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Citation

Authors' objectives
This report aims to critically review and compare, both clinically and economically, the new fluoroquinolones for the empiric treatment of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP).

Authors' conclusions
Analysis of the trials on an intention-to-treat basis, which preserves the value of randomization and prevents the introduction of bias, indicates that the orally-administered new fluoroquinolones offer no statistically significant additional clinical successes when compared to current comparative antibiotics for the empirical treatment of CAP. The 'evaluable subjects' analysis found new fluoroquinolones to be slightly more effective in treating individuals diagnosed with CAP than comparative antibiotics. However, considering the limitations associated with the available evidence, we conclude that the new fluoroquinolones are at least as effective as, and may be slightly more effective than, comparator antibiotics for the treatment of empiric CAP. Finally, our review did not point to any overall differences in terms of serious adverse effects, but these would be unlikely to occur in relatively small studies.

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