

## **Current status of carbapenemases in Latin America**

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### **Abstract**

Enterobacteriaceae and non fermenting Gram-negative bacilli have become a threat to public health, in part due to their resistance to multiple antibiotic classes, which ultimately have led to an increase in morbidity and mortality.  $\beta$ -lactams are currently the mainstay for combating infections caused by these microorganisms, and  $\beta$ -lactamases are the major mechanism of resistance to this class of antibiotics. Within the  $\beta$ -lactamases, carbapenemases pose one of the gravest threats, as they compromise one of our most potent lines of defense, the carbapenems. Carbapenemases are being continuously identified worldwide; and in Latin America, numerous members of these enzymes have been reported. In this region, the high incidence of reports implies that carbapenemases have become a menace and that they are an issue that must be carefully studied and analyzed..

### **Keywords**

Acinetobacter baumannii,  $\beta$ lactamases,  $\beta$ lactams, Carbapenemases, Carbapenems, Enterobacteriaceae, Latin America, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Resistance.