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Library and Information Services

# Journal club checklist

This checklist provides an outline that you can use to guide your discussion of any article in your journal club. Further advise and tools to use when critically appraising papers can be found in the [EBVM Resources page.](https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-resources/tools-guidelines-and-checklists/)

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| **Title** | **Antimicrobial prescribing and antimicrobial resistance surveillance in equine practice. *Equine Veterinary Journal*** |
| **What are the aims or objectives of the study?** | The objective stated in the abstract was to characterise current antimicrobial prescribing practices by equine veterinarians and to describe surveillance, audit processes and identification of AMR.  The aim stated at the end of the introduction was to characterise the current antimicrobial prescribing practices and behaviours of veterinarians in equine practice and to explore the factors underlying the choice of HPCIAs using clinical scenarios. |
| **What else did the authors look at in the analysis of this study?** | The authors also compared the overall antimicrobial usage with that reported in a similar study conducted in 2009. |
| **Who carried out the research?** | Four of the authors work at the University of Liverpool, the fifth author works in private practice and was president of BEVA 2019-2020. |
| **What methods did the researchers use?** | The data was collected through an online questionnaire and included questions on four clinical case-based scenarios. |
| **How were the participants recruited?** | Participants were recruited at BEVA Congress and through the BEVA members newsletter.  The questionnaire was also promoted on social media. |
| **How do think the method of recruitment, and the incentive of entry into a prize draw, will have affected the responses?** |  |
| **Are the types of participants clearly described?**  **In what ways are they similar or different to your own practice?** |  |
| **In terms of antimicrobial usage, which are the five most frequently used antimicrobials reported by respondents in this study?**  **How does this compare to the usage in your practice?** |  |
| **How many of the guidelines and information sources listed in Table 1 do you refer to?** |  |
| **Figure 2 presents the results of the question relating to factors which influence antimicrobial treatment choices.**  **Which were the most important factors?**  **How do these results compare with your own practice?**  **How else could the results have been presented to make comparison easier?** | The most important factors cited were culture and sensitivity, site of infection and clinical signs, and ease of administration.  The bar chart could have been in colour to make the distinctions clearer, or the results for each factor could have been converted into a single average score. |
| **What percentage of respondents reported confirmed cases of MRSA in the study?**  **Which were the most frequently reported sites for MRSA infection?** | 15.8% (95% CI 11.6%–20.9%, n = 41/259) of respondents reported confirmed cases of infection with methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in the last 12 months.  Chronic non-healing wounds, surgical site infections and uterine infections as the most commonly encountered clinical cases associated with MRSA. |
| **Do you think that a questionnaire is the best method of evaluating prescribing practices?**  **How might the responses be biased?**  **What other methods could be used?** | A questionnaire is an appropriate method of collecting people’s perceptions and opinions, but their responses may be biased.  Biases that may affect the responses include recall bias and social desirability bias.  More objective data on prescribing practices could be collected from computer records, such as this study:  Allen, S.E. et al. (2022) Use of antimicrobials licensed for systemic administration in UK equine practice*. Equine Veterinary Journal*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/evj.13878> |
| **What were the four clinical scenarios presented in this study and how do the reported treatments compare with your normal treatment of similar cases?** | Further details of the clinical scenarios can be found in the supplementary materials in [Table S1](https://beva.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/downloadSupplement?doi=10.1111%2Fevj.13587&file=evj13587-sup-0002-TableS1.pdf) |
| **How might the responses given to the treatment of the clinical scenarios differ from the actual treatment of clinic cases?**  **What other factors may influence your decision making in an individual case?** |  |
| **What were the most frequently reported uses of the High Priority Critically Important antimicrobials (HPCIA) in this study?**  **Do the authors consider this use justified?** |  |
| **Do the results meet the aims of the study?** |  |
| **What are the limitations of this study?** |  |
| **Do the findings support or alter your current knowledge?** |  |
| **Having read this article would you change anything about the way that you prescribe antimicrobials in your practice?** |  |
| **Having read this article would you change anything about the way that you carry out clinical audit or surveillance for antimicrobial use and resistance in your practice?** |  |