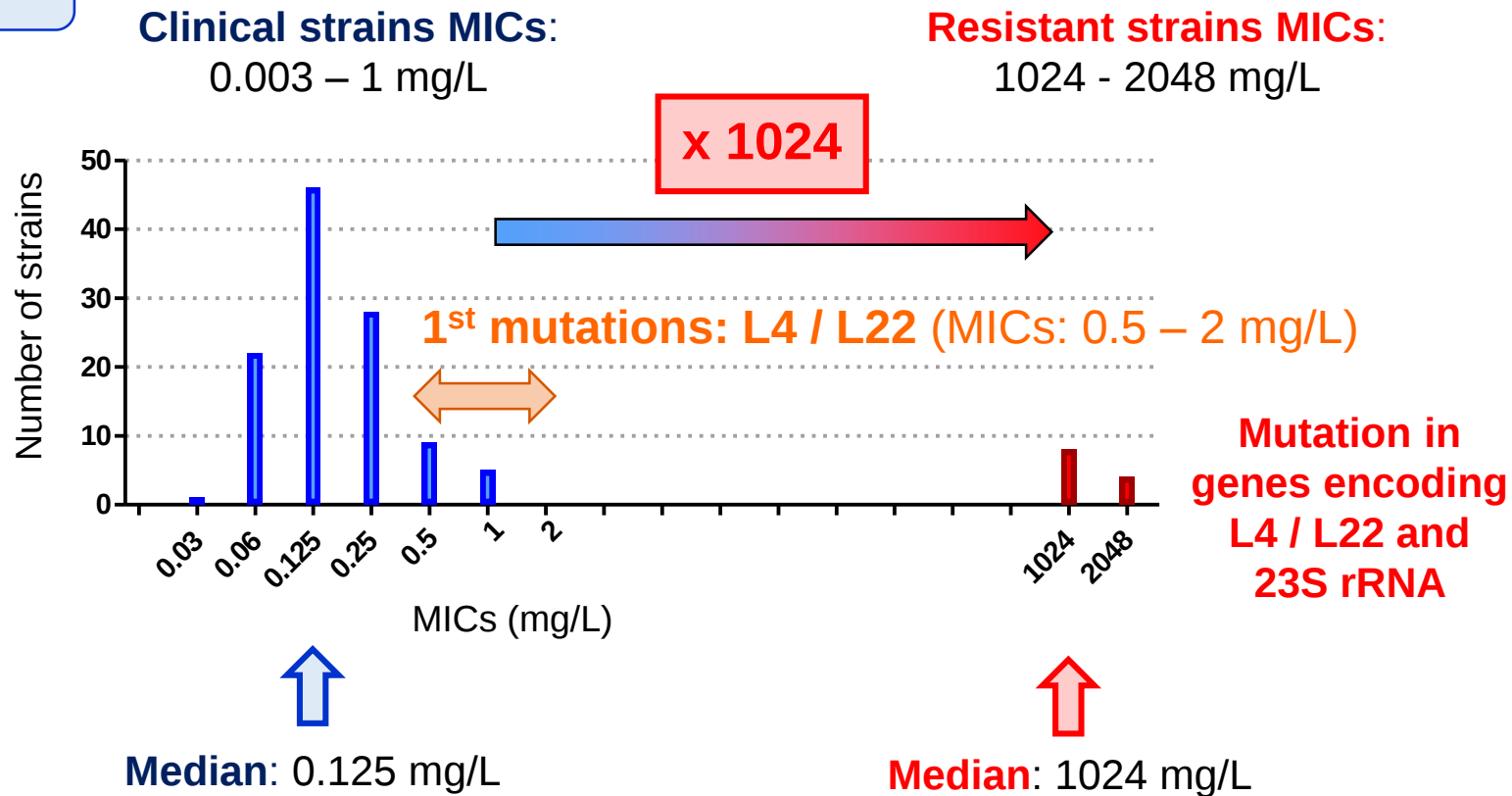


1st mutations: L4 / L22 (MICs: 0.5 – 2 mg/L)

Median: 0.125 mg/L

Resistance mechanisms:
mutations in genes encoding **ribosomal proteins L4 / L22** and **23S rRNA**

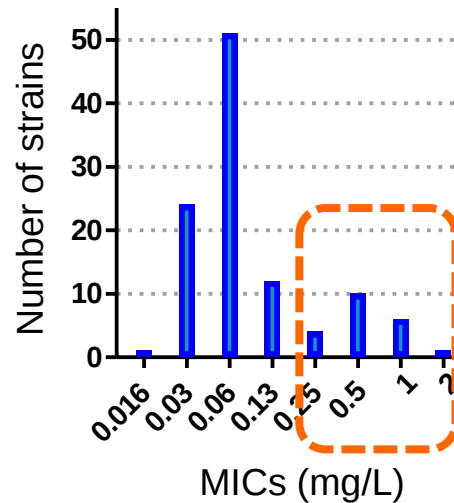
Erythromycin



Azithromycin specificity

Strains with **decreased susceptibility** ?

**Azithromycin
clinical strains MICs:**
0.016 – 2 mg/L



Common features ?
(a single clone ?)



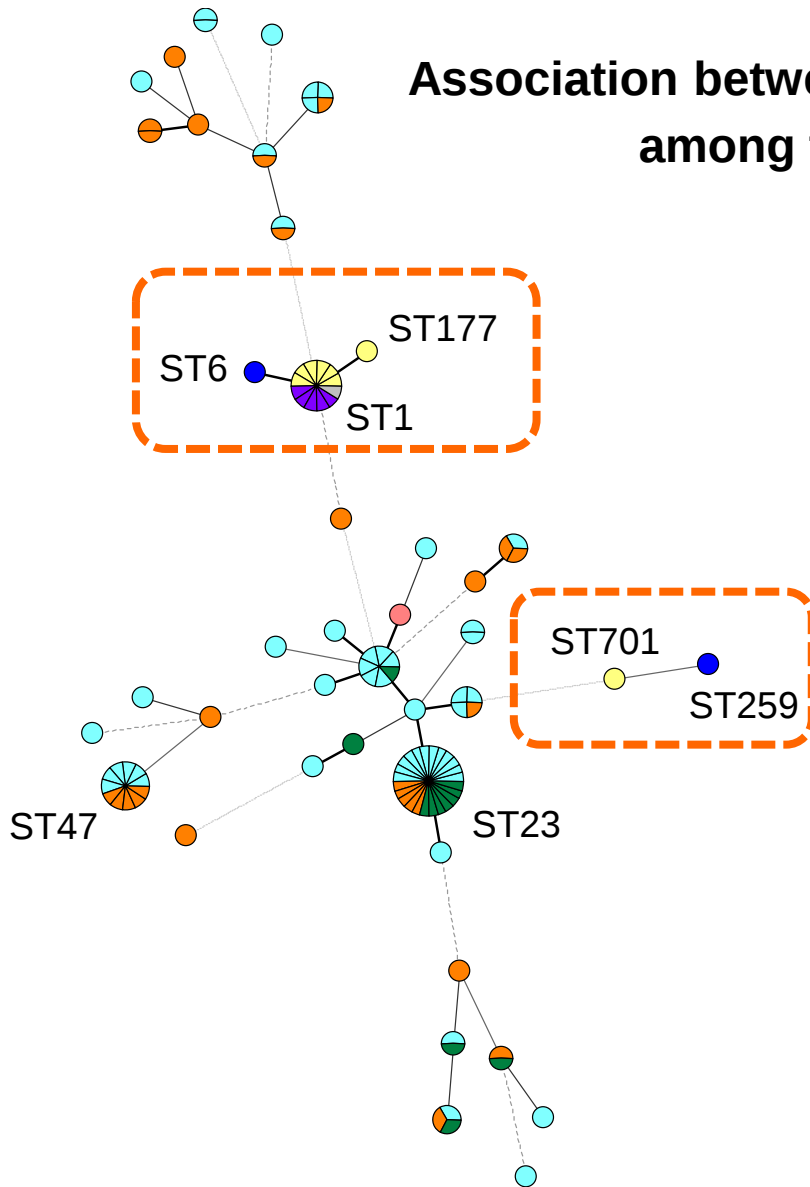
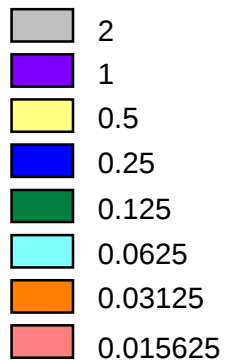
Median: 0.06 mg/L

Azithromycin specificity

Association between STs (sequence types) and MICs among the 109 clinical strains

Strains with
**decreased
susceptibility**

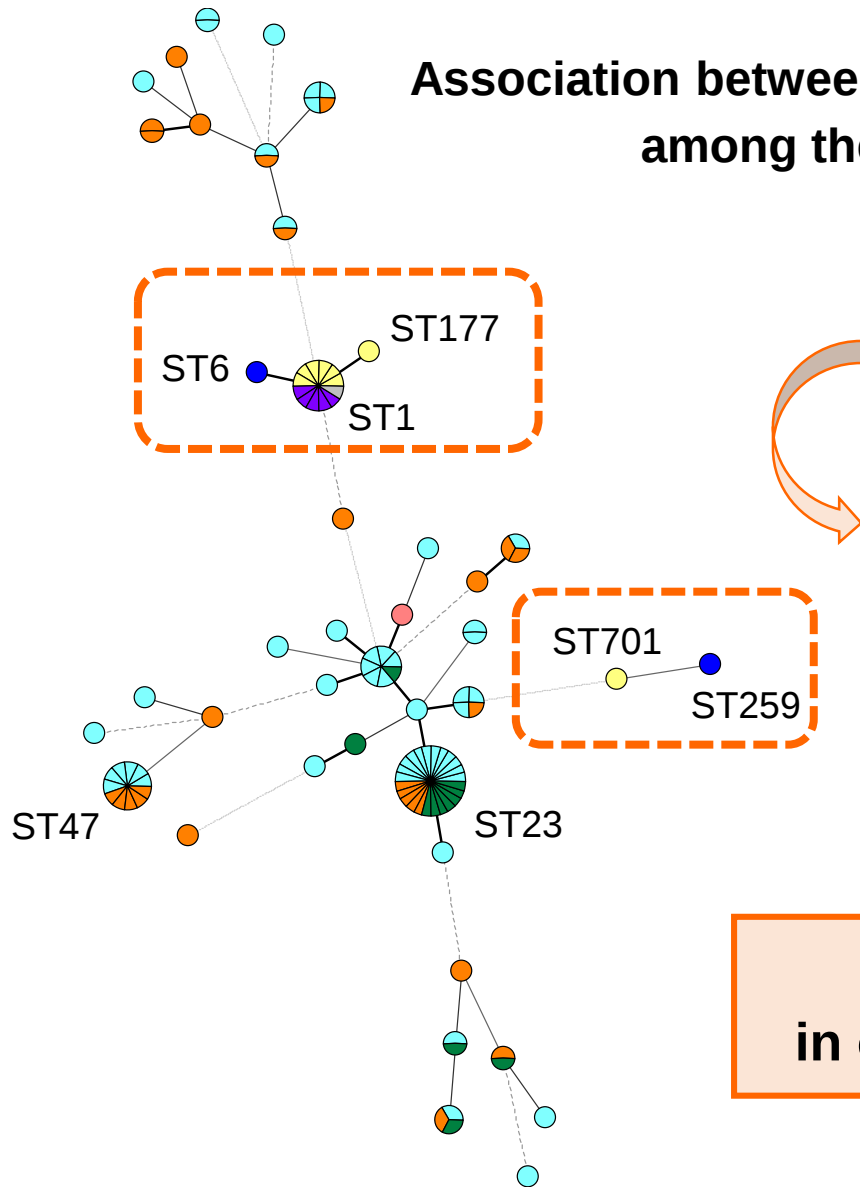
Azithromycin
MICs (mg/L)



Azithromycin specificity

Association between STs (sequence types) and MICs among the 109 clinical strains

Strains with
**decreased
susceptibility**



No mutation in genes
encoding **L4 or L22**

**Another common resistance
mechanism ?**

**To be discussed
in our next presentation ...**

Schematic MICs distributions of *L. pneumophila* strains:

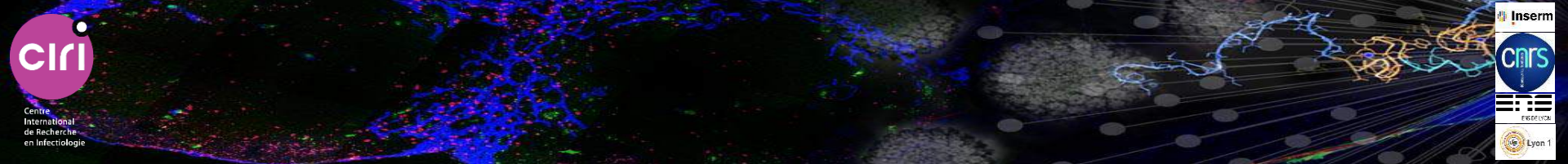
Resistance level Antibiotics	Susceptible	Low-level resistance	High-level resistance
Rifampicin			 <i>rpoB</i>
Fluoroquinolones		 <i>gyrA</i>	 <i>gyrA</i> , <i>gyrB</i> and <i>parC</i>
Macrolides	  L4 / L22		 23S rRNA, L4 / L22

Bacteriology Laboratory, Grenoble Hospital National Reference Centre of *Legionella*, Lyon

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Thank you for your attention

Any question ?



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