

Abstract

The *Enterococcus* spp. is a common part of microflora in the digestive tract; it is used in the food industry and added to probiotics. However, in the last few decades it comes to the fore particularly as a cause of nosocomial diseases. Its importance grows with its increasing resistance to antibiotics. The *Enterococcus* is intrinsically resistant to many types of antibiotics. In addition to that it may acquire additional resistance determinants by mutations or horizontal gene transfer. This work focuses on the *Enterococcus faecium* and the *Enterococcus faecalis* intrinsic and acquired resistances, as these two strains have the major clinical importance. In this work, the most attention is dedicated to the antibiotics vancomycin and linezolid. For several decades, vancomycin was the last treatment option in the case of a failure of commonly used antibiotics. The fact that the resistance to this antibiotic was spreading rapidly became a significant problem in these cases of treatment. Hence the antibiotic linezolid was developed as a response to the growing resistance of gram-positive bacteria to available antibiotics. It is also proved to be effective against the vancomycin-resistant strains *E. faecium* and *E. faecalis*.