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Failure of daptomycin monotherapy for endocarditis caused by an Enterococcus faecium strain with vancomycin-resistant and vancomycin-susceptible subpopulations and evidence of in vivo loss of the vanA gene cluster.

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A patient with native valve endocarditis caused by a vancomycin "heteroresistant" strain of Enterococcus faecium experienced failure of daptomycin monotherapy without evidence of daptomycin resistance. The infecting organism exhibited in vivo emergence of a vancomycin-susceptible subpopulation lacking vanA. Treatment with a combination of high-dose daptomycin, gentamicin, and high-dose ampicillin cleared the infection.

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