Antimicrobial drug therapy of infectious diseases

Evolutionary rescue or extinction at multiple scales

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Evolutionary rescue

Can a population escape extinction through adaptive evolution?



Conservation biology

e.g. adaptation to anthropogenic change



Medicine

drug resistance: undesired rescue

e.g. antibiotic resistance:

resistant bacteria are responsible for 25,000 deaths/year in the European Union

WHO, Fact sheet "Antibiotic resistance", October 2015







Goals:

- maximise rate of decline (ightarrow rapid recovery/survival)
- minimise probability of resistance evolution
- treatment should not kill the patient
- (• keep economic costs manageable)

Infectious diseases: rescue/extinction at two scales





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Infectious diseases: rescue/extinction at two scales



Additional goals:

- minimise the disease prevalence
- minimise the outbreak probability of an epidemic
- minimise transmission of resistance
- (• keep economic costs manageable)

Big question

How do we need to treat patients to best achieve these goals?

Treatment strategies:

- combination therapy
- drug cycling
- treatment coverage
- length of treatment
- drug dose
- ...

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• . . .

For this talk:

What is the optimal drug dose?

Focus: Which dose is best at managing resistance?

What is the current strategy?

Therapeutic window



Use the highest possible dose:

- faster patient recovery
- less chance for de novo mutations
- if high enough: no (single-step) resistance

In the face of resistance, is this always the best choice?

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within-host resistance

FIGURE ADAPTED FROM KOUVOS ET AL. 2014

Day and Read 2016

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Day and Read 2016

From the individual host to the population

one host



sensitive resistant

The drug dose affects pathogen replication.



From the individual host to the population – trade-offs?



How do we consider both scales?



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Measure: number of transmission events of the resistant strain

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Measure: number of transmission events of the resistant strain **Two factors:** appearance + spread of resistance an existing strain Infec resistant spread of •••••••••

dose



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within-host resistance



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within-host resistance

What about the other treatment goals?



Trade-offs between different treatment goals.

And now?

Which criterion should be used?

difficult & context-dependent, e.g.

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- is the disease lethal?
- are there other drugs available?

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How can we resolve the conflicts?

- not possible by modulating nothing but the dose
- additional parameters need to be changed (e.g. isolation of symptomatic cases? combination therapy?)

Conclusion

• The evolutionary dynamics of pathogens and selection for resistance are determined by both within-patient and epidemiological dynamics.



• Different criteria may suggest different dosing strategies.



• There may be conflicts between the individual and the population levels. SCIRE ET AL. (BIORXIV)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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