QUESTION 83

Which of the following antibiotics would be the most appropriate choice for the treatment of a vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecalis* bloodstream infection?

A. Cefoxitin.
B. Linezolid.
C. Amikacin.
D. Tobramycin.
E. Rifampicin.

Tobramycin and amikacin are both aminoglycosides and have very similar spectrum to gentamicin (ie. mainly gram negatives).

Cefoxitin is a moderate spectrum cephalosporin. It is not effective against enterococcus (even vancomycin-sensitive strains). MSSA has intermediate sensitivity to it and MRSA is resistant to it.

None of the cephalosporins cover enterococcus at all.

Rifampicin is good for MRSA but does not cover enterococcus at all.

To cover enterococcus faecalis need to use ampicillin or piperacillin.
To cover enterococcus faecum need to use piperacillin.

To cover VRE need to use linezolid which covers basically all the gram positive organisms but not one gram negative and few anaerobes. Answer: B

Reference: AMH