

Activity of Cefiderocol and Comparator Agents Against Difficult-to-Treat Resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Collected During 2020–2022 as Part of the SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program

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BACKGROUND

- Difficult-to-treat resistant (DTR) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* shows treatment-limiting resistance to all first-line agents (i.e. β -lactams and fluoroquinolones).
- Cefiderocol is a siderophore-conjugated cephalosporin with a unique mode of entry and excellent activity against resistant *P. aeruginosa*.

OBJECTIVE

We aimed to determine the activity of cefiderocol and comparator agents against DTR *P. aeruginosa*.

METHODS

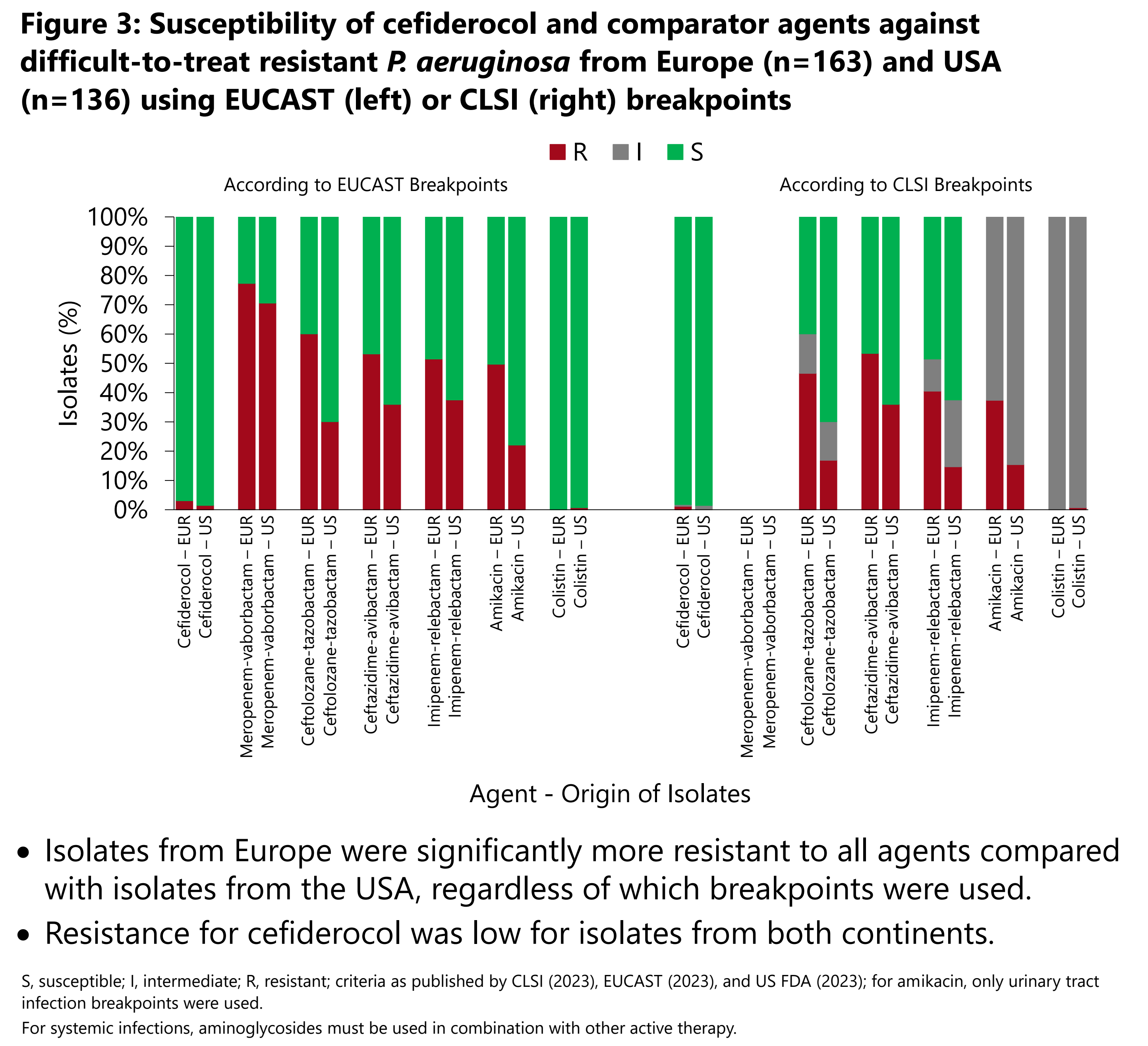
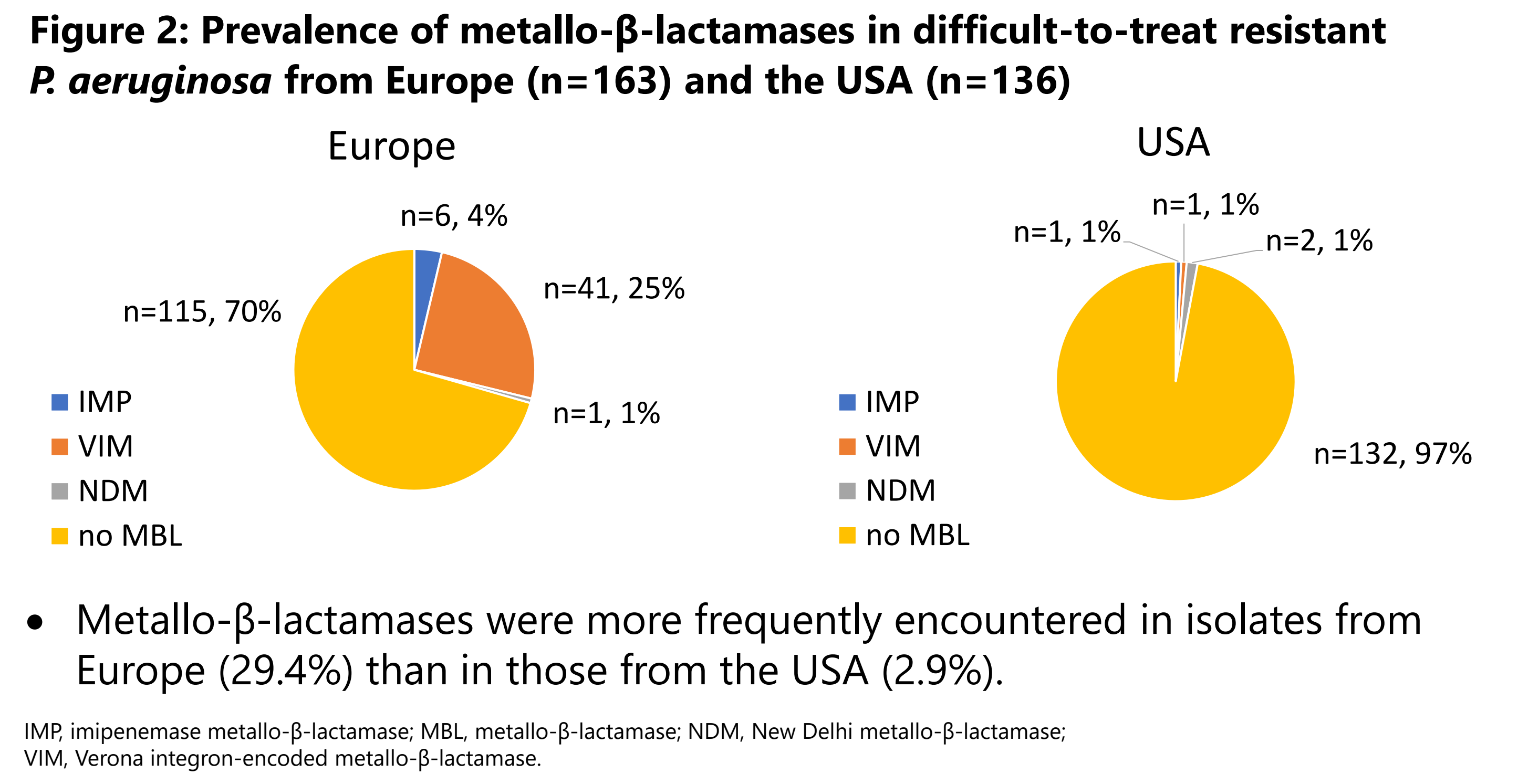
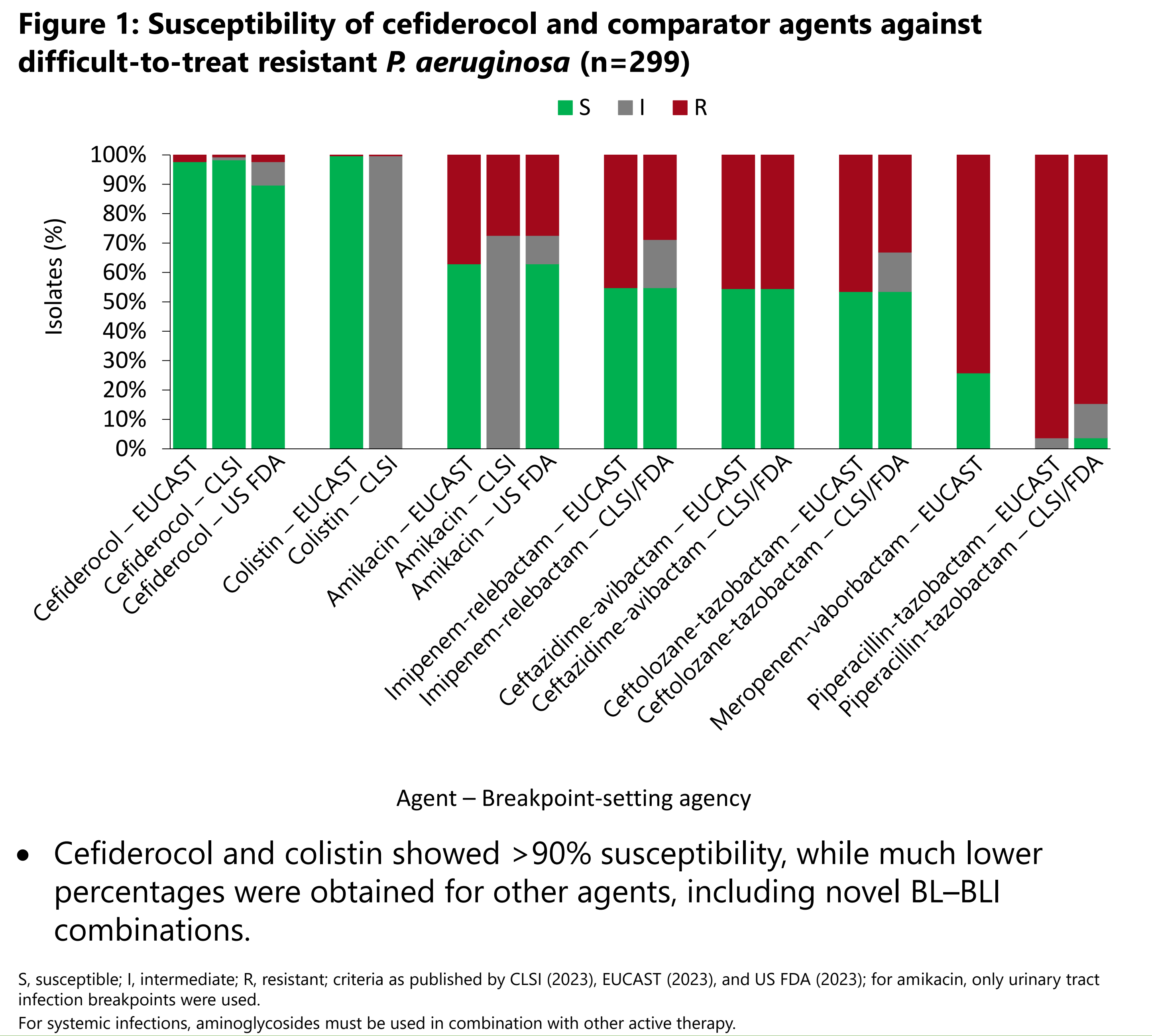
- Minimum inhibitory concentrations were determined according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines against 7,310 *P. aeruginosa* isolates, collected in 2020–2022 in Europe (n=3,926) and the USA (n=3,384) as part of the SENTRY program, using broth microdilution with cation-adjusted Mueller–Hinton broth (CAMHB) for comparator agents and iron-depleted CAMHB for cefiderocol.
- Susceptibility was assessed according to European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST), CLSI, and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) breakpoints.
- DTR *P. aeruginosa* was defined as being non-susceptible, according to CLSI breakpoints, to the β -lactams aztreonam, ceftazidime, cefepime, meropenem, imipenem, and the fluoroquinolones ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin.

RESULTS

- 4.1% (n=299) of *P. aeruginosa* isolates showed the DTR phenotype, with similar percentages for isolates from Europe (4.2%; n=163) and the USA (4.0%; n=136).
- Cefiderocol and colistin were the most active agents against DTR *P. aeruginosa*, while other agents, including novel β -lactam– β -lactamase inhibitor (BL–BLI) combinations, showed much lower activity (Figure 1).
- Metallo- β -lactamases were more frequently encountered among DTR *P. aeruginosa* isolates from Europe than from the USA (Figure 2). This may explain, in part, why DTR *P. aeruginosa* isolates from Europe were more resistant to novel BL–BLI combinations compared with isolates from the USA (Figure 3). In contrast, cefiderocol maintained activity against isolates from both continents.

CONCLUSIONS

- Contemporary DTR *P. aeruginosa* isolates remained highly susceptible to cefiderocol, while novel BL–BLI combinations exhibited reduced activity against this phenotype.
- Cefiderocol should be considered as an early treatment option for infections known or suspected to be caused by DTR *P. aeruginosa*.



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