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Pherecydes Pharma treats patients effectively with bacteriophage

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Phage therapy could offer an alternative treatment method in the fight against antimicrobial resistance

Pherecydes Pharma, a biotechnology company specialized in the research and development of anti-infective therapies based on the use of bacteriophages, announces that its bacteriophage therapies have been successfully used to treat a patient with relapsing *Staphylococcus aureus* prosthetic-joint infection (PJI). The results of the treatment were published in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases* at the end of last year.

The patient had relapsing severe prosthetic joint infection of the hip. As a salvage treatment, in combination with antibiotics, phages selected by Pherecydes from its library and manufactured in an R&D laboratory according to a strict quality control process were applied onto the infection site during surgery. Phages were well tolerated and the treatment led to a favorable outcome.

Phage therapy is an innovative therapeutic approach against bacterial infections, particularly those acquired in hospitals (HAI) - and/or resistant to antibiotics. According to the O'Neill report, if antibiotic resistance continues to increase it will result in the deaths of 10 million people each year and a 2 to 3.5% reduction in global GDP from 2050 onwards. The WHO estimates that the annual costs generated represent €7bn ($8.3bn) in Europe and $6.5bn (€5.5bn) in the United States. The rapid development of antibiotic resistance has become a major public health issue. In 2017, the WHO published a list of priority targets, which includes those pathogens selected by Pherecydes.

"We are delighted to report the successful use of our bacteriophages for the treatment of a patient," said Jérôme Gabard, COO of Pherecydes Pharma. "We will continue with our work on phage therapy to provide a new option to address the antibiotic resistance issue."