

Olivier Friedli<sup>1</sup>, Peter Keller<sup>1</sup>, Jacques Schrenzel<sup>2</sup>, Andreas Kronenberg<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Infectious Diseases (IFID), University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup>Bacteriology Laboratory and Genomic Research Laboratory, Geneva University Hospitals, Switzerland

## Background

- Surveillance of multidrug-resistant (MDR) microorganisms is key to national antimicrobial resistance programs
- Gram-negative MDR microorganisms (GN-MDRO) in particular MDR Enterobacterales (MDR-E) are increasing worldwide.
- In Switzerland, there is no generally accepted definition of GN-MDRO, neither for epidemiological surveillance nor for the purpose of infection prevention control (IPC).

## Objectives

- Development of two MDR-E definitions for Switzerland, one for epidemiological use and one for infection control purposes.
- International definitions are taken as a basis and adapted to the local test algorithms as well as to the resistance situation prevailing in Switzerland.

## Method

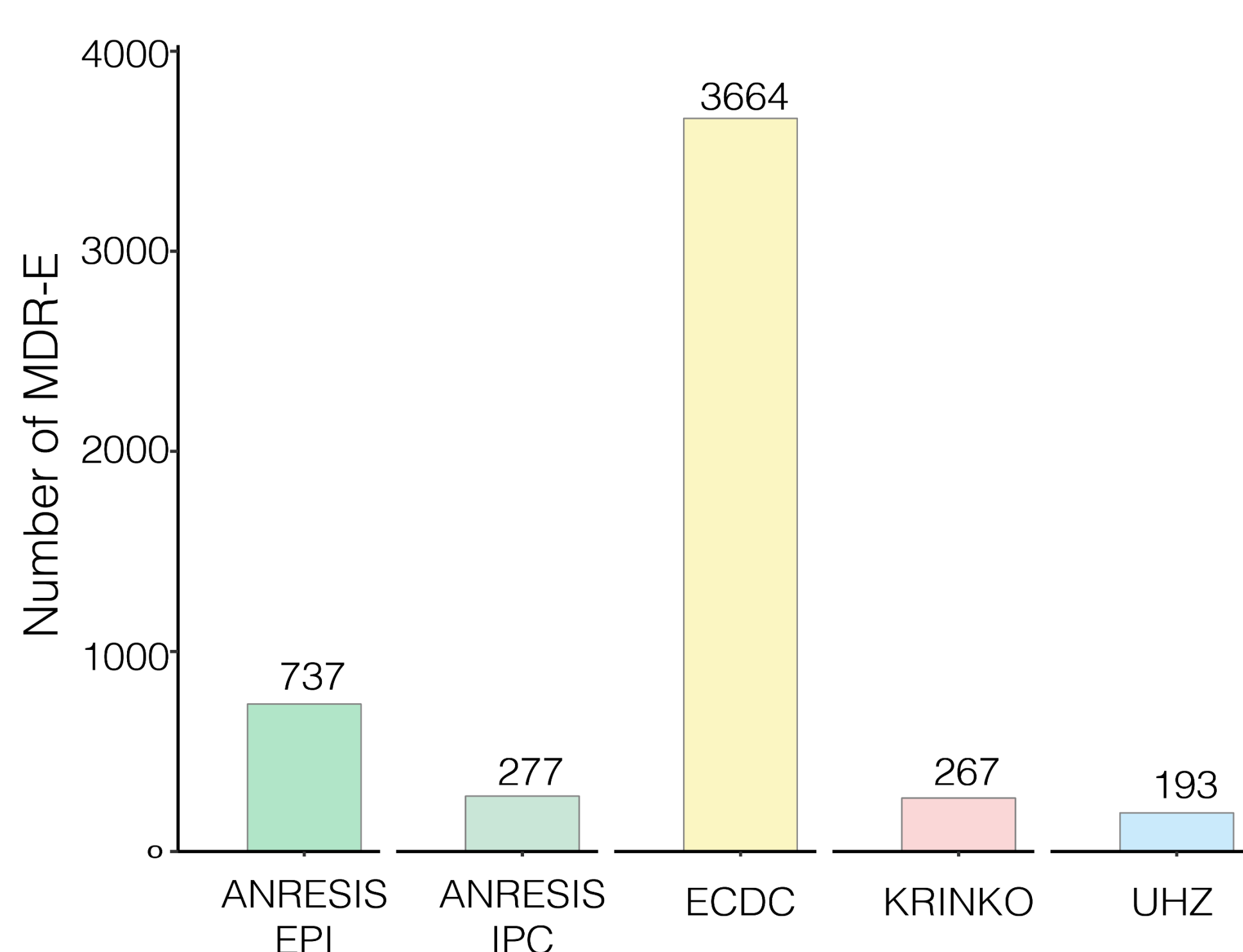
Using qualitative susceptibility data (S,I,R) from invasive isolates from 2019-2020 from the ANRESIS database, we analyzed test algorithms used by Swiss laboratories and cross-resistance within antibiotic groups to determine two different MDR-E definitions depending on the intended use, a broader one for epidemiological surveillance ("ANRESIS-EPI") and a more restrictive one for infection control ("ANRESIS-IPC"). Using these algorithms, the rates of invasive MDR-E identified in our national dataset were compared with international and national definitions.

**Table 1** Different MDR definition criteria and the corresponding antibiotic panels per antibiotic group for Enterobacterales are listed. The ECDC<sup>1</sup> definition contains 17 antibiotic categories, of which only the five categories corresponding to the other definitions are listed in the table.

Antibiotic category	ANRESIS-EPI	ANRESIS-IPC	ECDC	KRINKO	UHZ
Aminoglycosides	At least 1 of: amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin	Amikacin and gentamicin	Gentamicin or tobramycin or amikacin or netilmicin		At least 2 of: amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin
Antipseudomonal penicillins + BLI	Piperacillin-tazobactam	Piperacillin-tazobactam	Ticarcillin-clavulanic acid or piperacillin-tazobactam	Piperacillin-tazobactam	Piperacillin-tazobactam
Carbapenems	At least 1 of: ertapenem, imipenem, meropenem	Imipenem and/or meropenem	Ertapenem or imipenem or meropenem or doripenem	Imipenem and/or meropenem	At least 2 of: ertapenem, imipenem, meropenem
Fluoroquinolones	Ciprofloxacin and/or levofloxacin	Ciprofloxacin	Ciprofloxacin	Ciprofloxacin	Ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin
3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins	At least 1 of: Ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, cefepime	Cefepime and ceftazidime	Cefotaxime or ceftriaxone or ceftazidime or cefepime	Cefotaxime and/or ceftazidime	Ceftriaxone and ceftazidime and cefepime
MDR definition criteria	MDR-E: resistant to at least 3 categories out of 5 categories	MDR-E: resistant to at least 3 categories out of 5 categories	MDR-E: resistant to at least 3 categories out of 17 categories	MDR-E: resistant to at least 3 categories out of 4 categories	MDR-E: resistant to at least 3 categories out of 5 categories

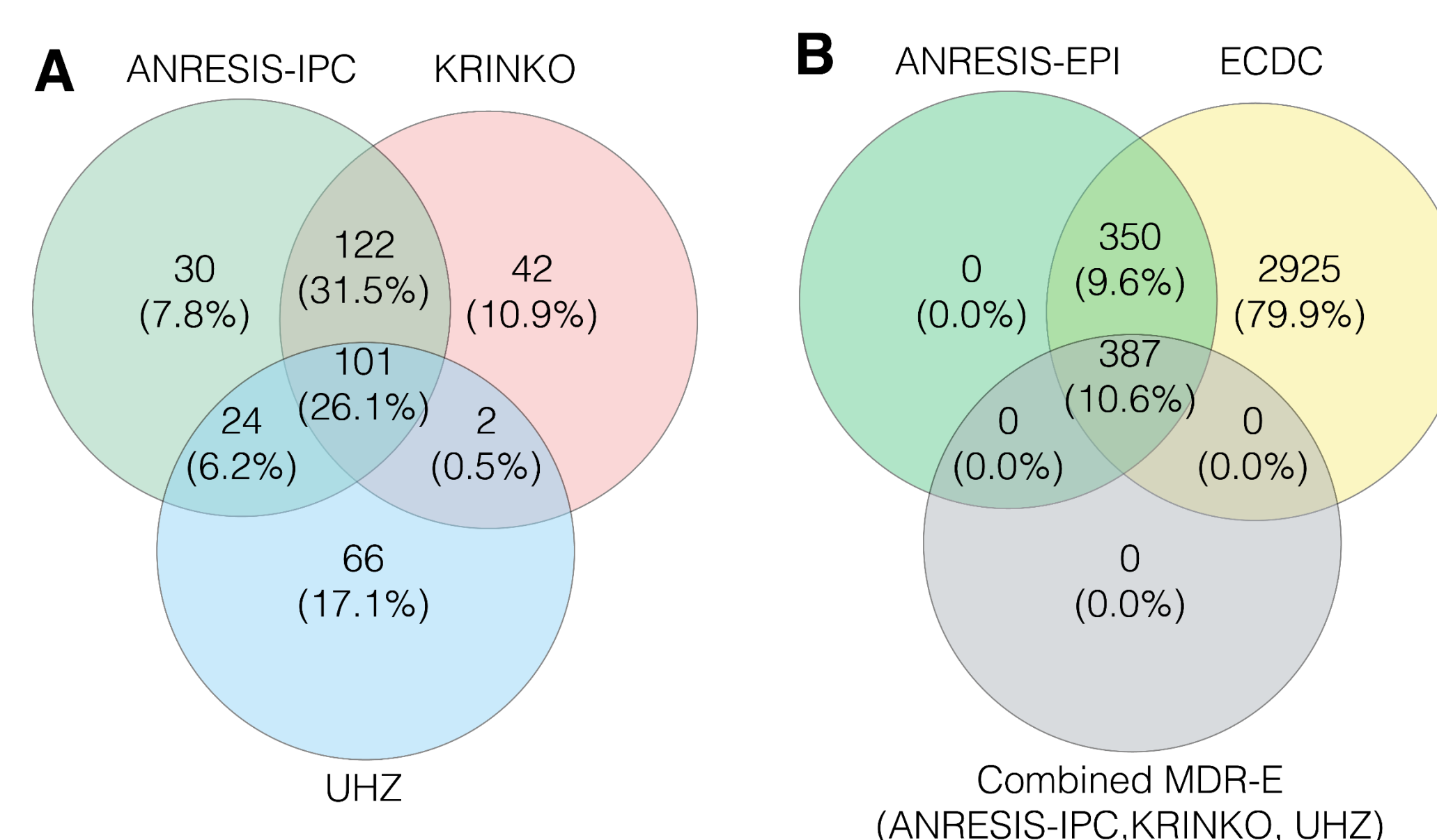
## Results

The highest MDR-E rates were found using the "ECDC-MDR" definition (N=3664). The number of MDR-E identified by using the ANRESIS-IPC (N=277) definition was comparable to those detected with the KRINKO<sup>2</sup> (N=267) respectively UHZ<sup>3</sup> definition (N=193) (Figure 1).



**Figure 1** Number of Enterobacterales isolates (N=16'879) meeting the respective MDR criteria are displayed.

The isolates classified as MDR-E by UHZ, KRINKO and ANRESIS-IPC (N=387) differed markedly. Only 101 of the isolates (26.1%) were commonly classified as MDR-E according to the KRINKO, UHZ and ANRESIS-IPC definitions (Figure 2). However, using the ANRESIS EPI definition, all of these 387 isolates are recognized as MDR-E.



**Figure 2** **A)** Overlap in the number of Enterobacterales isolates classified as MDR after applying KRINKO, UHZ, and ANRESIS-IPC definitions. **B)** Overlap in Enterobacterales isolates classified as MDR-E after application of the ECDC, ANRESIS-EPI, and isolates collectively classified as MDR-E with KRINKO, USZ, and ANRESIS-IPC definitions.

## Conclusion

The application of different MDR definitions leads not only to considerable variations in the rates of MDR-E, but also in the isolates that are finally classified as MDR-E. Different testing algorithms in Swiss laboratories make a uniform MDR-E definition difficult. The need for different definitions for different purposes and the importance of a commonly defined screening antibiotic panel are highlighted in this study.

## References

1. Magiorakos, et al. 2012; *Clin Microbiol Infect* 18 (3): 268–81.
2. KRINKO (2012). Bundesgesundheitsblatt Gesundheitsforschung Gesundheitsschutz 55(10): 1244-1310.
3. Wolfensberger, A., et al. (2019); *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control* 8: 193