

Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) confirmed in 2003

One VRE was referred to ESR in 2003: an *Enterococcus faecium* (VRE), with the *vanB* genotype. Since the first reported isolation in New Zealand in 1996, VRE have been isolated from a total of 16 people (see figure and table below). *E. faecalis* has predominated. Although the cases appear to be sporadic, the majority of isolates have demonstrated a similar DNA macrorestriction pattern (profile A) after digestion with *SmaI* and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). VRE with this pattern have been isolated in four of the five centres in which VRE have been isolated and in four of the six years in which VRE have been isolated.

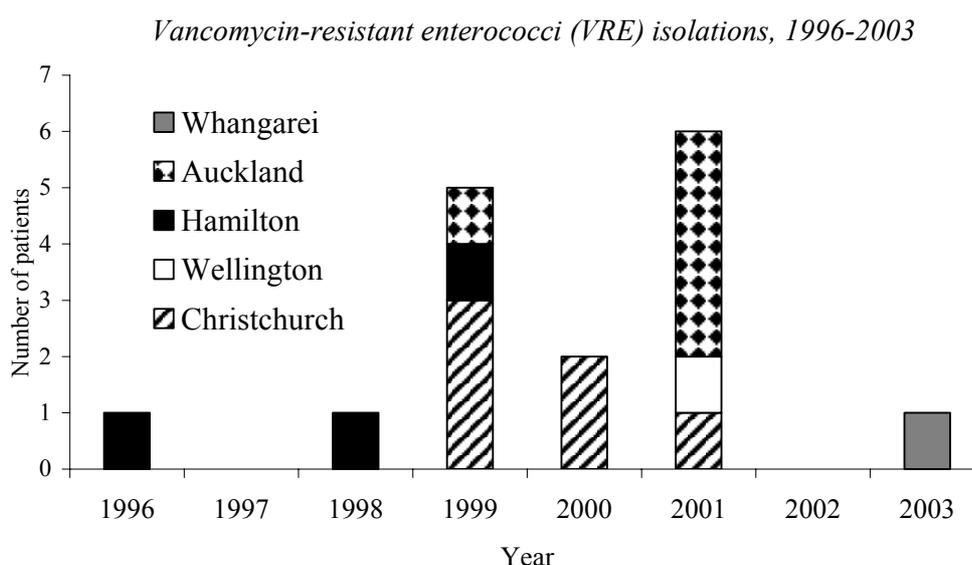


Table. Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) isolated in New Zealand, 1996-2003

Species	Van gene	PFGE pattern	Number of patients ²	Years isolated	Area ¹
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanA</i>	A	11 ³	1996, 1999, 2000 and 2001	Hamilton Christchurch Auckland Wellington
		B	1 ³	1999	Christchurch
		E	1	2001	Christchurch
	<i>vanB</i>	Z	1	1999	Christchurch
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	C	2 ⁴	1998 and 2001	Hamilton Auckland
		D	1 ⁴	2001	Auckland
	<i>vanB</i>	nd ⁵	1	2003	Whangarei

¹ In chronological order of place of first isolation.

² Repeat isolations from the same patient excluded, unless the isolates differed (see footnotes 3 and 4).

³ Isolates with PFGE patterns A and B were isolated from the same patient.

⁴ Isolates with PFGE patterns C and D were isolated from the same patient.

⁵ PFGE pattern not yet determined.