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Antimicrobial Activity of Aztreonam-Avibactam, Ceftazidime-Avibactam, and Comparator Agents against Pseudomonas aeruginosa from Cystic Fibrosis Patients

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CONCLUSIONS



ATM-AVI and CAZ-AVI exhibited potent activity against P. aeruginosa isolated from CF patients in the US and EU.



ATM-AVI and CAZ-AVI retained good activity against isolates resistant to other antimicrobials, including MDR and XDR organisms.



Both ATM-AVI and CAZ-AVI showed greater activity than TOB against P. aeruginosa from CF patients.



ATM-AVI and CAZ-AVI may represent valuable options to treat CF patients with pulmonary exacerbations due to P. aeruginosa infection.



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INTRODUCTION

- Pseudomonas aeruginosa is the most common cultured respiratory pathogen in individuals with cystic fibrosis (CF) and is associated with a more rapid decline in lung function.
- Aztreonam-avibactam (ATM-AVI) is under clinical development for the treatment of serious infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria, including metallo-β-lactamase (MBL) producers.
- Four other β-lactamase inhibitor combinations (BL/BLI) have been recently approved by the US FDA: ceftazidime-avibactam (CAZ-AVI), ceftolozane-tazobactam (C-T), meropenem-vaborbactam (MEM-VAB), and imipenem-relebactam (IMI-REL).
- We evaluated the in vitro activity of these 5 BL/BLIs and comparators against P. aeruginosa causing CF pulmonary exacerbation.

METHODS

- Isolates were collected as part of SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program.
- Medical centers were asked to collect consecutive bacterial isolates from lower respiratory tract sites of CF patients in 2018–2021.
- Each participant center could contribute up to 40 P. aeruginosa isolates.
- Only isolates from invasive sampling, including transtracheal aspiration, bronchoalveolar lavage, protected brush samples, or qualified sputum samples, were accepted.
- The isolate collection included 383 P. aeruginosa isolates (1/patient) from 35 medical centers in the US (n=187) and 12 centers in Europe (EU; n=196; Figure 1).
- Isolates were categorized as multidrug-resistant (MDR) or extensively drug-resistant (XDR) according to criteria defined in 2012 by the joint European and US Centers for Disease Control:
- MDR: nonsusceptible to ≥1 agent in ≥3 antimicrobial classes. XDR: susceptible to ≤2 classes.
- Isolates were susceptibility tested by the CLSI broth microdilution method (M100; 2022).
- · MIC results were interpreted according to CLSI and/or US FDA breakpoints when available.
- A provisional aztreonam-avibactam PK/PD breakpoint of ≤8 mg/L was applied for comparison.
- MEM-VAB is not approved for P. aeruginosa treatment in the US; thus, MEM-VAB breakpoints published for Enterobacterales (≤4/8/≥16 mg/L for S/I/R) by CLSI were applied for comparison.

RESULTS

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- ATM-AVI (MIC_{50/90}, 4/>16 mg/L) inhibited 83.4% and 85.2% of isolates from the US and EU at ≤8 mg/L, respectively (Figure 2).
- CAZ-AVI (MIC_{50/90}, 2/8 mg/L; 96.3%/95.4% susceptible [S] in US/EU) was the most active BL/BLI agent, followed by IMI-REL (94.7%/92.5%S in US/EU) and C-T (89.8%/91.3%S in US/EU; Figure 2).
- MEM-VAB (MIC_{50/90}, 0.5/8 mg/L; not approved for *P. aeruginosa* in the US) and MEM (MIC_{50/90}, 0.5/16 mg/L) showed similar potency (data not shown).
- Tobramycin (TOB)-S rates were 73.3% and 85.7% in US and EU, respectively (Figure 2).
- · Among TOB–non-S (NS) isolates, 84.6% were CAZ-AVI–S and 73.1% were inhibited at ATM-AVI MIC of ≤8 mg/L (Figure 3).
- · CAZ-AVI retained good activity against C-T-NS (61.1%S), IMI-REL-NS (62.1%S), piperacillin-tazobactam (PIP-TAZ)-NS (86.7%S), meropenem (MEM)-NS (86.6%S), and ciprofloxacin (CIP)–NS (92.1%S) isolates (Figure 3).
- ATM-AVI and TOB showed similar coverage against P. aeruginosa—resistant subsets (Figure 3).
- MDR and XDR phenotypes were observed among 40.1%/30.1% and 24.6%/16.8% of isolates from the US and EU, respectively (Figure 4).
- Among MDR isolates, 88.1% were CAZ-AVI–S, 65.7% were inhibited at ≤8 mg/L of ATM-AVI, and 57.5% were TOB-S (Figure 3).
- ATM-AVI and TOB retained activity against 54.4% and 49.4% of XDR isolates, whereas 82.3% of these isolates were CAZ-AVI-S (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Percent distribution of P. aeruginosa by country

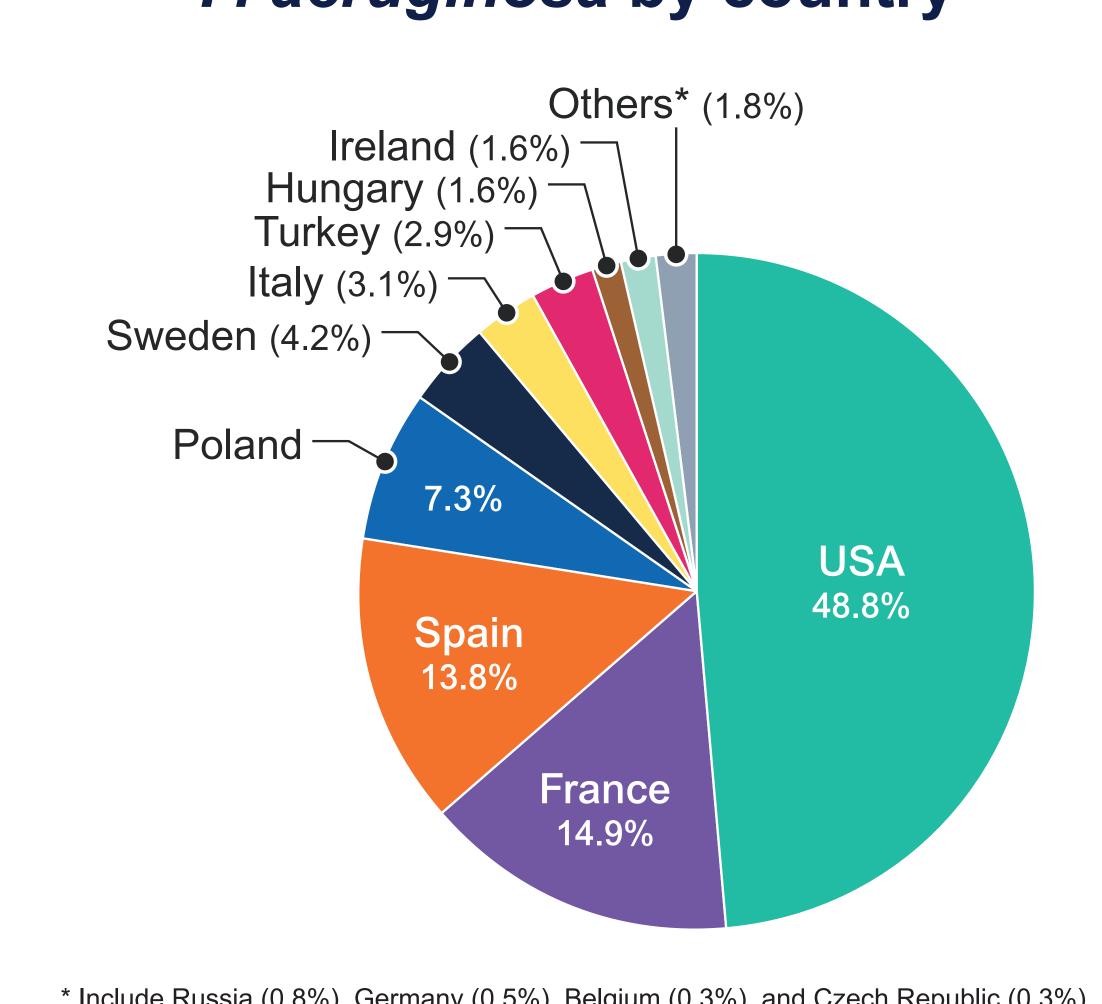
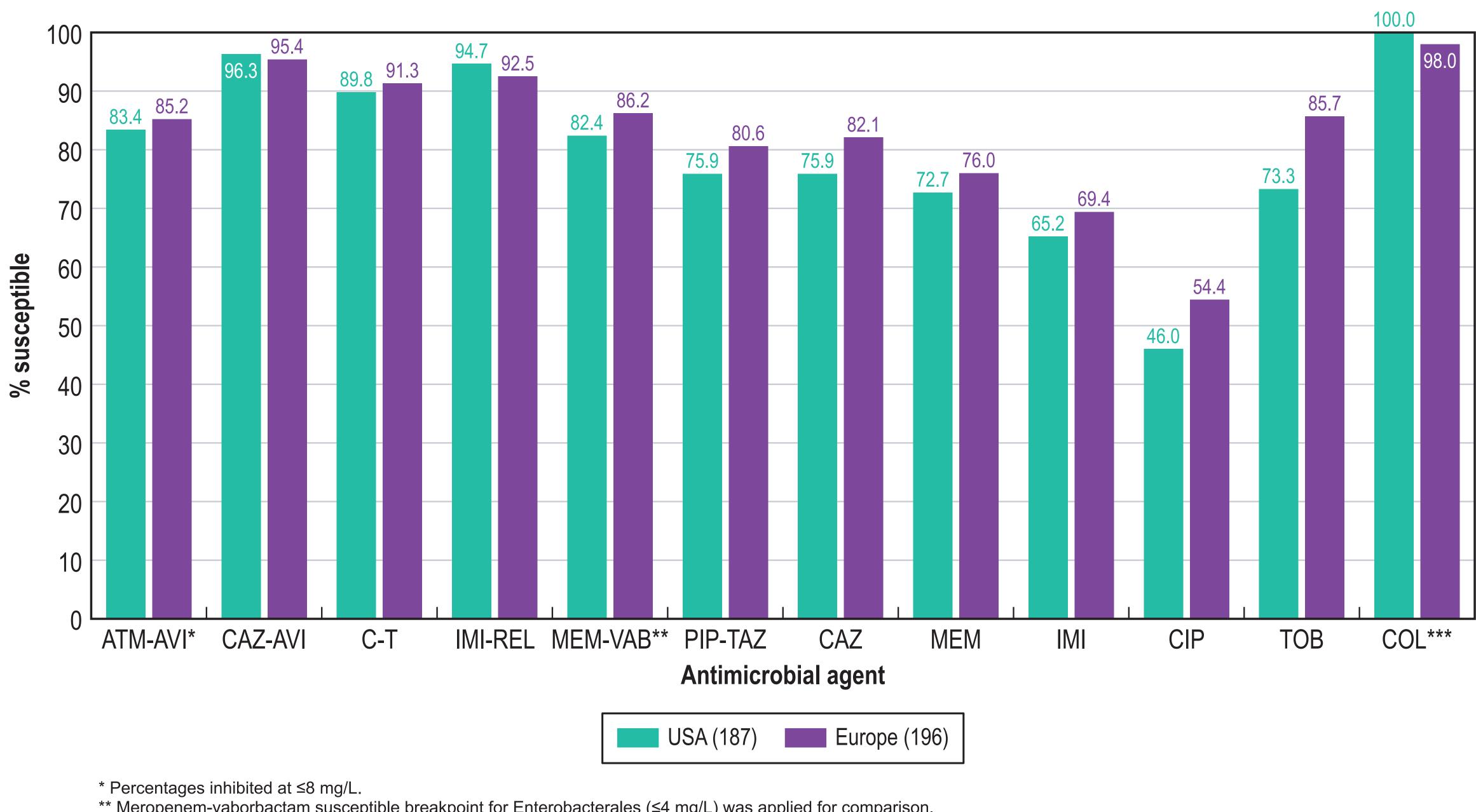
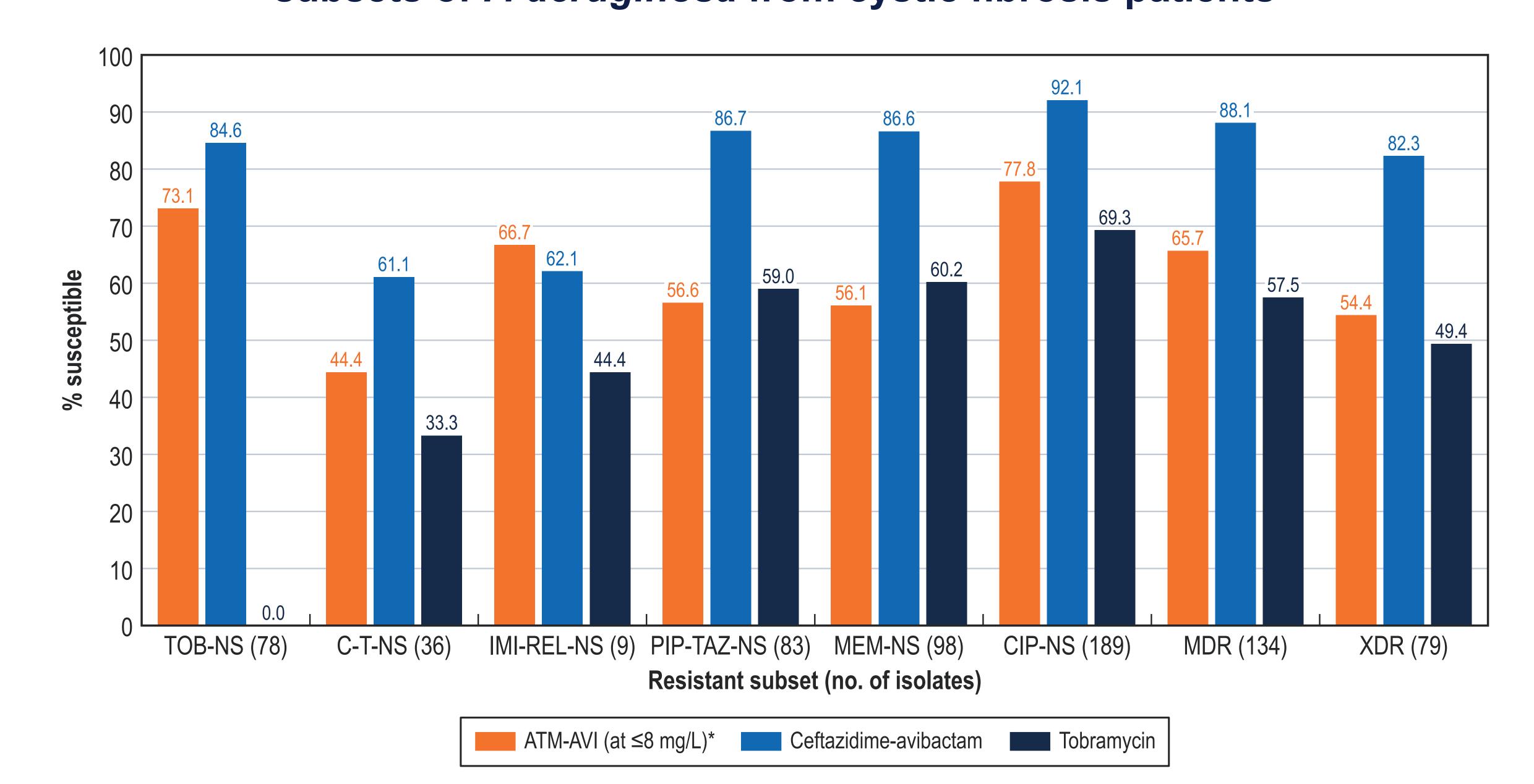


Figure 2. Antimicrobial susceptibility of *P. aeruginosa* isolates from cystic fibrosis patients



n-tazobactam; CAZ, ceftazidime; MEM, meropenem; IMI, imipenem; CIP, ciprofloxacin; TOB, tobramycin; COL, colistir

Figure 3. Activity of aztreonam-avibactam (ATM-AVI), ceftazidime-avibactam, and tobramycin against resistant subsets of *P. aeruginosa* from cystic fibrosis patients



Abbreviations: TOB. tobramvcin: NS. nonsusceptible per CLSI; C-T. ceftolozane-tazobactam; IMI-REL, imipenem-relebactam; PIP-TAZ, piperacillin-tazobactam; MEM, meropenem; CIP, ciprofloxacin; MDR, multidrug-resistant; XDR, extensively drug-resistant; ATM-AVI, aztreonam-avibactam

Figure 4. Frequency of multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) isolates stratified by geographic region

