Study title: Partial oral treatment of left-sided infectious endocarditis - The POET trial


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Declaration of interest

- I have nothing to declare
Conclusions

• Efficacy and safety of shifting to oral antibiotic treatment was non-inferior to continued intravenous antibiotic treatment in
  – stabilized patients with left-sided endocarditis caused by
  – streptococcus spp, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus, or coagulase-negative staphylococci
  – across co-morbidities, native vs prosthetic valve and surgically vs conservatively Tx

• Oral antibiotics may safely be administered during approximately
  – half of the recommended antibiotic treatment period
  – potentially as outpatient treatment

• More than 50% of patients with endocarditis may be candidates to partial oral antibiotic treatment
Background

- Infectious endocarditis is treated with iv antibiotics for up to 6 weeks – in-hospital
- High in-hospital complication- and mortality rates - but mainly in the early phase
- After stabilization the main reason for staying in hospital is to receive iv antibiotics
- Hospital stays *per se* may cause complications
Purpose and key points about methods

We tested if

• Orally administered antibiotics and
• Intravenously administered antibiotics

have similar efficacy and safety - in a Danish nationwide randomised study of 400 stabilised patients with endocarditis
Primary endpoint
(All cause mortality, unplanned cardiac surgery, embolic events or relapse of bacteremia)

Difference 3.1%, 95% CI: -3.4% - 9.6%, Non-inferiority met

HR 0.72, 95% CI 0.39-1.33
Key messages

• Oral antibiotics (tablets) are as effective as intravenous antibiotics in selected patients
• Impact on clinical practice: This new treatment may halve the hospital stays for patients with a heart valve infection
• Impact for man on the street: In most patients with even serious infections of heart valves treatment with antibiotics as tablets is as good as presently used injections of antibiotics.