

1 **THE NEPHROTOXICITY OF AMINOGLYCOSIDES IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERE**
2 **SEPSIS OR SEPTIC SHOCK: A PROPENSITY BASED STUDY**

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 To assess the risk of acute kidney injury (AKI) attributable to aminoglycosides (AG) in
26 patients with severe sepsis or septic shock, we performed a retrospective cohort study in one
27 medical intensive care unit (ICU) in France. Patients admitted for severe sepsis/septic shock
28 between November 2008 and January 2010 were eligible. A propensity score for AG
29 administration was built with day 1 (D1) demographic and clinical characteristics. Patients
30 still on the ICU on D3 were included. Patients with renal failure before D3 or endocarditis
31 were excluded. The time window for assessment of renal risk was D3-D15, defined according
32 to the Risk, Injury, Failure, Loss, and End-Stage Renal Disease (RIFLE) classification. The
33 AKI risk was assessed by means of a propensity-adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression
34 analysis. Of 317 consecutive patients, 198 received AGs. The SAPS II score and nosocomial
35 origin of infection favoured the use of AGs whereas a pre-existing renal insufficiency and the
36 neurological site of infection decreased the propensity for AG treatment. 103 patients with
37 renal failure before D3 were excluded. AG were given once-daily over 2.6 ± 1.1 days. AKI
38 occurred in 16.3% of patients in a median time of 6 [5-10] days. After adjustment to the
39 clinical course and exposure to other nephrotoxic agents between D1 and D3, a propensity-
40 adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression analysis showed no increased risk of AKI in
41 patients receiving AGs (aRR = 0.75 [0.32-1.76]). In conclusion, in critically septic patients
42 presenting without early renal failure, an aminoglycoside therapy for less than 3 days was not
43 associated with an increased risk of AKI.

44

45 Introduction

46 Aminoglycosides (AGs) have a bactericidal activity, which has been proven to be synergic
47 with β lactams. If adding an aminoglycoside (AG) to a standard antibiotic treatment did not
48 translate into a reduction of mortality in NGB sepsis in subgroups of patients with globally
49 moderate degrees of severity (1), a decrease in mortality was recently reported in a meta-
50 analysis comparing a bithérapie versus a β lactam alone in patients with septic shock (2). In
51 addition, AGs widen the spectrum of the antibiotic treatment, which should be advantageous
52 in populations with an increased risk of resistant bacteria, such as intensive care unit (ICU)
53 patients (3, 4). Empiric antibiotic treatments including AGs could be more appropriate in up
54 to 15-20% compared with a β lactam alone (5, 6). In the ICU setting, modifications of the
55 empiric antibiotic treatment or the addition of a new antibiotic occur less frequently after
56 bithérapie including an AG compared with monotherapy (7).

57 Unfortunately, nephrotoxicity is an important potential limitation of AGs. There is a
58 consensus that AG-related nephrotoxicity has decreased over years due to better consideration
59 of both reduced duration of treatment and once daily administration (8). However, in ICU
60 patients, higher doses have been recommended (9) as an increased volume of distribution
61 (Vd) has been described (10). These aggressive doses could be responsible for higher
62 nephrotoxicity incidence. To date, a decrease in renal function has been observed in 5-14% of
63 patients receiving AGs according to a wide definition ($>33\%$ decrease in creatinine clearance
64 (CrCl) \pm plasma creatinine increase $\geq 0.3\text{mg/dL}$) or a more restrictive definition ($>50\%$
65 decrease in CrCl \pm plasma creatinine increase $\geq 0.5\text{mg/dL}$) (11-13). Both definitions may
66 overestimate AG-associated renal toxicity and the addition of criteria for tubular damage to
67 the definitions based on plasma creatinine lowers the incidence of AG-related nephrotoxicity
68 by 2- or 3-fold (13, 14). Conversely, a recent score designed to assess acute kidney injury

69 (AKI) in severely septic patients (the RIFLE score (15)) found 24% AKI in patients receiving
70 AGs (16).

71 These controversial data suggest that AG-associated AKI might not be solely attributed to
72 AGs because of the frequent confounding factors associated with AKI (17-19), such as septic
73 shock *per se*, other nephrotoxic drugs (20), direct effect of bacterial toxins and comorbidities
74 such as diabetes or altered baseline renal function. The aim of this study was to assess the
75 AG-attributed AKI (the real AG nephrotoxicity) in patients with septic shock or severe sepsis.

76

77 **Materials and methods**

78 *Design and ethical aspects*

79 This was a retrospective, observational study performed in a single 28-bed medical ICU from
80 November 2008 to January 2010. The study protocol was approved by the Ethical committee
81 of the Société de Réanimation de Langue Française. Written consent was waived because of
82 the observational nature of the study.

83 *Inclusion, exclusion criteria and recruitment period*

84 The first part of the study consisted in including all patients admitted for or who developed
85 septic shock or severe sepsis. Factors associated with the administration of AGs in septic
86 shock or severe sepsis on day 1 (D1) were studied in this first set of patients.

87 Adult patients still in the ICU on D3 were eligible for inclusion in the second part of the study
88 aiming at the determination of the nephrotoxicity risk associated with AG treatment (primary
89 objective). Patients who had another indication for AG such as endocarditis, even complicated
90 by severe sepsis, were excluded. Patients with renal failure before D3 (either those under
91 chronic renal replacement therapy or with acute tubular necrosis needing renal replacement
92 therapy) were excluded as the distinction between aspecific renal failure and the specific
93 AGs-associated nephrotoxicity would be impossible in these patients. Patients with D1 renal
94 clearance of less than $56.25 \text{ ml/mn}/1.73\text{m}^2$ (I category of the RIFLE score (21)) followed by a
95 severe decrease until D3 without the need for renal replacement therapy (D1/D3 renal
96 clearance $>1 + \text{D3 renal clearance} < 37.5 \text{ ml/mn}/1.73\text{m}^2$ before D3) were also excluded, since
97 this decrease cannot either be attributed to AGs. Studied parameters were collected from D1
98 to the end of study, i.e., D15, day of discharge or day of death when occurring before D15.

99 *Objectives*

100 The primary objective of this study was the assessment of the AKI risk from D3 to D15, in
101 patients having received AGs, in comparison with patients who did not receive AGs.

102 The secondary objectives were the identification of factors associated with the administration
103 of AGs in severe sepsis or septic shock and the description of AG treatment in a population of
104 ICU patients with severe sepsis or septic shock.

105 The AKI was defined by the increase of the RIFLE score (21) from

106 1) (No risk + creatinine clearance > 56.25 ml/mn/1.73m² on D3) to (Risk, Injury or
107 Failure from D3 to D15)

108 2) Risk category (37.5 ml/mn/1,73m² $<crCl<$ 56.25 ml/min/1.73m²) to Injury or
109 Failure.

110 Creatinine clearance was calculated on a daily basis using daily serum creatinine and the
111 simple modified modification in diet in renal disease (MDRD) which is supposed to provide
112 estimation of the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) (15). For each patient included in the
113 cohort, the charts were reviewed and the following data were recorded: demographic
114 variables, Simplify Acute Physiology Score II (SAPS II) at the end of D1, Sequential Organ
115 Failure Assessment (SOFA) at the end of D1 and D3, type, cause and severity of infection
116 (severe sepsis and septic shock were defined according to the international guidelines (23)),
117 nephrotoxic drugs and intravenous (iv) iodate contrast used at admission and all along the
118 stay, other risk factors for nephrotoxicity (i.e. diabetes mellitus, presence of a single
119 functional kidney, cirrhosis, kidney graft, pre-existing renal failure, rhabdomyolysis (defined
120 by CPK >500 IU/L)).

121 The duration of therapy, the dose and serum concentrations of AGs were also recorded.

122 *AG treatment*

123 In the ICU, AGs were always combined with β lactams. Gentamicin (G) was recommended
124 for treatment of infections due to Gram-positive or community-acquired Gram-negative

125 bacteria, whereas amikacin (A) was recommended for treatment of nosocomial-acquired
126 Gram-negative bacteria infections. Tobramycin was not recommended. Doses and
127 adjustments were checked daily by senior physicians with expertise in infectious diseases (AB
128 and DG). The AG loading dose was calculated according to the total body weight (TBW) (20
129 mg/kg for A and 7 mg/kg for G) (10, 24). This regimen was defined according to an expected
130 mean Vd of 0.3 to 0.4 L/kg and a target peak concentration of 25-30 mg/L for G and 40-50
131 mg/L for A. If the observed peak was <20 mg/L for G or <35 mg/l for A, the daily dose was
132 increased by 1.25-1.3 fold. Inversely if the peak was >35 mg/L for G or >55 mg/l for A, the
133 daily dose was reduced in the same proportions. If the trough was >2.5 mg/L for G and 5
134 mg/L for A, the AG injection was delayed until the target trough was obtained. Peak was
135 assessed 30 minutes after the end of AG infusion and trough just before the following one,
136 except for the last administration. A maximum of 5 days of AG therapy was recommended.
137 The area under the curve (AUC) were calculated from the peak and trough of the same
138 interval by using a one-compartment PK model.

139 *Statistical analysis*

140 The categorical variables were compared using Chi-squared test and continuous variables
141 were compared using the Student's *t*. In order to adjust for confounding factors of AKI that
142 could have participated in the decision to administrate AG, a propensity score of AG
143 treatment was built with D1 variables (the day of sepsis and antibiotic initiation). All the
144 variables supposed to interact with the decision were considered. On D3, once patients
145 meeting prespecified criteria had been excluded, the time to AKI was examined by Kaplan-
146 Meier and propensity-adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression analyses. The dependant
147 binary variable was the AKI occurrence and AG treatment was the primary independent
148 variable. Most of the other independent variables having been already considered in the
149 propensity score, only new nephrotoxic treatments (after D1 and until either AKI or the end of

150 the study, i.e. D15 or before if death or discharge), and the evolution of sepsis by delta SOFA
151 (D3-D1) were added to this model. Adjusted relative risks were computed for variables in the
152 final model. A p value of 0.05 was considered significant. All calculations were computed
153 using SAS version 9.3 (SAS corporation, Cary, NC).

154

155 **Results**

156 *Day 1 results and propensity score*

157 Between November 2008 and January 2010, 317 adult patients were consecutively included
158 in the study. AGs had been administered to 198 patients. Septic shock was present in 227
159 (71.6%) whereas 90 (28.4%) had a severe sepsis (table 1). In table 2 are described the
160 variables constituting the propensity score for AG treatment. The most significant factors
161 associated with AG administration were the SAPS II score and the nosocomial origin of
162 infection which both favoured the decision to use AG treatment. In turn, a pre-existing renal
163 insufficiency and the neurological site of infection both decreased the propensity for AG
164 treatment. The distribution of the propensity score for receiving AG according to the true AG
165 administration shows that a number of patients had an intermediate score (data not shown).
166 Once adjusted for the propensity score, no difference between patients receiving or not AGs
167 was observed anymore (data not shown).

168 *Day 3 results*

169 Between D1 and D3, 103 patients among 317 were excluded, among whom 72 for either
170 initial severe AKI (n=58) or renal replacement therapy (n=14) (AGs were administered in two
171 thirds of these patients (n=48)). The remaining population of 214 patients had a mean length
172 of ICU and hospital stay of respectively 16 ± 16 and 38 ± 60 days. Twenty-one died before D15
173 (10%). Among these 214 patients, 150 received AGs. The mean duration of AG therapy was
174 2.6 ± 1.1 days. Amikacin was prescribed in 74% and gentamicin in 26%. Results of drug
175 monitoring including trough and peak determinations are shown in table 3. The area under the
176 curve (AUC) of gentamicin was 200 ± 114 mg.h/L and 537 ± 590 mg.h/L for amikacin. Figure 1
177 represents the distribution of the propensity score, according to whether AGs were given or
178 not, in the 214 patients. AKI occurred in 35 patients (16.3%) with a median delay of 6 [5-10]
179 days. The results of the multivariate analysis of risk factors for acute renal failure are shown

180 in table 3. The SOFA score improved from D1 to D3 in 154 patients (72%) whereas it
181 decreased in 60 (28%). At least one additional nephrotoxic agent had been administered in
182 133 patients (62%) in the period from D1 to the index date. Variables associated with the
183 occurrence of AKI risk in the multivariate Cox model are shown in table 4. After adjustment
184 to delta SOFA, exposure to additional nephrotoxic agents (D1-index date), and propensity
185 score for AG treatment, the administration of AGs was not associated with a significant risk
186 of AKI (table 4).

187 Ninety one patients (28.7%) died before D28 among the entire D1 population and the
188 variables independently associated with the occurrence of death in the multivariate Cox model
189 were age and gender whereas AG treatment was not significantly associated with D28
190 mortality (table 5).

191

192 **Discussion**

193 The main finding of our study is that aminoglycosides are not associated with an increase in
194 AKI in patients admitted to ICU for severe sepsis or septic shock without early renal failure
195 after adjustment on the clinical evolution of patients in the first three ICU days (delta SOFA
196 D3-D1 and exposure to nephrotoxic agents) and, most importantly, on the propensity score to
197 receive AGs.

198 The propensity score was based on the risk factors for AG nephrotoxicity listed in two meta-
199 analyzes (25, 26) to which we added specific characteristics of sepsis. The patient severity
200 (SAPS II score, OR = 1.02 [1.00-1.04]) was a major determinant in the decision to use AGs,
201 reflecting the prescribers' confidence in the bactericidal and synergistic action of AGs (27).
202 Another factor positively influencing AG treatment was the nosocomial origin of infection
203 (OR = 2.10 [1.22-3.63]). This could be expected since hospital infections are commonly
204 caused by multiresistant bacteria (28). Conversely, the neurological origin of sepsis
205 discouraged the initiation of AGs (OR = 0.14 [0.03-0.76]), which is in accordance with their
206 pharmacokinetic characteristics, no more than 10 percents of the total intravenous dose
207 penetrating cerebrospinal fluid (29). Patients with preexisting renal failure (OR = 0.37 [0.14-
208 1.00]) were less prone to be treated by AGs probably due to a benefit-risk approach in this
209 subset of patients.

210 The overall incidence of AKI in our study was 16% (35/214) which should be considered as
211 low compared to the data of a recent Italian study reporting a 40% incidence of acute renal
212 failure in 279 septic ICU patients (30). This might be explained by our decision to exclude
213 patients with AKI occurring before D3. Adding these excluded patients (n=72) would have
214 led to a comparable overall risk of AKI (37%; 107/286). Many studies have attempted to
215 determine the specific renal risk of AGs and the risk prevalence of AKI is highly variable.
216 The vast majority of published studies suffer from the absence of combination of validated

217 acute renal failure criteria and sufficient severity of patients to allow the extrapolation of
218 results to critically ill patients. The Acute Dialysis Quality Initiative group developed the
219 RIFLE classification accounting for a broad range of acute impairment of kidney function
220 through consensus of experts (15). It has been validated in ICU patients and can detect AKI
221 with high sensitivity and specificity (15, 21). A recent retrospective study using these criteria
222 has shown a 24% AG nephrotoxicity, but only 12% of patients experiencing AKI had severe
223 sepsis (16). A strength of our study was to use a validated AKI classification in an exclusively
224 ICU population. We also carefully avoided other methodological flaws. Patients with Injury,
225 Failure or Loss of RIFLE score before D3 were excluded in order to increase the specificity of
226 AGs-associated acute renal failure. Indeed, AG-associated nephrotoxicity is known to occur
227 at the end of the AG treatment or later, i.e. from D3 to D15. This time window was chosen
228 based on a previously reported mean delay between AG treatment and nephrotoxicity of
229 8.8 ± 3.4 days (22).

230 Moreover, AKI in severe sepsis or septic shock population is a complex issue. While septic
231 shock remains the leading cause of AKI in this population (32), the pressure on renal function
232 is increased by many other factors such as nephrotoxic drugs (20), direct effect of bacterial
233 toxins, vascular nephritis etc.. (33). To better assess the causal link between the
234 administration of AGs and the AKI occurrence, we performed a quasi-randomized study in
235 which all variables supposed to interact with AKI occurrence were considered in a propensity
236 adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression. It would therefore make sense to abandon the
237 assessment of AG nephrotoxicity by the rate of acute renal failure occurring after the
238 administration of AG and to prefer a better methodological assessment of AG-associated AKI
239 (19).

240 No AG-associated AKI risk was found in this study (adjusted OR 0.75 95%CI [0.32-1.76]),
241 and there might even be a slight trend towards a reduced renal risk in AG patients.

242 considering the study population did not include patients with early acute renal failure. This
243 might be related to both pharmacological and physiological mechanisms. Recent
244 pharmacological concepts of AGs administration such as the **once-daily dose** schedule for
245 AGs administration which result in a **decrease** of **AG-associated AKI** (9) have been respected
246 in the present study as shown by the use of once daily doses of gentamicin and amikacin
247 during a **short course** achieving a correct rate of target obtention (Table 3). A physiological
248 mechanism has also been suggested by several authors (34-36). Lipcsey et al. compared four
249 groups of pigs (endotoxemia + tobramycin, endotoxemia + saline, saline + tobramycin,
250 saline alone) and suggested that **sepsis-induced hypoperfusion was predominant over specific**
251 **AG toxicity on the AKI occurrence** (35). More recently, Langenberg et al. compared 3 groups
252 of sheep (*E. coli* infusion, *E. coli* infusion followed by gentamicin IV, control group) and
253 showed a **lower** rate of **NO synthase** and **hypoxia-inducible factor** in the **gentamicin group**
254 compared to the septic group. This provides evidence that **AGs might stop endothelial and**
255 **cellular signals at the origin of sepsis-related AKI** (36).

256 There are some limitations to this study. This was a retrospective cohort study conducted at a
257 single ICU, possibly limiting its extrapolation. Particularly, even if the AG administration was
258 consistent with the standards of care at the time of the study (100% once daily dose, 61% of
259 C_{peak} target attainment, short duration) (37), recent recommendations have emphasized the
260 use of higher doses of amikacin (25-30 mg/kg) potentially changing the AG-associated AKI
261 risk (38). The general characteristics of the population are also representative of medical ICU
262 septic patients (SAPS II 59±20, 72% septic shock, mean duration of ICU stay of 14±16 days).
263 In critically ill patients, assessing glomerular filtration rate by mean of serum creatinine can
264 be questioned. Urinary crCl, though more specific, bears the same limitations (39). We used
265 MDRD formula for basal estimation of glomerular filtration rate following recommendation
266 of RIFLE classification. However, recently, the KDIGO (Kidney Disease: Improving Global

267 Outcomes) initiative proposed a modified RIFLE classification that should be used in the
268 future (40). However, to date, RIFLE remains the most validated classification with more than
269 half a million studied patients. We excluded from the analysis patients who had impaired
270 renal function that worsened between day 1 and day 3 since we expect aminoglycoside
271 nephrotoxicity to be manifest some days after starting. However, we performed a sensitivity
272 analysis in reincorporating patients excluded for initial renal failure (defined by creatinin
273 clearance <37.5) ($n=58$), and patients needing immediate renal replacement therapy ($n=14$).
274 Among this population ($n=286$), 107 (37,4%) patients developed AKI. The AKI adjusted
275 relative risk of aminoglycoside treatment (yes vs. no) given by the Cox model was 0,95 [CI
276 95% 0,59-1,47], $p=0,76$. Finally, the finding of no increased risk might be attributed to a lack
277 of power despite the relatively large number of patients included. However, the probability
278 that the trend in the reduction of risk obtained in this study could be reversed to an increase is
279 low, especially with the statistical methods used. With traditional multivariable regression
280 techniques, models become unstable when the sample size is small and the number of
281 covariates included in the model is large relative to the number of outcome events. Adjusting
282 on propensity scores is a mean to prevent from overloading subsequent regression models
283 especially when studying a rare outcome (41). In this case, though the choice of treatment was
284 not randomized, and it might be surmised that these drugs would be used in patients at lower
285 risk of renal failure, the use of a propensity score built with all known risk factors for renal
286 failure should protect against such confounding. Of course the lack of association we found
287 does not mean that AG are no longer nephrotoxic, just that the choice of patients and the way
288 the drugs were given was judicious. Further studies in similar patients in other settings would
289 be useful to confirm these results, and ideally under randomized controlled circumstances,
290 which unfortunately are hardly possible in this context.

291 In conclusion, with modern modalities of administration including high dose once daily and
292 short duration of treatment, AG did not appear to increase the AKI risk in ICU patients treated
293 for severe sepsis or septic shock without early acute renal failure.

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299 **Conflict of interest statement:**

300 The authors have no relevant conflict of interest in the field of aminoglycoside treatment.

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303 Figure legends

304 Figure 1. Propensity score for aminoglycoside treatment at baseline for the studied patients

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309 Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the patients for propensity score elaboration

Variables		Aminoglycosides			p value
		n=317	No n=103	Yes n=214	
Sex	Male	191 (60.2)	61 (59.2)	130 (60.7)	
Age		59 (17)	59 (16)	59 (18)	0.67
SAPS II		59.2 (20.7)	60.7 (20.2)	56.0 (21.3)	0.06
Nosocomial sepsis	Yes	175 (55.2)	44 (42.7)	131 (61.2)	<10-1
Sepsis origin	Blood or catheter	21 (6.6)	6 (5.8)	15 (7.0)	0.02
	Abdominal, urinary or gynecological tract	34 (10.7)	8 (7.8)	26 (12.1)	
	Lung, skin soft tissue, osteitis or arthritis	232 (73.2)	71 (68.9)	161 (75.2)	
	Neurological	13 (4.1)	8 (7.8)	5 (2.3)	
	No identified origin	17 (5.4)	10 (9.7)	7 (3.3)	
Sepsis severity	Septic shock	227 (71.6)	71 (68.9)	156 (72.9)	0.47
	Severe sepsis	90 (28.4)	32 (31.1)	58 (27.1)	
Number of organ failure	No failure	35 (11.0)	10 (9.7)	25 (11.7)	0.60
	At least one	282 (89.0)	93 (90.3)	189 (88.3)	
Rhabdomyolysis*		40 (12.62)	17 (16.50)	23 (10.75)	0.16
Renal graft or single functional kidney		18 (5.7)	6 (5.8)	12 (5.6)	0.94
Diabetes mellitus		55 (17.3)	14 (13.6)	41 (19.2)	0.21
Cirrhosis		41 (12.93)	11 (10.7)	30 (14.0)	0.40
Preexisting renal failure		30 (9.5)	13 (12.6)	17 (7.9)	0.19
Nephrotoxic treatments					
	ACE inhibitors/ARB	85 (27.0)	26 (25.2)	59 (27.8)	0.63
	Diuretics	97 (30.8)	29 (28.2)	68 (32.1)	0.48
	High osmolar radiocontrast agent	27 (8.6)	10 (9.7)	17 (8.0)	0.62
	Hydroxyethyl starches	15 (4.8)	5 (4.8)	10 (4.7)	0.96
	NSAIDs	18 (5.7)	4 (3.9)	14 (6.6)	0.31
	Antimicrobial agent ^o	32 (10.2)	10 (9.7)	22 (10.4)	0.85
	Immunosuppressive treatment ^{oo}	19 (6.0)	7 (6.8)	12 (5.7)	0.69
Nephrotoxic treatments	No	128 (40.6)	48 (46.6)	80 (37.7)	0.13
	At least one	187 (59.4)	55 (53.4)	132 (62.3)	

310

311 Qualitative variables are represented with n (%), quantitative variables with mean (SD)

312 SAPS Simplified acute physiology score; ACE angiotensin converting enzyme ; ARB

313 angiotensin receptor blockers; NSAIDs Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

314 * rhabdomyolysis is defined by CPK>500 IU/L; ° vancomycin, amphotericin B, acyclovir,
315 foscavir; °° calcineurin inhibitors
316

317 Table 2. Multivariate analysis of factors associated with aminoglycoside treatment

	Variables	Total	OR [95% CI]
Sex	Male	191 (60.2)	1.00
	Female	126 (39.8)	0.92 [0.52-0.61]
Age		59 (17)	0.99 [0.97-1.01]
SAPS II		59.2 (20.7)	1.02 [1.00-1.04]
Nosocomial sepsis	No	142 (44.8)	1.00
	Yes	175 (55.2)	2.10 [1.22-3.63]
Sepsis origin	Blood or catheter	21 (6.6)	1.00
	Abdominal, urinary or gynecological tract	34 (10.7)	1.25 [0.32- 4.91]
	Lung, skin soft tissue, osteitis or arthritis	232 (73.2)	0.93 [0.31- 2.80]
	Neurological	13 (4.1)	0.14 [0.03- 0.76]
	No identified origin	17 (5.4)	0.23 [0.05- 1.01]
Sepsis severity	Septic shock	227 (71.6)	1.00
	Severe sepsis	90 (28.4)	0.87 [0.43- 1.74]
Number of organ failure	No failure	35 (11.0)	1.00
	At least one	282 (89.0)	0.46 [0.16- 1.30]
Rhabdomyolysis*	No	277 (87.4)	1.00
	Yes	40 (12.6)	0.61 [0.28- 1.30]
Renal graft or single functional kidney	No	299 (94.3)	1.00
	Yes	18 (5.7)	1.53 [0.43- 5.41]
Diabetes mellitus	No	262 (82.6)	1.00
	Yes	55 (17.3)	1.69 [0.78- 3.64]
Cirrhosis	No	276 (87.1)	1.00
	Yes	41 (12.9)	1.53 [0.66- 3.58]
Preexisting renal failure	No	287 (90.5)	1.00
	Yes	30 (9.5)	0.37 [0.14- 1.00]
Nephrotoxic treatments			
ACE inhibitors/ARB	No	230 (73.0)	1.00
	Yes	85 (27.0)	0.81 [0.38- 1.76]
Diuretics	No	218 (69.2)	1.00
	Yes	97 (30.8)	0.70 [0.33- 1.53]
High osmolar radiocontrast agent	No	288 (91.4)	1.00
	Yes	27 (8.6)	0.63 [0.23- 1.73]
Hydroxyethyl starches	No	300 (95.2)	1.00
	Yes	15 (4.8)	0.77 [0.21- 2.81]
NSAIDs	No	297 (94.3)	1.00
	Yes	18 (5.7)	1.91 [0.47- 7.70]
Antimicrobial agent ^o	No	283 (89.8)	1.00
	Yes	32 (10.2)	0.97 [0.37- 2.56]
Immunosuppressive	No	296 (94.0)	1.00

	treatment ^{oo}	Yes	19 (6.0)	0.31 [0.09- 1.03]
	Nephrotoxic treatments	No	128 (40.6)	1.00
		At least one	187 (59.4)	1.99 [0.80- 4.95]
318	Qualitative variables are represented with n (%), quantitative variables with mean (SD)			
319	SAPS Simplified acute physiology score; ACE angiotensin converting enzyme; ARB			
320	angiotensin receptor blockers; NSAIDs Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs			
321	rhabdomyolysis is defined by CPK>500 IU/L; ° vancomycin, amphotericin B, acyclovir,			
322	foscavir; °° calcineurin inhibitors			
323				

324 Table 3. Drug monitoring parameters of aminoglycoside administration.

325

n = 150	n (%)	Dose (mg/kg)	Duration (days)	Cpeak (mg/L)	Cpeak % of target attainment	Ctrough % of target attainment
Gentamicin	39 (26)	6.0±1.6	2.9±1.1	24.9±11.4 (n=101)	47 (>25mg/L)	85.4 (<2.5mg/L)
Amikacin	111 (74)	18.4±5.5	2.5±1.0	44.3±16.0 (n=259)	66 (>40mg/L)	73.3 (<5mg/L)

326

327

328 Table 4. Multivariate risk for acute kidney injury (cox proportional hazards ratio)

	HR* IC95%	p
Aminoglycoside (yes vs no)	0.75 [0.32-1.76]	0.51
Decrease in SOFA score between D1 and D3 (yes vs no)	1.02 [0.48-2.15]	0.96
Nephrotoxic treatment after day 1 (yes vs no)	0.75 [0.37-1.51]	0.43

329 *The relative risk has been adjusted on the propensity score

330

331 Table 5. Risk for D28 mortality

	RR* IC95%	p
Aminoglycoside (yes vs no)	0.78 [0.47-1.30]	0.34
Age	1.02 [1.01-1.04]	<0.01
Sexe (female vs male)	0.52 [0.33-0.81]	<0.01
Day 1 SOFA	1.05 [0.98-1.13]	0.16
Severe sepsis vs septic shock	1.05 [0.52-2.09]	0.90

332 *The relative risk has been adjusted on the propensity score and the SAPS II score

333

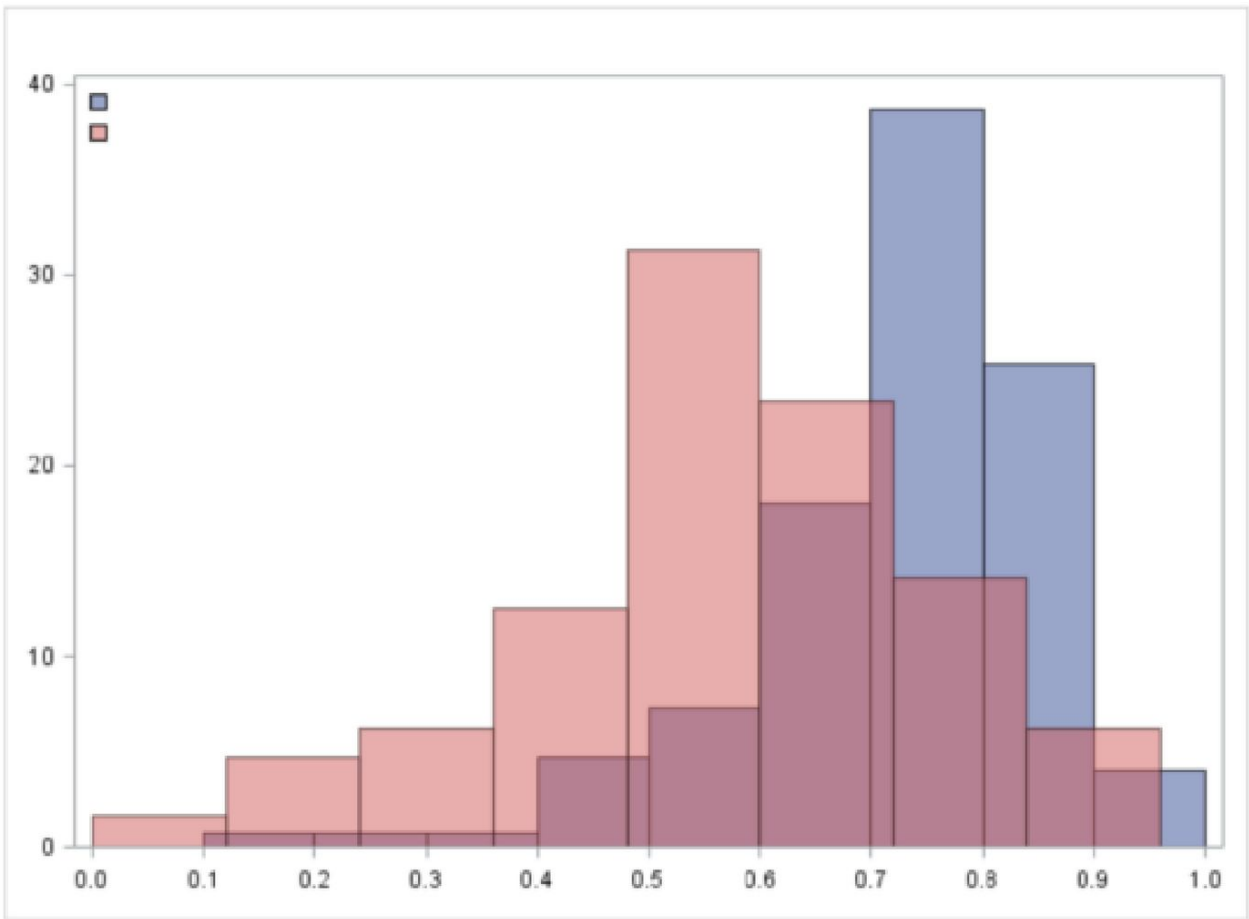
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Pink: not treated with AGs; Blue: treated with AGs