

# The use and efficacy of moxifloxacin for *Mycoplasma genitalium* infection

2015 - 2024

**Presenting Author: Laura Grimminck Matthews** she/her

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Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Alfred Health

**Australasian Sexual & Reproductive Health Conference**

September 18, 2025  
Tarndanya, Kurna Country



# Acknowledgement of Country

I am privileged to be able to work and live on Wurundjeri Country, and to be visiting Tarndanya on Kurna Country this week.

Sovereignty of these lands has never been ceded and will always firmly belong to Wurundjeri and Kurna peoples.

# Disclosures of Interest

None to declare

# ***Mycoplasma genitalium* (MG)**

Bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI)<sup>1</sup>

Associated with STI syndromes: urethritis, cervicitis, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)<sup>1,2</sup>

Sequelae include miscarriage, preterm birth, infertility<sup>1,2</sup>

[1] Jensen, J.S. & Bradshaw, C. (2015). Management of *Mycoplasma genitalium* infections – can we hit a moving target? *BMC Infect Dis* 15(343)

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Sequelae include miscarriage, preterm birth, infertility<sup>1,2</sup>

Highly mutable genome conferring antimicrobial resistance

**Macrolide-resistance mutation (MRM) now present in >65% of MG infections in Australia, >80% among men-who-have-sex-with-men<sup>3</sup>**

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[3] Machalek, D.A., et al., (2020). Prevalence of mutations associated with resistance to macrolides and fluoroquinolones in *Mycoplasma genitalium*: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 20(11)

# Moxifloxacin

Fluoroquinolone antibiotic

Introduced for MG in 2006 in response to azithromycin failure

Dual binding: DNA Topoisomerase IV and DNA Gyrase

***ParC, ParE and GyrA, GyrB** subunits*

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Dual binding: DNA Topoisomerase IV and DNA Gyrase

***ParC, ParE and GyrA, GyrB subunits***

Only one systematic review of moxifloxacin efficacy for MG<sup>4</sup>

***100%*** *pre-2010*

***89%*** *post-2010*

[4] Li Y et al. (2017). Meta-analysis of the efficacy of moxifloxacin in treating *Mycoplasma genitalium* infection. Int J STD AIDS. 28(11)

# Fluoroquinolone-resistant MG

Number of mutations identified in *parC* (TopoIV) and *gyrA* (Gyr) genes

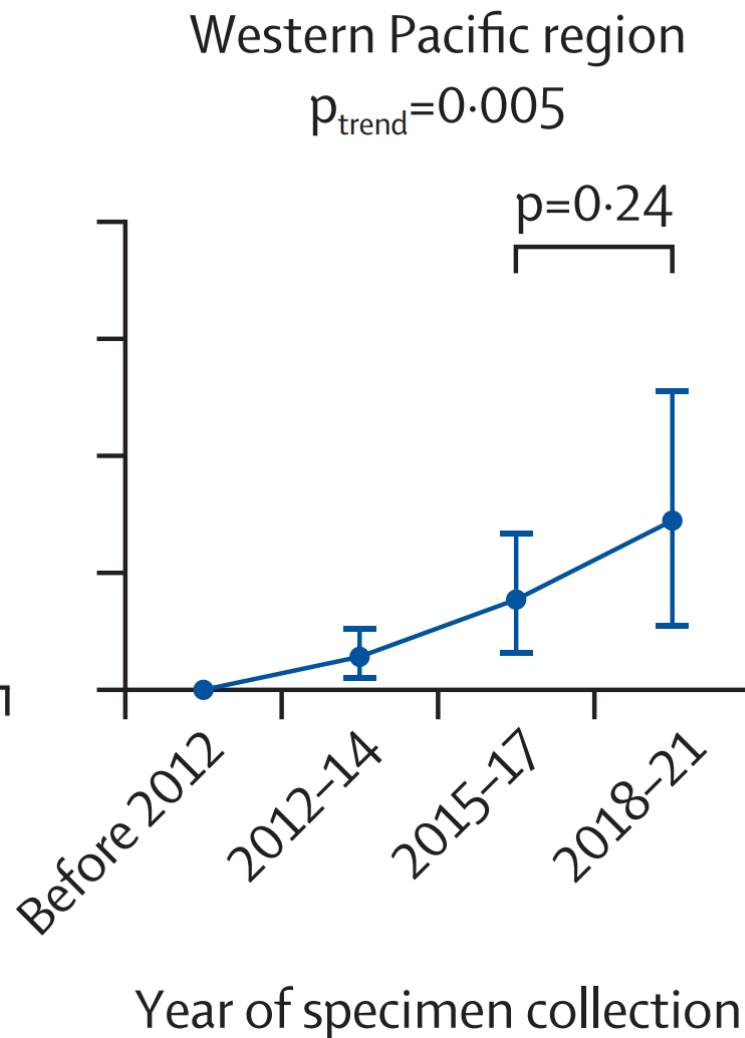
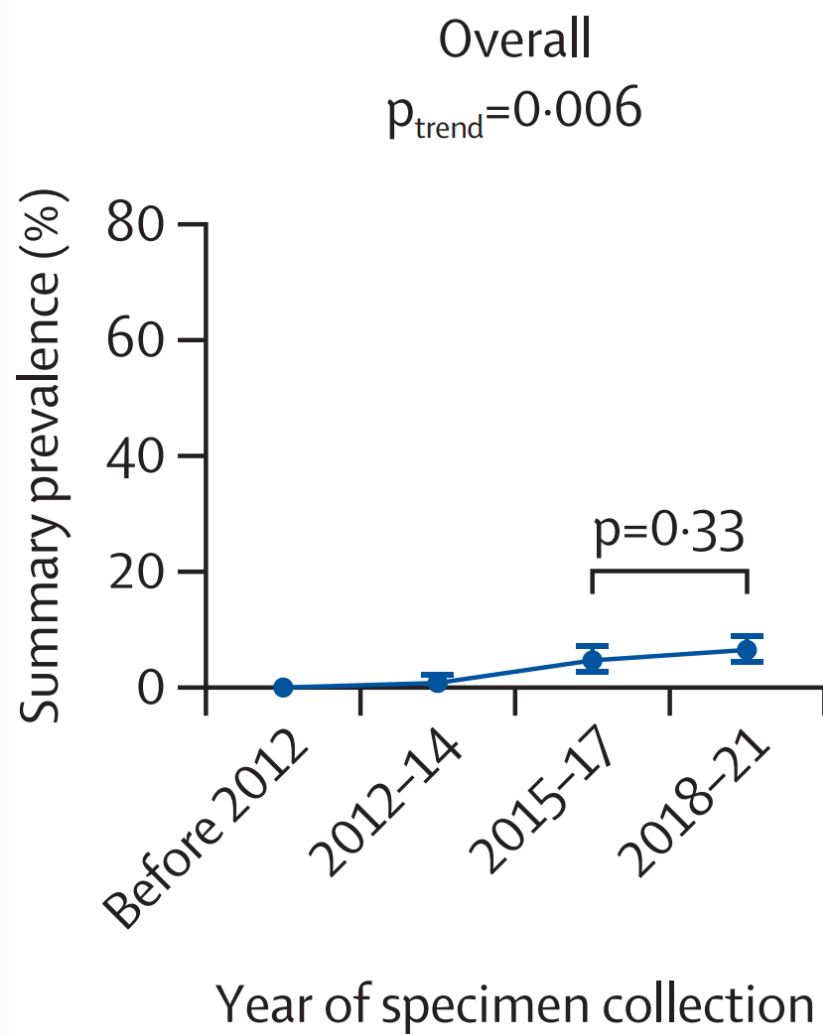
*parC* G248T mutation conferring **ParC S83I phenotype** most common

Clinical study found **ParC S83I** associated with 60% moxifloxacin failure<sup>5</sup>

[5] Vodstrcil, L.A., et al., (2022). Combination Therapy for *Mycoplasma genitalium*, and New Insights Into the Utility of parC Mutant Detection to Improve Cure. *Clin Infect Dis*, 75(5)



# Prevalence of dual MRM & ParC mutation

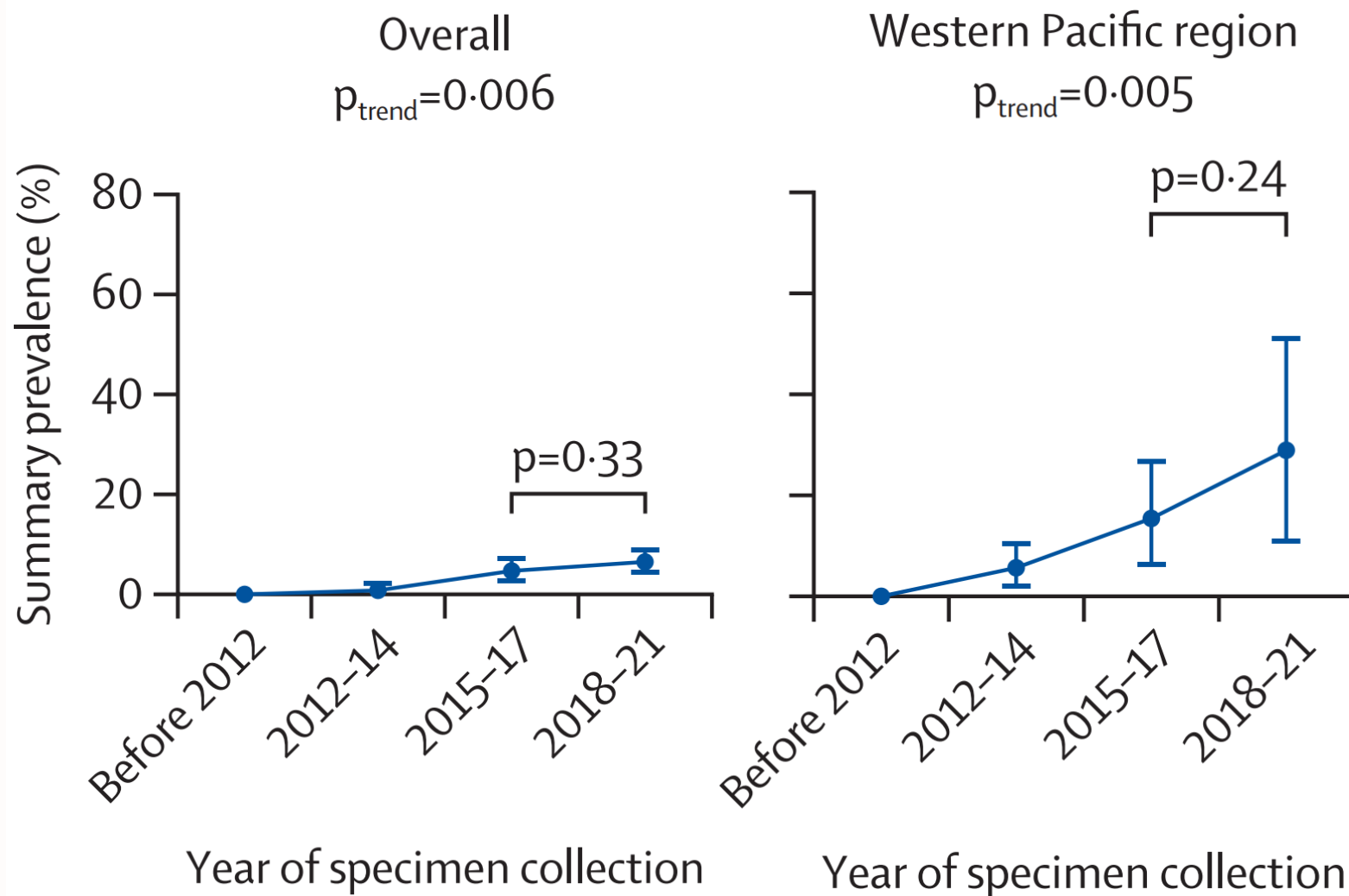
Chua, 2025<sup>6</sup>

WHO Western Pacific region global hotspot for ParC and dual-class mutation

**29% carrying dual-class mutation (2018-21)**

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**29% carrying dual-class mutation (2018-21)**

**We need more longitudinal data & drug surveillance**

# Aims

**Examine trends in the use and efficacy of moxifloxacin for MG infection at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) from 2015–2024**

## **Secondary aims:**

- Assess moxifloxacin efficacy by site of infection and coinfection status
- Assess the impact of MSHC's introduction of ParC assay on moxifloxacin use and efficacy

# The Study

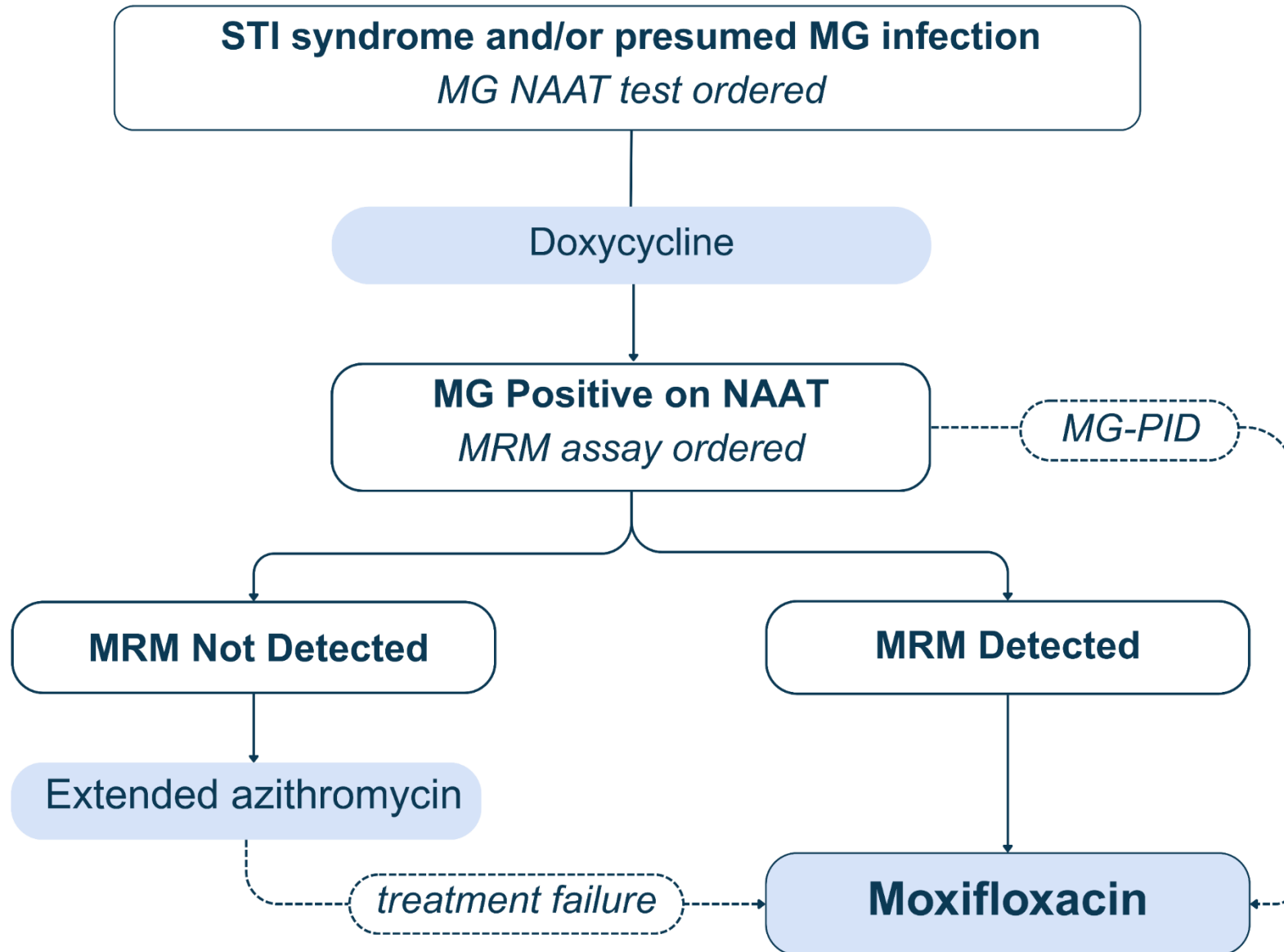
Retrospective audit of every MG infection diagnosed and managed at MSHC from 2015-2024

Large, urban sexual health service

Extraction of epidemiological, clinical, treatment data from electronic client records

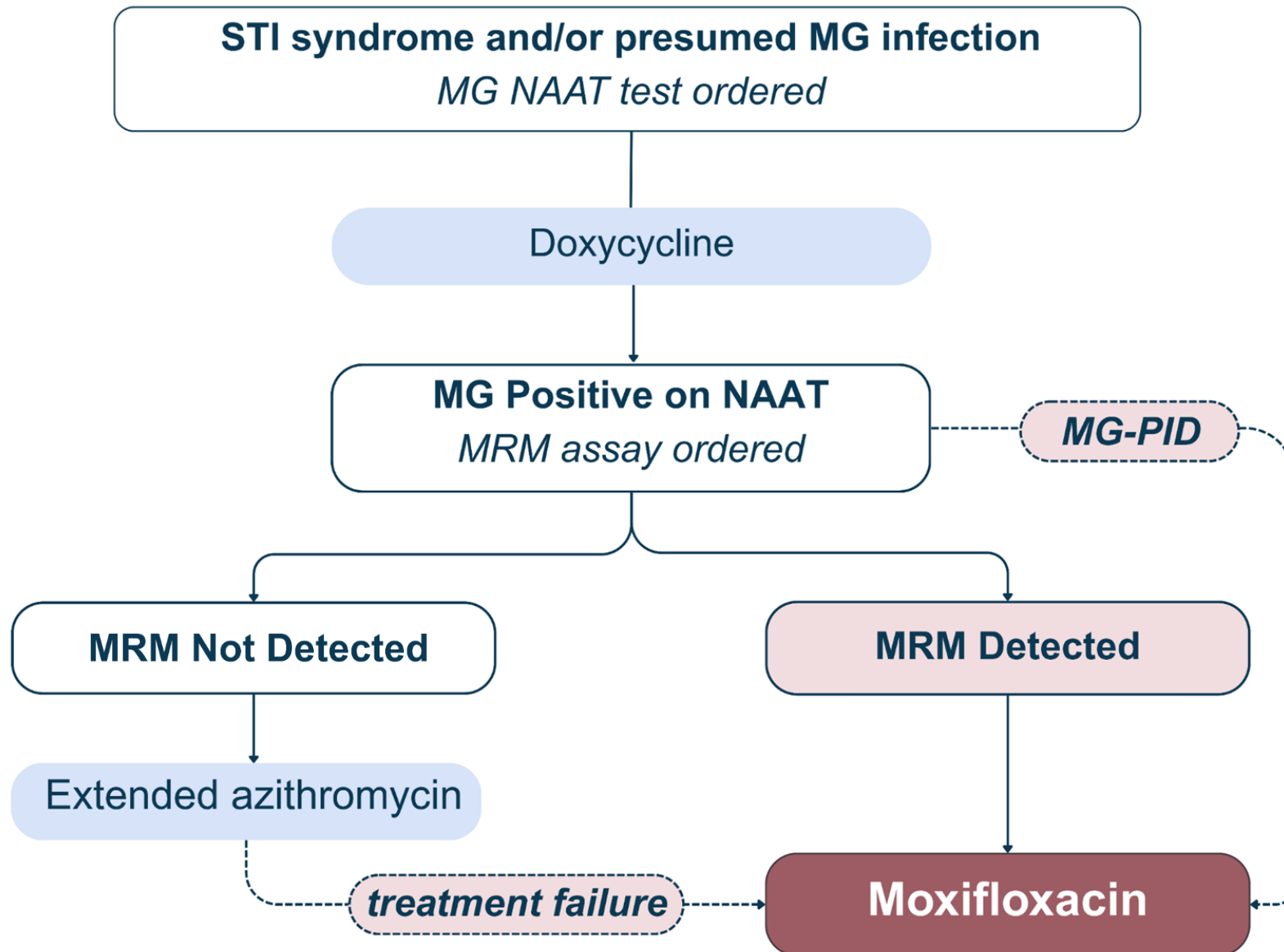
Ethics Approval - Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee 232/16

# Resistance-Guided Therapy (RGT)



**NAAT:** nucleic acid amplification test  
**MRM:** macrolide-resistance mutation  
**PID:** pelvic inflammatory disease

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**MRM+** 7 days  
**MG-PID** 14 days

# Outcomes

## Eligible for use analyses

- MG diagnosed at MSHC 2015 – 2024
- Received moxifloxacin from MSHC pharmacy within 14 days of diagnosis or failed azithromycin
- No prior fluoroquinolone/minocycline/pristinamycin treatment for same infection

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- Treated with moxifloxacin (*as above*)
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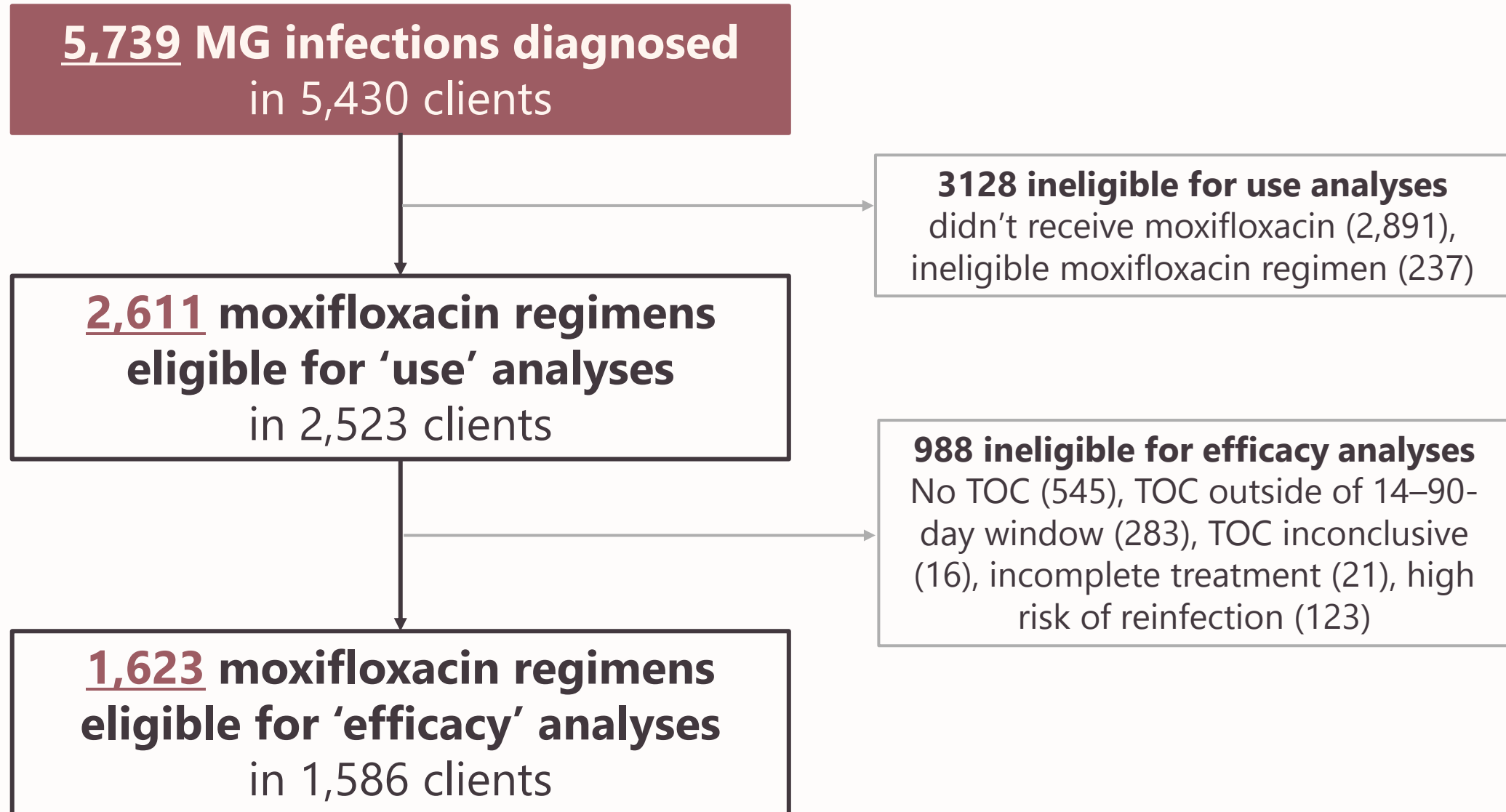
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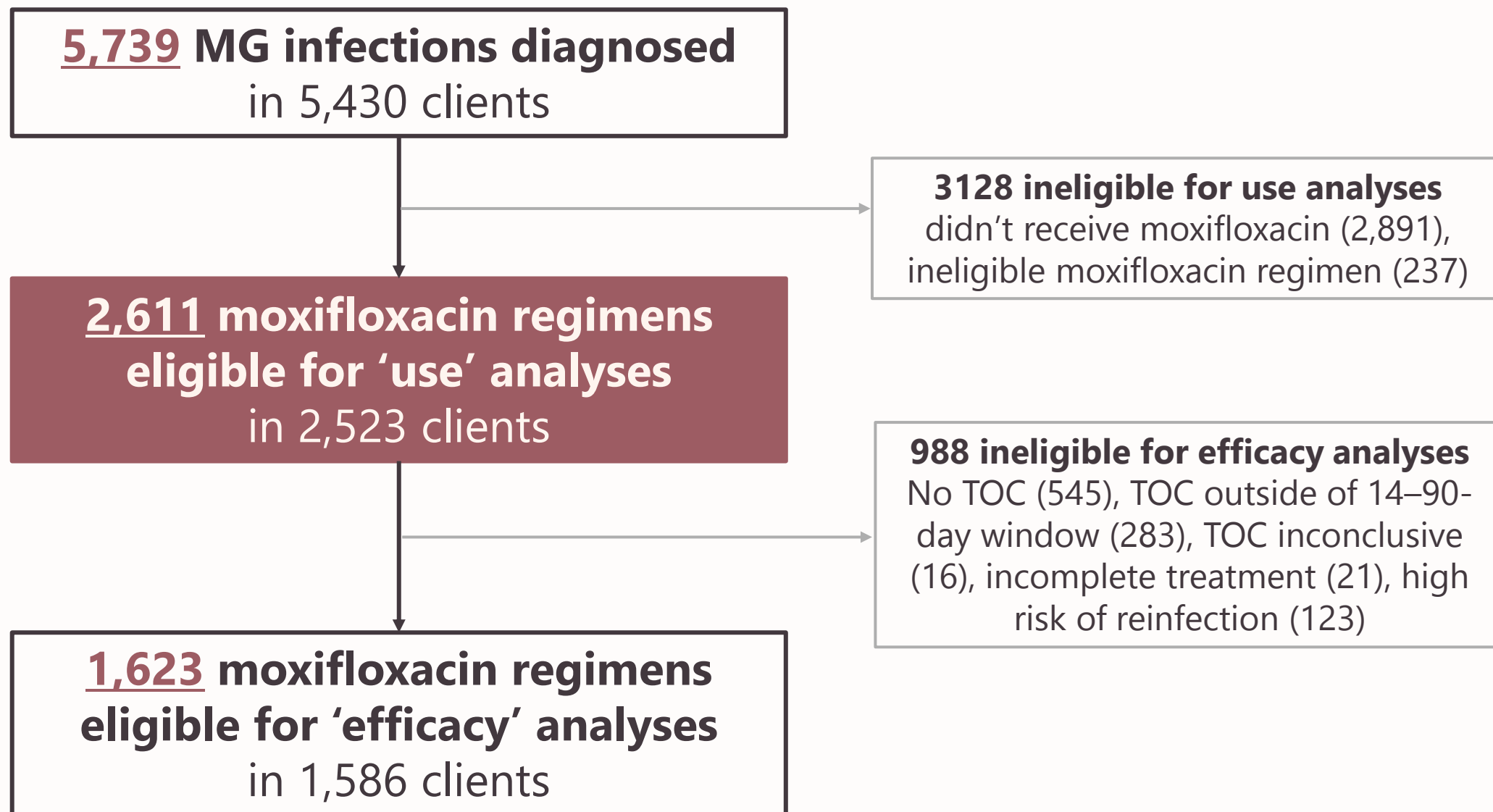
## Ineligible for efficacy analyses

- Did not return for TOC, returned outside of 14-90-day window, or TOC inconclusive
- Reported taking <50% prescribed doses of moxifloxacin (incomplete treatment)
- Clients reported condomless sex with an untreated ongoing partner (high risk of reinfection)

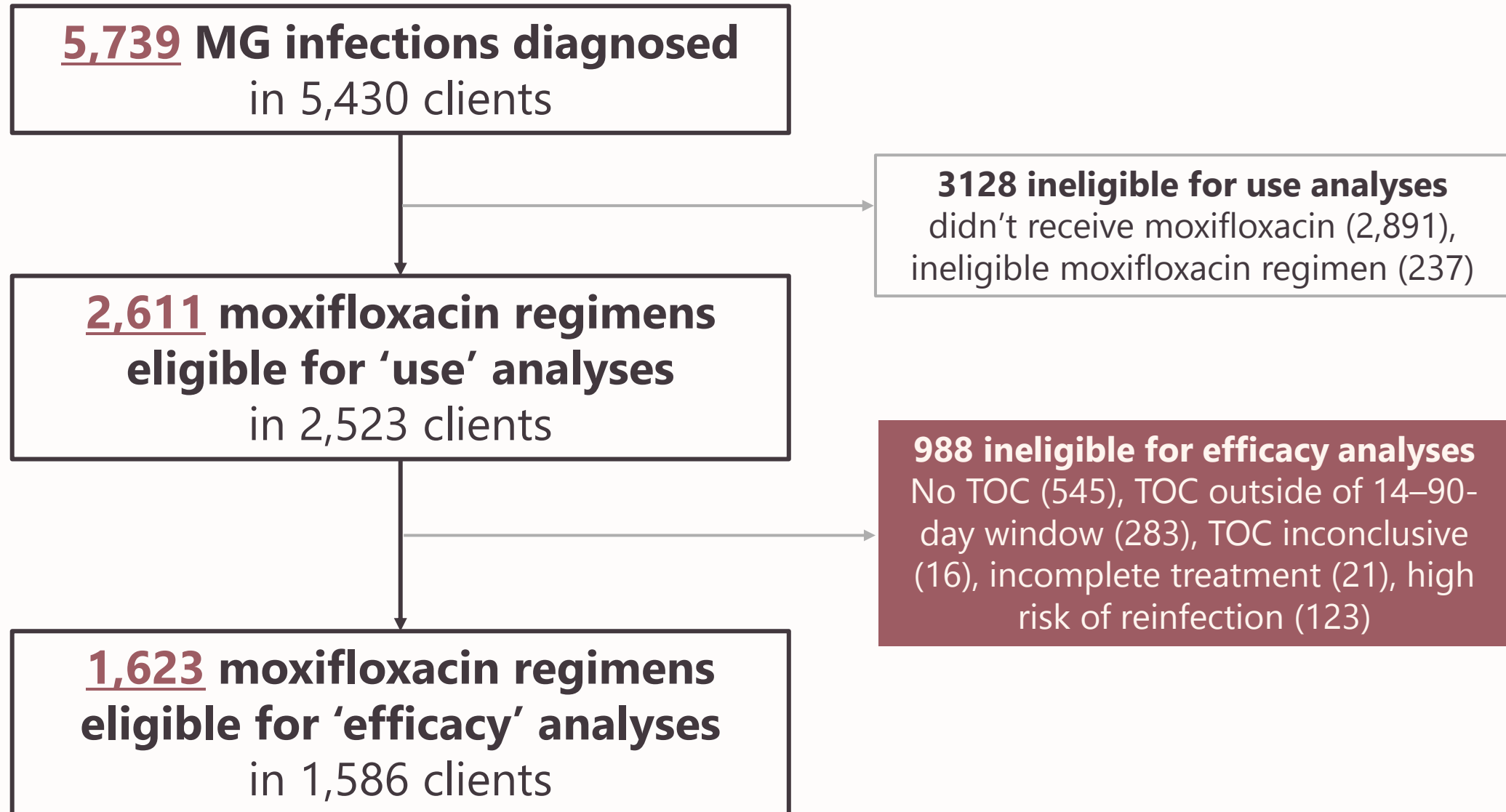
# Overview of study population



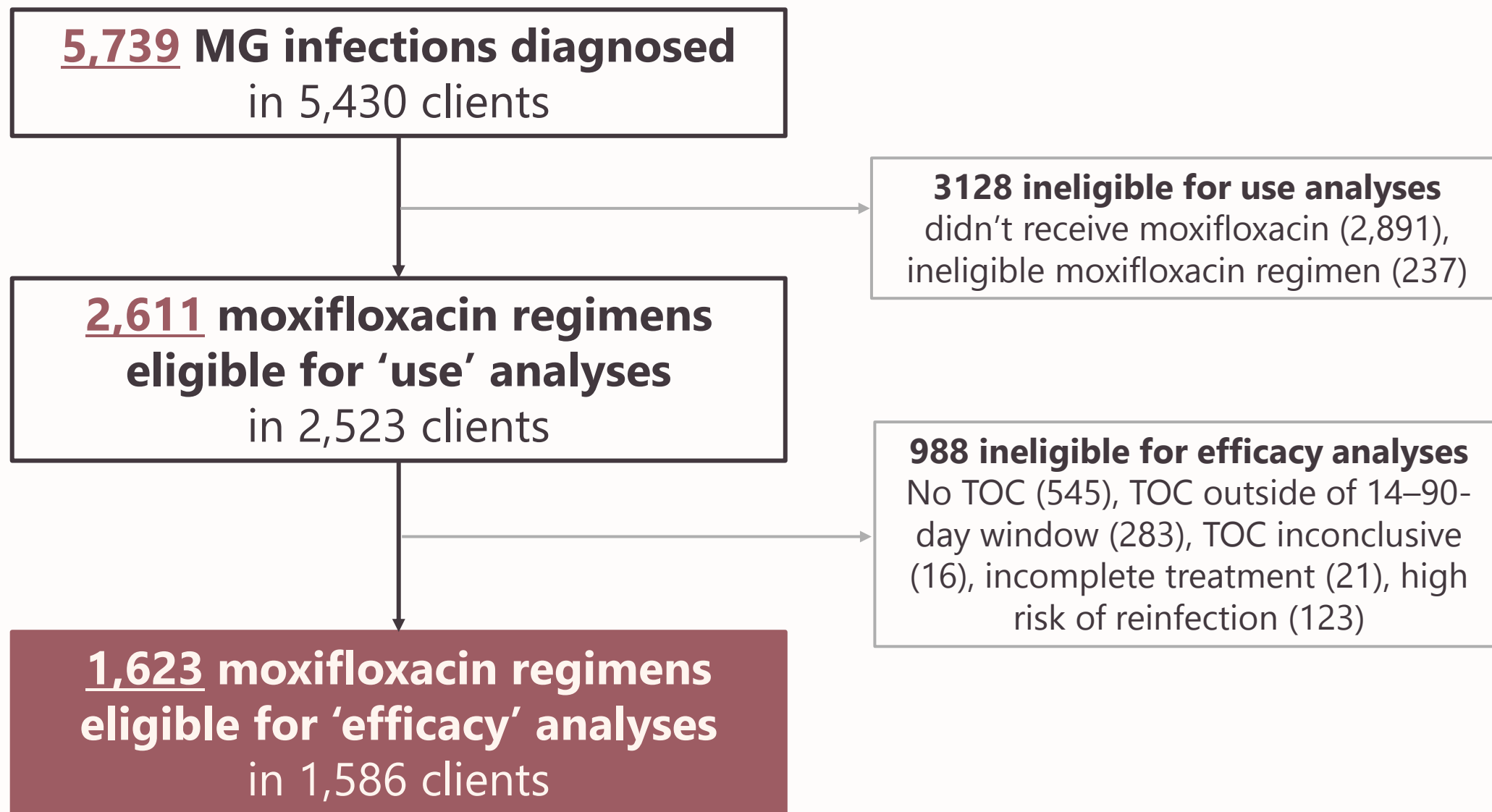
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# Characteristics of moxifloxacin-treated population

Characteristic	n (%)	N=2611
Age, median [range]	28 [16-69]	
People living with HIV	102 (3.91)	
<b>Gender &amp; Sexuality</b>		
Cisgender women	<b>863</b> (33.05)	
Cisgender men (no male partners)	<b>633</b> (24.24)	
Cisgender men (male partners)	<b>1043</b> (39.95)	
Gender Diverse people	<b>72</b> (2.76)	
<b>Site of Infection</b>		
Urine/urethral	<b>1565</b> (59.94)	
Cervicovaginal	<b>699</b> (26.77)	
Anorectal	<b>322</b> (12.33)	
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*\*significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) higher in infections receiving moxifloxacin compared to total study population (36% MSM and 1.5% GD)*

# Characteristics of moxifloxacin-treated population

Characteristic	n (%)	N=2611
<b>Indication for Moxifloxacin</b>		
MRM+ detected	2,236 (85.64)	
Failed azithromycin	144 (5.52)	
MG-PID	231 (8.85)	
<b>Moxifloxacin Duration (days)</b>		
7	2,312 (88.55)	
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CT detected	205 (7.85)	
NG detected	109 (4.17)	
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<b>BV Coinfection (N = 1124, 59% of women)</b>		
BV detected (Nugent's $\geq 7$ )	407 (36.21)	
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**CT:** *Chlamydia trachomatis*

**NG:** *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

**BV:** Bacterial vaginosis

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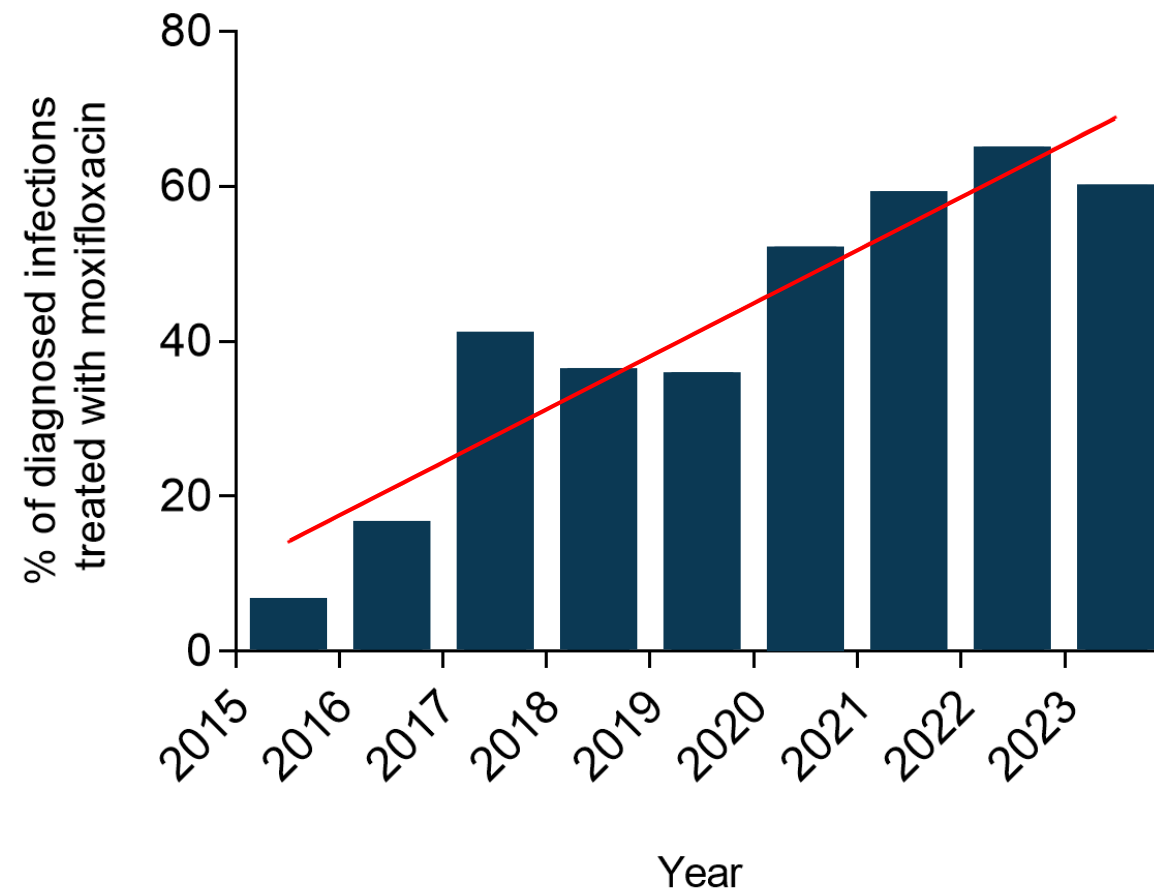
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# Moxifloxacin use by year, 2015-2023

Year	n regimens / N diagnoses	Use, % [95% CI]
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2016	72/433	16.63 [13.24-20.48]
2017	204/496	41.13 [36.76-45.60]
2018	263/719	36.58 [33.05-40.22]
2019	222/616	36.04 [32.24-39.97]
2020	255/488	52.25 [47.72-56.76]
2021	269/453	59.38 [54.70-63.94]
2022	368/565	65.13 [61.04-69.06]
2023	482/800	60.25 [56.76-63.66]
TOTAL	2,154/4,852	44.39 [42.99-45.81]



$p_{trend} < 0.0001$

— line of best fit

# Year-on-year changes to moxifloxacin use

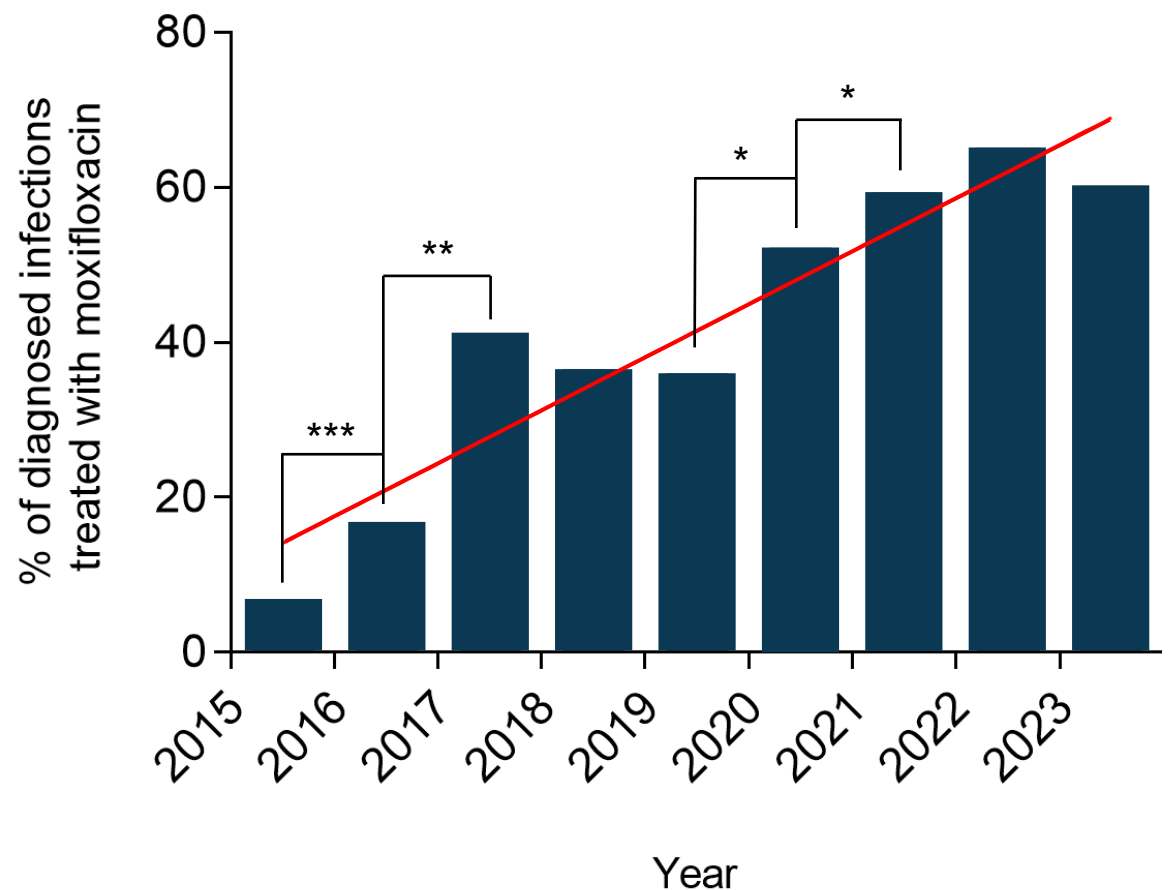
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**Significant increase from year prior**

\*  $p < 0.05$

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# Effects of COVID-19

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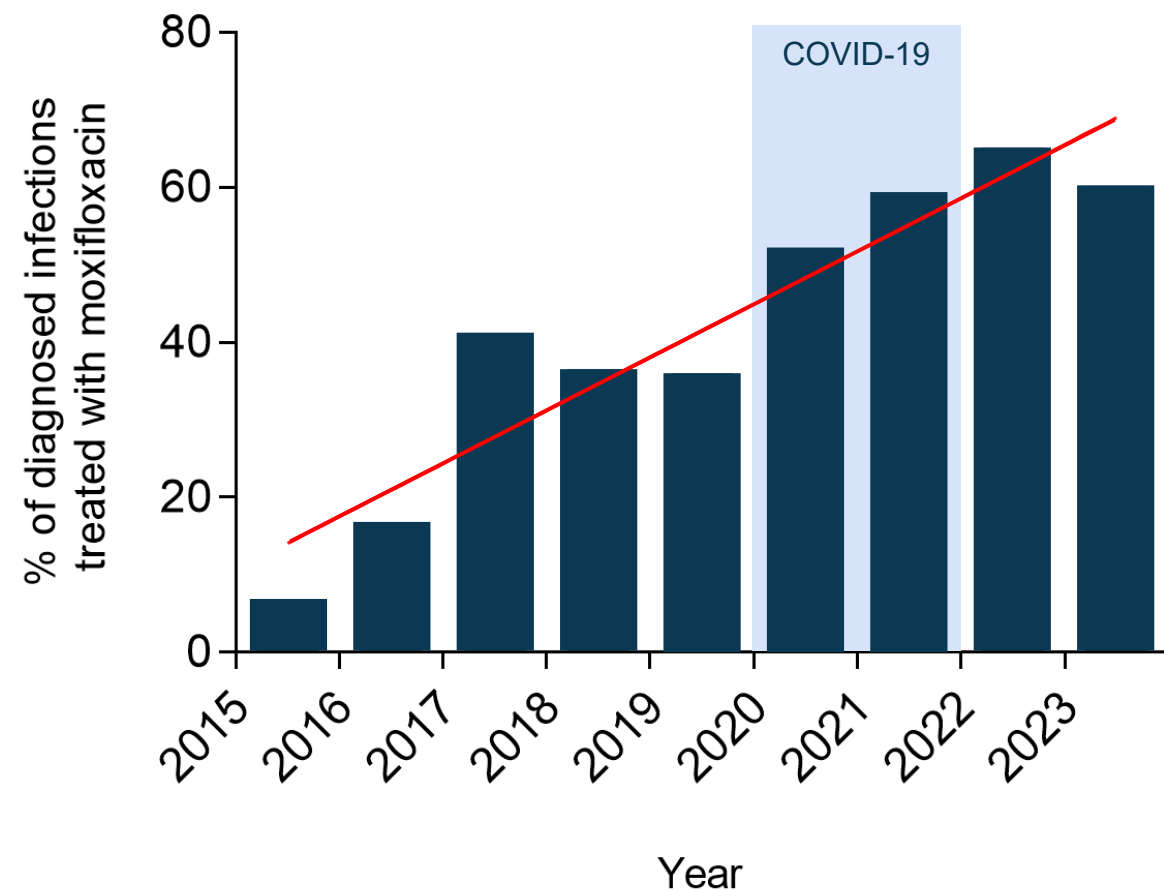
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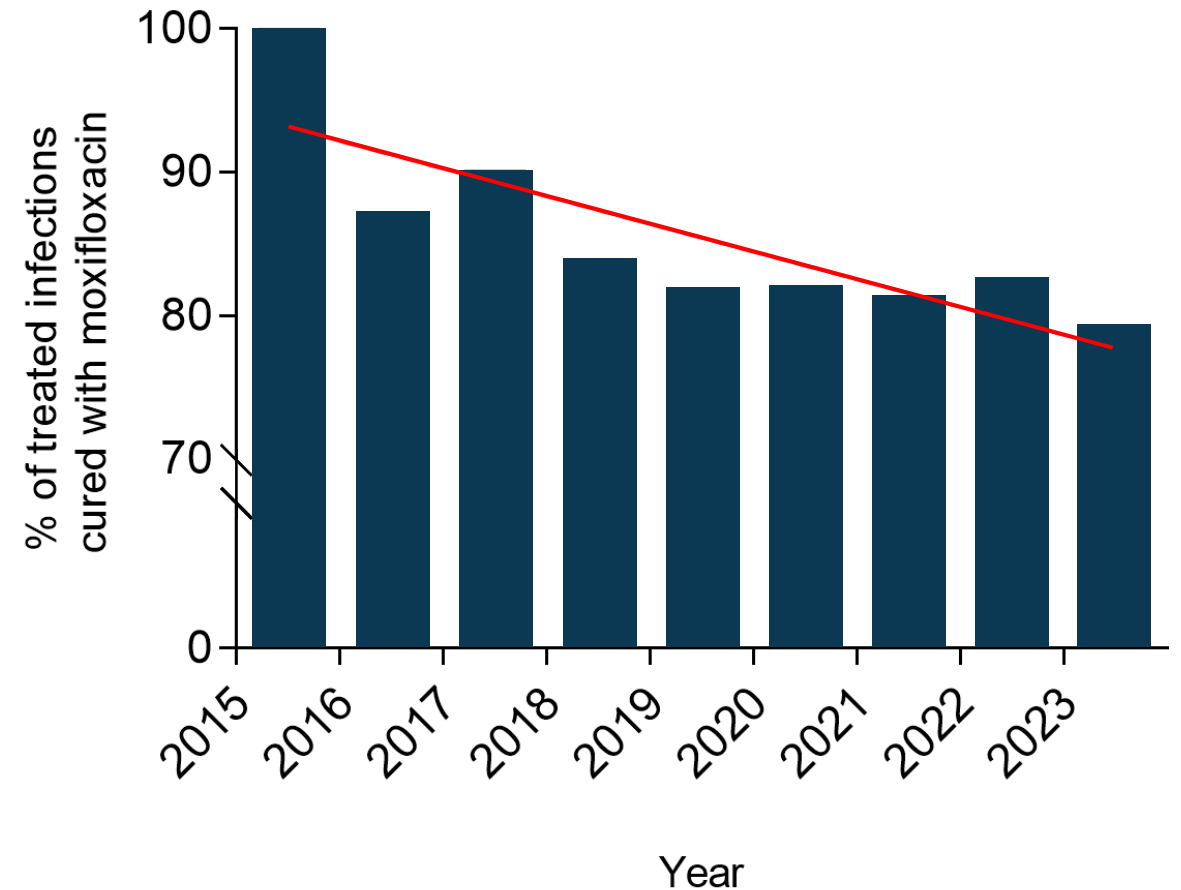
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— line of best fit

# Moxifloxacin efficacy by year, 2015-2023

Year	n cures / N eligible regimens	Efficacy, % [95% CI]
2015	11/11	100 [71.51-100]
2016	34/39	87.18 [72.57-95.70]
2017	110/122	90.16 [83.45-94.81]
2018	141/168	83.93 [77.49-89.13]
2019	116/140	81.86 [75.58-88.70]
2020	142/173	82.08 [75.54-87.49]
2021	144/177	81.36 [74.83-86.81]
2022	190/230	82.61 [77.08-87.28]
2023	238/300	79.33 [74.30-83.77]
TOTAL	1,126/1,360	82.79 [80.68-84.76]



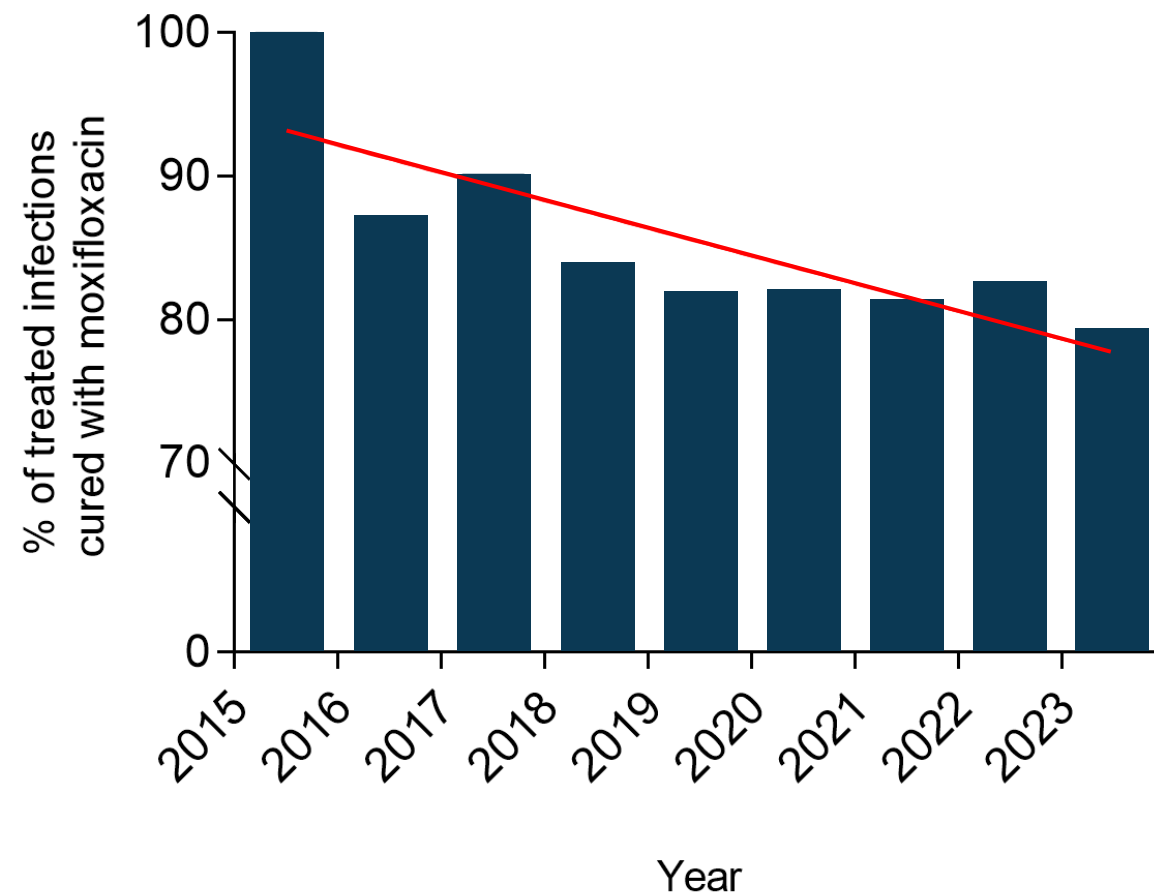
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# Introduction of ParC Assay, 2024

In early 2024, ParC PCR resistance assay introduced to MSHC practice

All MRM+ samples undergo assay

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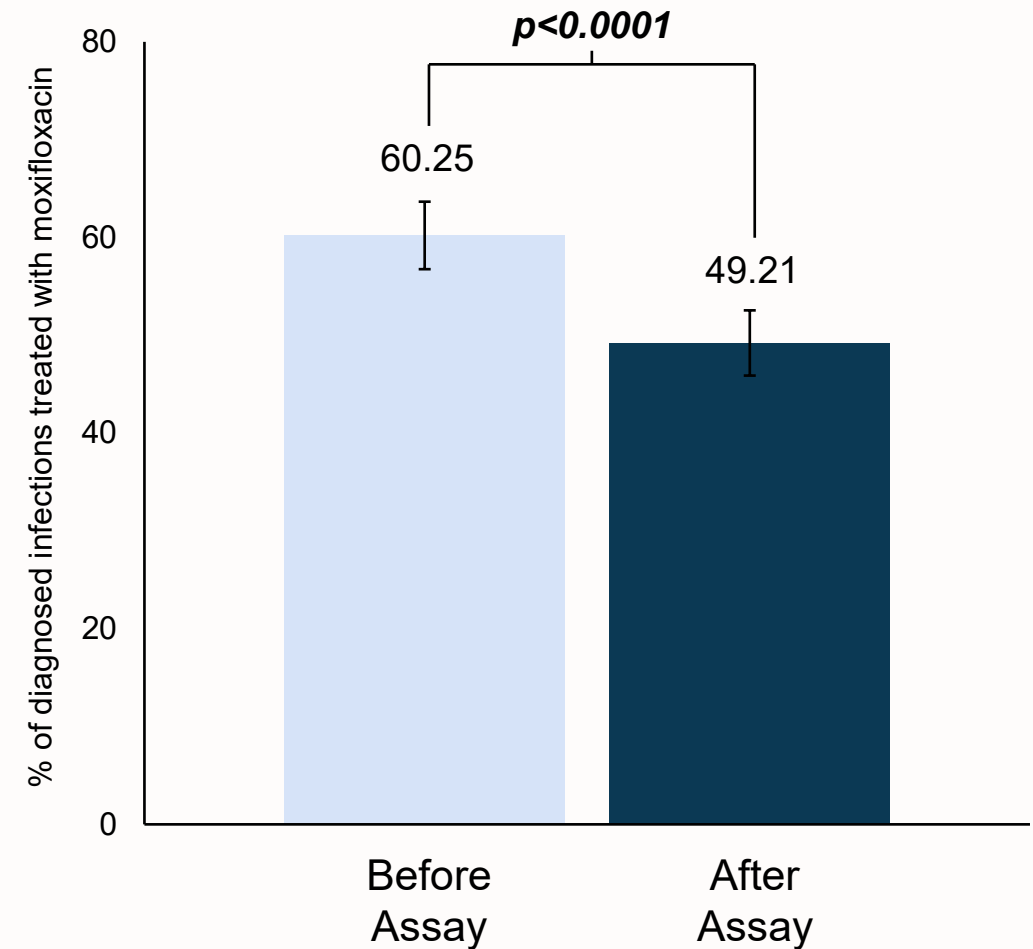
Assay targets: **ParC S83** (wildtype) and **ParC S83I** (mutant)

Assay result	Interpretation	Curative antibiotics
<b>ParC S83I mutant</b>	Reduced susceptibility to moxifloxacin	Metronidazole + Minocycline <i>OR</i> Sitafloracin
<b>ParC S83 wildtype</b>	susceptible to moxifloxacin	<b>Moxifloxacin</b>
<b>No result</b>	below limit of detection of assay, or another mutation ( <i>e.g.</i> S83R) detected	
<b>Invalid test</b>	assay unable to be performed ( <i>i.e.</i> due to inhibition or sample contamination)	

# Moxifloxacin use after introduction of ParC assay

	n regimens / N diagnoses	Use, % [95% CI]
<b>Before Assay</b>	482/800	<b>60.25</b> [56.76–63.66]
<b>After Assay*</b>	438/890	<b>49.21</b> [45.88-52.55]

$p < 0.0001$

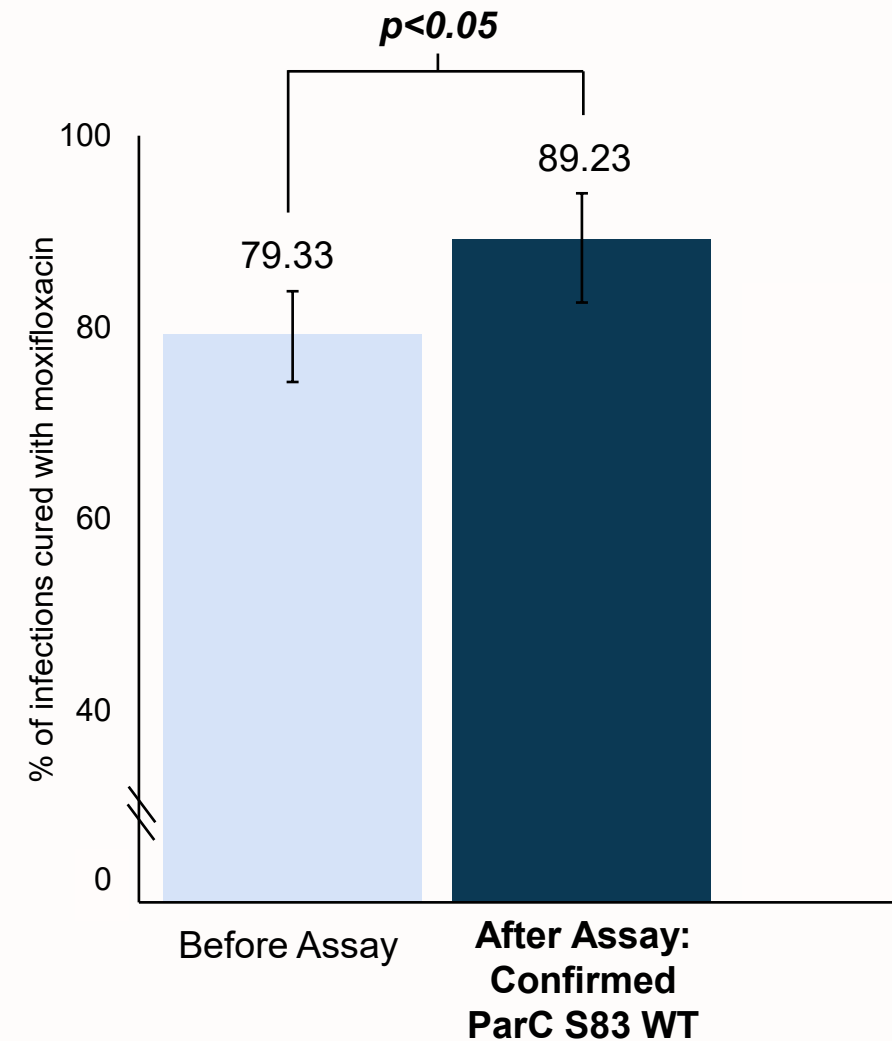


\*1 May 2024 – 1 May 2025, accounting for roll-out period

# Moxifloxacin efficacy after introduction of ParC assay

	n cured / N eligible regimens	Efficacy, % [95% CI]
<b>Before Assay</b>	238/300	<b>79.33</b> [74.30–83.77]
<b>After Assay: ParC S83 WT infections</b>	116/130	<b>89.23</b> [82.59-93.99]

$p = 0.013$



# Infections treated with moxifloxacin, by ParC result

Assay Result	Number of infections treated with moxifloxacin, n N=241	Efficacy, % [95% CI]
<b>ParC S83 WT</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>89.23</b> [82.59-93.99]
No result	<b>63</b>	80.95 [69.09-89.75]
Invalid test	<b>19</b>	68.42 [43.45-87.42]
ParC assay not performed (no MRM+ result)	<b>29</b>	82.76 [64.23-94.15]

Only **54%** of moxifloxacin-treated infections  
were **confirmed** ParC S83 wildtype



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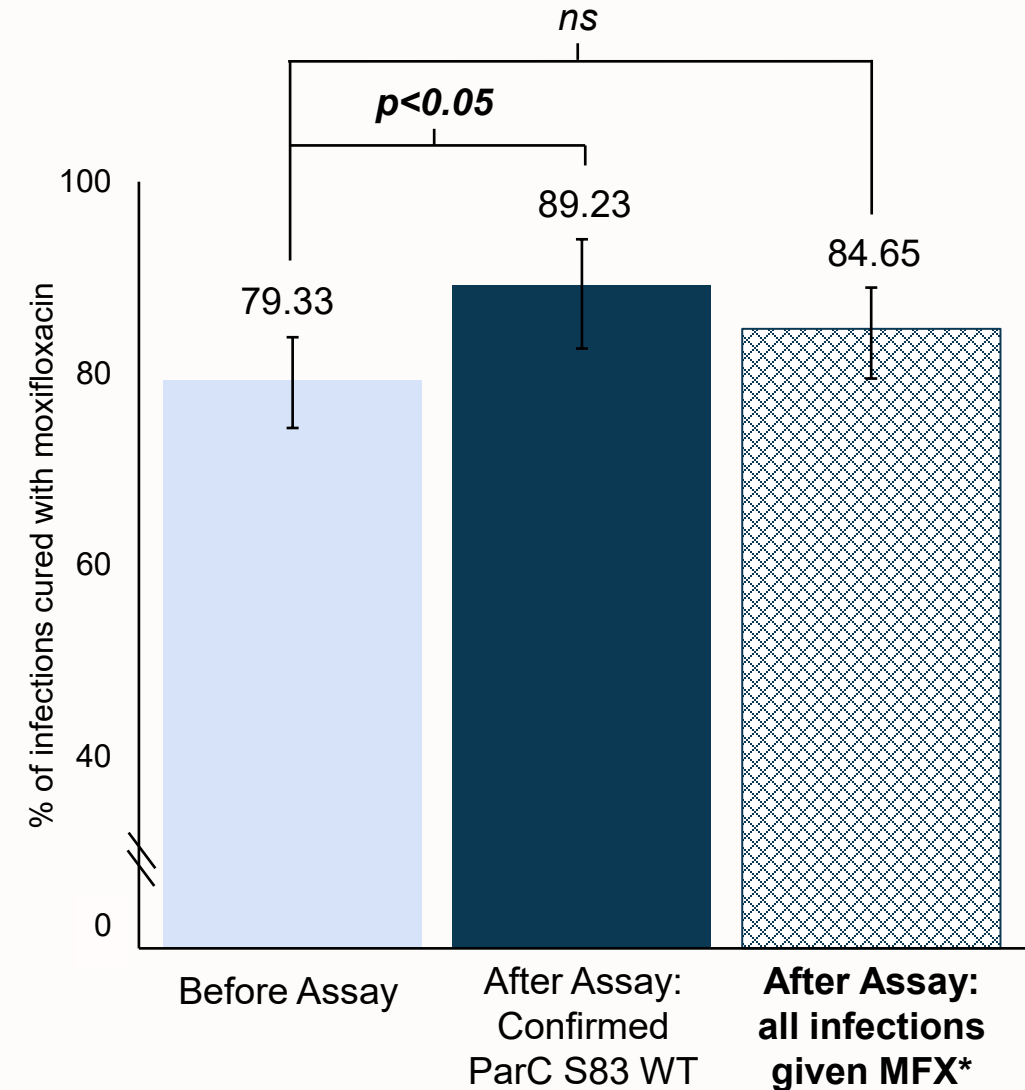
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Invalid test	<b>19</b>	<b>68.42</b> [43.45-87.42]
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<b>After Assay: ParC S83 WT infections</b>	116/130	<b>89.23</b> [82.59-93.99]
<b>After Assay: all infections given MFX*</b>	204/241	<b>84.65</b> [79.46-88.95]

Overall moxifloxacin efficacy impacted by high proportion of infections with indeterminate ParC assay results, some of which would be resistant

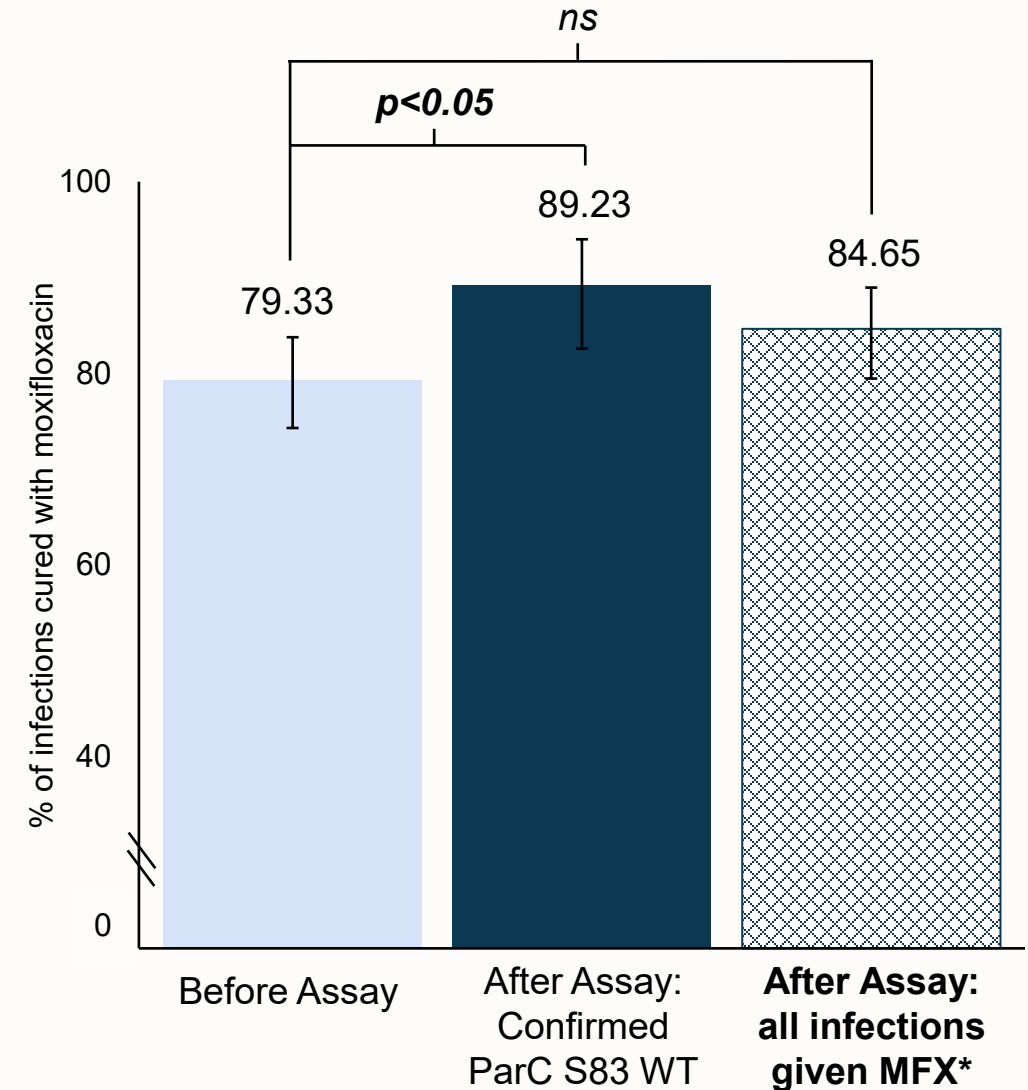


\*i.e. including ParC S83 WT, No Result, Invalid, MRM not detected

# Moxifloxacin efficacy after introduction of ParC assay

	n cured / N eligible regimens	Efficacy, % [95% CI]
<b>Before Assay</b>	238/300	<b>79.33</b> [74.30–83.77]
<b>After Assay: ParC S83 WT infections</b>	116/130	<b>89.23</b> [82.59-93.99]
<b>After Assay: all infections given MFX*</b>	204/241	<b>84.65</b> [79.46-88.95]

Loss to follow-up increased after assay introduction, from 38% to 45% ( $p<0.05$ ) which likely impacted findings (selection bias for unresolved infections)



\*i.e. including ParC S83 WT, No Result, Invalid, MRM not detected

# Strengths

- Large sample size
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- Population with high antimicrobial consumption, drug-resistant STIs
- More “no result” and “invalid” ParC results than anticipated  
Low load infections, and differences in test sensitivity → **‘resistance gap’**

# In Summary: Trends in Moxifloxacin Use and Efficacy

Moxifloxacin now the most common curative antibiotic for MG at MSHC, surpassing azithromycin due to increasing MRM

Efficacy is in decline:

- 2023 estimate of 79% is lowest reported MFX efficacy from MSHC
- 2015-23 estimate of 83% lower than Li's meta-analysis (100% 2003-09, 89% 2010-17)

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"trigger point" for MRM assay (2006): **~75% AZI efficacy**  
efficacy of moxifloxacin (2023): **79%**



## Time for Next-Gen RGT?

MSHC's introduction of ParC assay in 2024 significantly reduced our use of moxifloxacin

Cure was significantly improved for confirmed ParC S83 wildtype infections

ParC assay shows great promise for MG management, but technology remains new and imperfect at this stage

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## *for further investigation...*

Previous MSHC study reported moxifloxacin cure  $\geq 96\%$  for ParC wildtype<sup>5</sup>

*Mutations to GyrA binding site? Other factors driving moxifloxacin failure?*

**How do we manage ParC S83I infections safely and effectively?**

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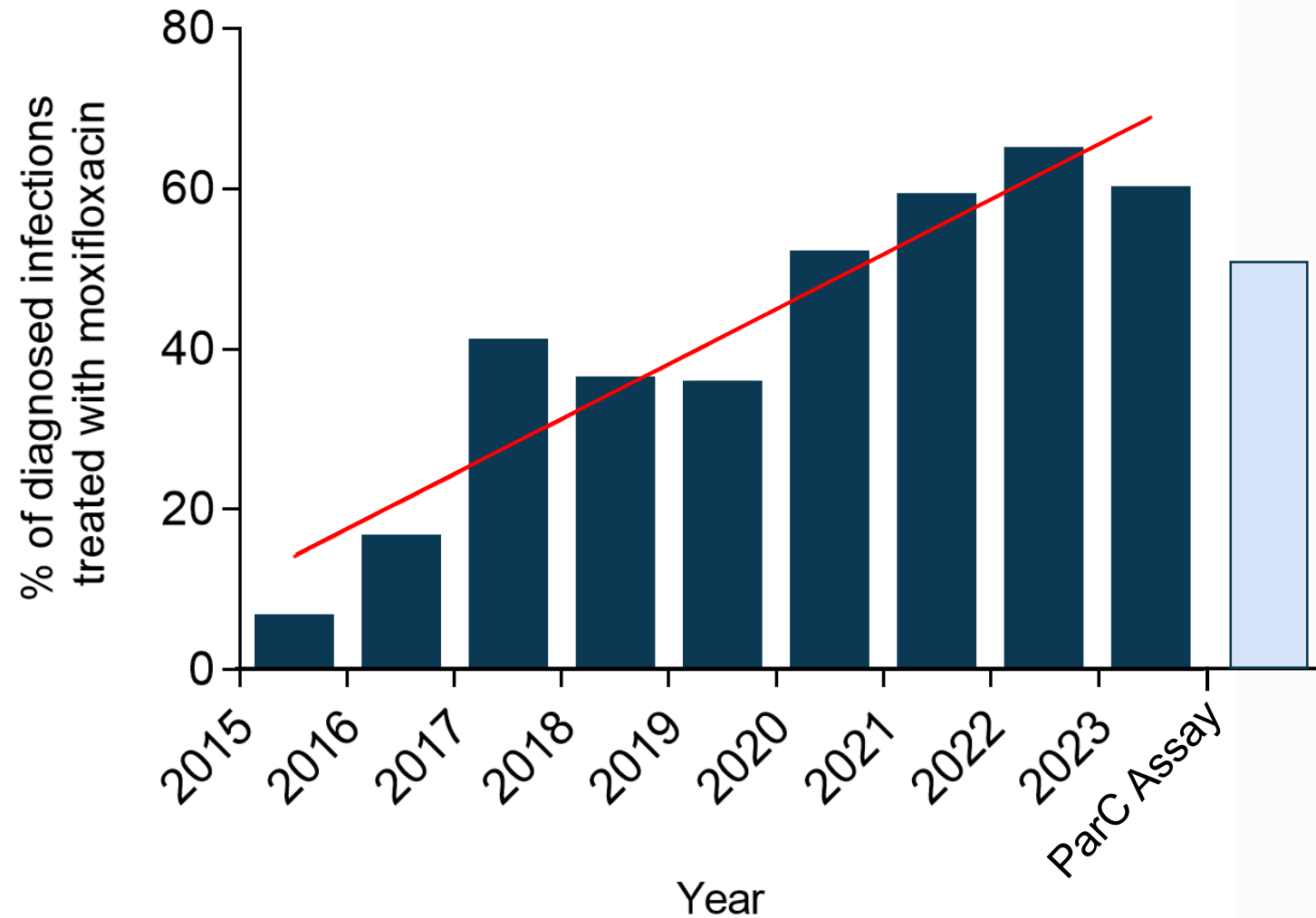
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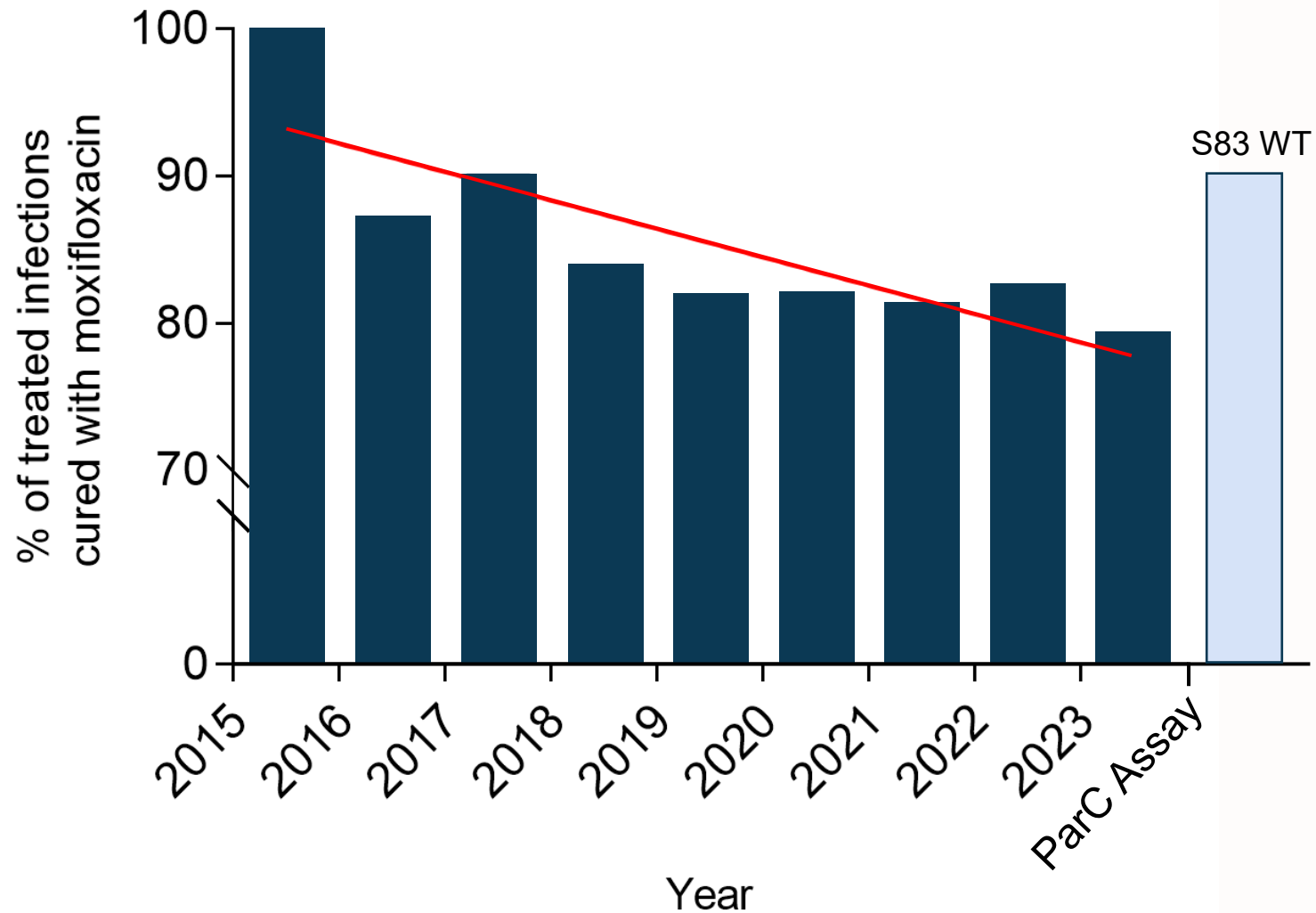
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# Moxifloxacin use by year



# Moxifloxacin efficacy by year





# Appendix: Secondary Outcomes

