

Comparative in vitro activity of new oral macrolides against *Streptococcus pyogenes* strains Actividad comparativa in vitro de nuevos macrolidos orales frente a cepas de *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

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Some recently introduced macrolides have several clinical advantages over erythromycin.

Azithromycin, a prototype of these new macrolides could be a good alternative for the treatment of streptococcal pharyngitis, even over penicillin, whose failure rate can be as high as 30%. The aim of this study was to evaluate the in vitro susceptibility of 120 strains of *S pyogenes* isolated between 1990 and 1992 (40 per year), from diverse infections (specially tonsillitis). We determined Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) of azithromycin, clarithromycin, roxithromycin, erythromycin and penicillin using the agar dilution method and the Minimal Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) by tube dilution for azithromycin and erythromycin. The MIC 90 for the new macrolides ranged from 0.03 to 0.12 microgram/ml, and was 0.03 microgram/ml for erythromycin and penicillin (not different). All strains were susceptible to all antibiotics and the date of isolation did not influence susceptibility.

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