Emerge of NDM-1-Producing Multidrug-Resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and Co-Harboring of Carbapenemase Genes in South of Iran

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(Received 11 Nov 2018; accepted 22 Jan 2019)

Abstract

**Background:** New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1 (NDM-1) is one of the most important emerging antibiotic resistance. Co-harboring three or four carbapenemases is rare and only a few reports exist in the literature. We described the characteristics of the large epidemic outbreaks and reports co-producing *bla*NDM-1 with the other carbapenemase genes in *P. aeruginosa* isolates.

**Methods:** This present cross-sectional research was conducted on 369 *P. aeruginosa* isolates obtained from burn and general hospitals within years 2013 to 2016. Beta-lactamase classes A, B and D genes were identified by PCR method. Modified hodge test (MHT), double-disk potentiation tests (DDPT) and double disk synergy test (DDST) were performed for detection carbapenemase and metallo beta-lactamase (MBL) production of *bla*NDM-1 positive *P. aeruginosa* isolates.

**Results:** From 236 carbapenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa* (CRPA), 116 isolates have had MBL genes and twenty-nine isolates were found positive for *bla*NDM-1. In CRPA isolates, *bla*IMP-1, *bla*VIM-2 and *bla*OXA-10 were identified in 27.5%, 21.1% and 32.2% of isolates respectively, while co-producing *bla*NDM-1, *bla*IMP-1, *bla*OXA-10, co-producing *bla*NDM-1, *bla*VIM-2, *bla*OXA-10 and co-producing *bla*IMP-1, *bla*VIM-2 were determined in 11 (4.6%), 8 (3.4%) and 27 (11.4%) of isolates respectively.

**Conclusion:** The finding of this co-existence of multiple carbapenemase resistance genes is threatening for public health. Dipicolinic acid is a superior MBL inhibitor in DDPT antique than EDTA in DDST method for the detection of MBL-*bla*NDM-1 producing *P. aeruginosa*.

**Keywords:** *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (*bla*NDM-1); Modified hodge test (MHT); Double-disk potentiation tests (DDPT); Double disk synergy test (DDST)

Introduction

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is major agents of hospital-acquired pathogens (1). Carbapenemases indicate the most versatile family of beta-lactamase, with a wide spectrum inimitable by other beta-lactam hydrolyzing enzymes (2).
Carbapenems are the last-line treatment of multi-drug-resistant *P. aeruginosa* (MDRP) infections (1, 3). Because of the fact that carbapenems are a last resort treatment choice for infections caused by MDRP isolates, the presence of carbapenem-resistant strains is becoming a main public health challenge (2, 3). Among plasmid-mediated, extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) are commonly known to hydrolyze cephalosporins and metallo beta-lactamases (MBLs) can hydrolyze carbapenems. Resistance to carbapenems can be related to producing carbapenemase enzymes such as serine carbapenemases (containing KPC and GES enzymes) and MBLs (metallo-beta-lactamases) such as imipenemase (IMP), Verona integron-encoded metallo-beta-lactamase (VIM) and New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM), enzymes and oxacillinases (such as OXA enzymes) (2, 4, 5). MBLs such as *bla*<sub>NDM</sub> and *bla*<sub>IMP</sub> are the most clinically important classes of beta-lactamases; but the lately discovered transmissible New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1 (NDM-1) is becoming the most menacing in carbapenemase genes (2, 6). In addition, most *bla*<sub>NDM-1</sub> strains are resistant to a wide-ranging of other antibiotic groups and transport numerous additional resistance genes for example to aminoglycosides, sulfonamides, macrolides and fluoroquinolones (7).

The detection of this co-harboring of multiple carbapenem resistance genes (Simultaneous attendance of both MBL and non-MBL genes) in clinical isolates from supremacy of carbapenems are considered as the last line resort of option for most of the dangerous infections caused by *P. aeruginosa*, but due to the prevalence of carbapenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa* (CRPA) isolates these lifesaving antibiotics were compromised in treating the patients with serious sickness (8). The aims study were to identify the carbapenemase classes A, B and D and ESBL determinants among CRPA isolates in burn and non-burn patients. Moreover, identification of *bla*<sub>NDM-1</sub> by three phenotypic methods (include DDPT, DDST and MHT) and comparing with PCR method was evaluated.

**Materials and Methods**

**Bacterial isolation and identification**

During the period from Oct 2013 to Jul 2016, 369 non-duplicate isolates were collected in burns (102 isolates from burn wounds) and general hospitals (267 from various hospital wards). These isolates were collected from teaching hospitals’ microbiology laboratories in Ahvaz, Isfahan and Tehran cities from Iran. The isolation and identification of *P. aeruginosa* were done by the conventional methods and proved by PCR amplification with specific primers for *P. aeruginosa* gyrB gene with product size 221bp (9).

**Antimicrobial susceptibility testing**

The antibiotic susceptibility of all the isolates was tested by employing the Kirby-Bauer’s technique as suggested by the CLSI (10). The eleven antibiotic disks used include: imipenem (10 μg), meropenem (10 μg), ertapenem (10 μg), ciprofloxacin (5 μg), ceftazidime (30 μg), cefepime (30 μg), cefotaxime (30 μg), amikacin (30 μg), gentamicin (10 μg), piperacillin/tazobactam (100/10 μg), aztreonam (30 μg) (Mast Group Ltd, UK). Isolates with resistance against a minimum of three groups of antibacterial agents were considered as MDR (11). To detect ESBL phenotype combined disk method using disks of ceftazidime (30 mg) with (10 mg) and without clavulanic acid (Mast Group Ltd, UK) was applied to all positively screened isolates by modified hodge test (MHT) (11). A growth in the area diameter of ≥5 mm around ceftazidime disc with and without clavulanic acid was expected to be a positive result for ESBL production (12, 13). The MHT was performed for all isolates as recommended by CLSI (10). The E test (imipenem 0.002-32μg/mL) (Liofilchem, Roseto degli Abruzzi, Italy) was applied (according to the manufacturer’s instructions) to all positively screened isolates by PCR rest for *bla*<sub>NDM</sub> gene, to determine minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs).

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Phenotypic detection of MBLs

The double-disk potentiation tests (DDPT) and double disk synergy test (DDST) was performed for all blaNDM-1 positive (14, 15) for phenotypic detection of blaNDM-1 producing isolates. The bacterial suspension with turbidity equivalent to 0.5 McFarland standard was prepared and cultured on MH agar. Two imipenem and imipenem-EDTA disks and meropenem+Dipicolinic acid (Liofilchem, Roseto degli Abruzzi, Italy) were placed on the surface of the agar at a distance of 4 cm from each other. After 18-24 h of incubation at 35-37 °C, the inhibition zone of imipenem disks with imipenem alone and disks with imipenem plus 750 μg of EDTA were measured. An increase of 7 mm or more in the zone diameter for imipenem-EDTA disk in comparison with imipenem disk alone was considered as a MBLs producing isolate. Moreover, DDPT was interpreted as positive even if a small potentiation inhibition zone was present (14, 15).

PCR amplification of resistance genes

DNA of strains was extracted by the DNA extraction set (Sinaclon, Iran) based on the guidelines of the manufacturer. The specific primers were used for different types of carbapenemase (blaNDM, blaIMP, blaVIM, blaKPC, blaGES, blaSPM and blaOXA-10). In this study, pentaplex PCR was used for the rapid detection of MBL genes in CRPA isolates. The pentaplex PCR was optimized successfully to identify the MBL genes. Stepwise optimization of annealing temperature, primer concentration, MgCl₂, dNTP and Taq polymerase was performed. The pentaplex PCR gave the excellent results when 5 μL of 10X reaction buffer, 2 μL of 50 mM MgCl₂, 1.5 μL of 2.5 mM dNTPs, 0.25 μL of each 10 pmol/μL primer, 0.5 μL Taq polymerase 5 U/μL, 37 μL distilled water and 55 °C annealing temperature were used (Fig. 1). The amplification reactions were carried out in a thermal cycler (Eppendorf AG, Germany), with an initial denaturation 4 min at 94 °C followed by 30 cycles of denaturation 60 sec at 94 °C, annealing 56 °C for blaOXA-10, 59 °C for blaSPM and 55 °C for pentaplex PCR and extension 60 sec at the temperature of 72 °C, with a single final extension of 7 min at 72 °C. The size of PCR products is determined by comparison with a DNA ladder (Sinaclon, Iran) on 1.5% agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide. Sequencing of the amplicons was performed by the Bioneer Company (Bioneer, Daejeon, South Korea). The nucleotide sequences were analyzed using blast in NCBI.

Fig. 1: Gel electrophoresis of multiplex PCR products following amplification with specific primers. Line 1 and 15 ladder, line2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 positive control blaKPC, blaIMP, blaGES, blaVIM and blaNDM (864, 271, 798, 382 and 621 bp respectively), line 7 deionized water as control negative, line 8-14 samples. All positive controls were provided by the Pasteur institute Iran

Ethics approval

This study was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences in Iran approved the study (permit number IR.AJUMS.REC.1395.227).

Results

Totally, of 369 confirmed P. aeruginosa isolates, 219 (59.3%) isolates were obtained from male and 150 (40.7%) isolates from female subjects. The majority 113 (30.6%) of isolates were obtained from punch/wound followed by 22.7% (84/369) from tracheal tube and 21.4% (79/369) isolates from urine samples. Seventy-four percent of all isolates were MDR (84% burn isolates and 67% from various hospital wards). Among all...
isolates, 267 (72.3%) were carbapenem-resistant, meanwhile, the highest sensitivity was against to piperacillin-tazobactam 157 (42.5%). The full results of antibiotic resistance pattern of P. aeruginosa isolates shown in Table 1. MHT results showed that 236/369 (63.9%) isolates were positive as CRPA. Among CRPA isolates, high-level resistance to imipenem, meropenem and cefotaxime was observed. The comparison of antibiotic resistance of the CRPA in burn and non-burns isolates are shown in Table 2. Of 236 CRPA, 116 isolates (21 burn isolates and 95 isolates from various hospital wards) were MBL producing isolates, moreover, 105 (90.5%) were MDR isolates. In particular, this collection was included non-duplicate characterized bla\textit{VIM}, \textit{bla}\textit{IMP} and \textit{bla}\textit{NDM-1}.

Table 1: Antimicrobial susceptibility results of the all Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolates

| Antimicrobial agent | The number of P. aeruginosa | Number of Sensitive (%) | Number of Intermediate (%) | Number of Resistant (%) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Imipenem            | 369                        | 118(32)                 | 22(5.9)                   | 229(62.1)               |
| Meropenem           | 369                        | 118(32)                 | 12(3.2)                   | 239(64.8)               |
| Ertapenem           | 369                        | 92(25)                  | 10(2.7)                   | 267(72.3)               |
| Piperacillin-Tazobactam | 369              | 140(38)                 | 72(19.5)                  | 157(42.5)               |
| Cefepime            | 369                        | 130(35.3)               | 23(6.2)                   | 216(58.5)               |
| Amikacin            | 369                        | 169(45.8)               | 20(5.4)                   | 180(48.8)               |
| Ciprofloxacin       | 369                        | 120(32.5)               | 20(5.4)                   | 229(62.1)               |
| Gentamicin          | 369                        | 134(36.3)               | 0                         | 235(63.7%)              |
| Ceftazidime         | 369                        | 150(40.7)               | 16(4.3)                   | 203(55)                 |
| Cefotaxime          | 369                        | 25(6.8)                 | 65(17.6)                  | 279(75.6)               |
| Azteronam           | 369                        | 114(30.9)               | 121(32.8)                 | 134(36.3)               |

Table 2: Antimicrobial susceptibility results of the CRPA in burns and non-burns isolates

| Antimicrobial agent | The number of CRPA isolates | Sensitive (%) | Intermediate (%) | Resistant (%) |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                     | Barn patients | Non-burn patients | Barn patients | Non-burn patients | Barn patients | Non-burn patients |
| Imipenem            | 78            | 158              | 5(6.4)         | 7(4.4)        | 4(5.2)        | 6(3.8)        | 69(88.4) | 145(91.8) |
| Meropenem           | 78            | 158              | 5(6.4)         | 6(3.8)        | 3(3.8)        | 8(5.1)        | 70(89.8) | 144(91.1) |
| Ertapenem           | 78            | 158              | 2(2.6)         | 16(10.1)      | 2(2.6)        | 8(5.1)        | 74(94.8) | 134(84.8) |
| Piperacillin-Tazobactam | 78         | 158              | 1(1.3)         | 46(29.1)      | 6(7.7)        | 50(31.6)      | 71(91)   | 62(39.2)  |
| Cefepime            | 78            | 158              | 1(1.3)         | 26(16.4)      | 7(8.9)        | 11(7)         | 70(89.8) | 121(76.6) |
| Amikacin            | 78            | 158              | 3(3.8)         | 64(40.5)      | 3(3.8)        | 12(7.6)       | 72(92.4) | 82(51.9)  |
| Ciprofloxacin       | 78            | 158              | 2(2.6)         | 23(14.5)      | 3(3.8)        | 8(5.1)        | 73(93.6) | 127(80.4) |
| Gentamicin          | 78            | 158              | 4(5.2)         | 31(19.6)      | 0             | 0             | 74(94.8) | 127(80.4) |
| Ceftazidime         | 78            | 158              | 21(26.9)       | 23(14.5)      | 7(8.9)        | 4(2.5)        | 50(64.2) | 131(83)   |
| Cefotaxime          | 78            | 158              | 8(10.2)        | 39(24.7)      | 32(41.1)      | 54(34.2)      | 38(48.7) | 65(41.1)  |
| Azteronam           | 78            | 158              | 8(10.2)        | 23(14.5)      | 7(8.9)        | 4(2.5)        | 50(64.2) | 131(83)   |
| Total               | 236(63.9)     | CRPA isolates    |                |               |               |               |          |          |
The presence of \textit{bla}_{\text{IMP}} and \textit{bla}_{\text{VIM}} gene were detected in 21.6% (51/116) and 28.8% (68 isolates) of MBL producing isolates, respectively. The full results of antibiotic resistance pattern of \textit{bla}_{\text{IMP}} and \textit{bla}_{\text{VIM}} positive isolates in burns and non-burns isolates showed in Tables 3 and 4. Twenty-four isolates from Ahvaz, 4 isolates from Isfahan and one isolate from Tehran in the collection was found carrying \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} and confirmed by sequencing. The prevalence of ESBLs in MBL isolates was 11.2% (13/116) that 3 of them were \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} isolates. Nineteen of \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} isolates were co-harboring of two genes (\textit{bla}_{\text{VIM-2}}/\textit{bla}_{\text{OXA-10}} and \textit{bla}_{\text{IMP-1}}/\textit{bla}_{\text{OXA-10}}). Moreover, two \textit{bla}_{\text{MDM-1}} isolates were co-harboring of three genes (\textit{bla}_{\text{VIM-3}}, \textit{bla}_{\text{IMP-1}} and \textit{bla}_{\text{OXA-10}}). Moreover, 86.2% (25) \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} positive isolates contained \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}, simultaneously. Furthermore, \textit{bla}_{\text{KPC}}, \textit{bla}_{\text{GES}} and \textit{bla}_{\text{VIM}} genes not found in none of the \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} positive isolates. Unexpectedly, the results of DDST and DDPT revealed that 15(51.8%) and 26 (89.7%) of \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} positive isolates were MBL producing isolates, respectively.

### Table 3: Antimicrobial susceptibility results of VIM positive in burns and non-burns isolates

| Antimicrobial agents | The number of CRPA carrying VIM gene No. | Sensitive No. (%) | Intermediate No.(%) | Resistant No. (%) |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Burn patients | Non-burn patients | Burn patients (%) | Non-burn patients (%) | Burn patients (%) | Non-burn patients (%) | Burn patients (%) | Non-burn patients (%) |
| Imipenem | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 1(5.5) | 0 | 3(16.7) | 2(6.1) | 14(77.7) | 31(93.9) |
| Meropenem | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 1(5.5) | 1(3) | 0 | 0 | 17(94.5) | 32(97) |
| Ertapenem | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 1(5.5) | 2(6.1) | 0 | 1(3) | 17(94.5) | 30(90.9) |
| Piperacillin-tazobactam | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 1(5.5) | 16(48.5) | 2(11.1) | 12(36.4) | 15(83.4) | 5(15.1) |
| Cefepime | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 0 | 9(27.3) | 1(5.5) | 1(3) | 17(94.5) | 23(69.7) |
| Amikacin | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 2(11.1) | 25(75.8) | 1(5.5) | 3(9.1) | 15(83.4) | 5(15.1) |
| Colistin | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 18(100) | 32(97) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1(3) |
| Ciprofloxacin | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 0 | 7(21.2) | 1(5.5%) | 2(6.1) | 17(94.5) | 24(72.7) |
| Gentamicin | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 0 | 9(27.3) | 0 | 0 | 18(100) | 23(82.3) |
| Ceftazidime | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 1(5.5) | 7(21.2) | 1(5.5) | 1(3) | 16(89) | 25(75.8) |
| Cefotaxime | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 1(5.5) | 0 | 1(5.5%) | 5(15.1) | 16(89) | 28(84.9) |
| Azteronam | 18(17.6) | 33(12.4) | 3(16.7) | 11(33.3) | 2(11.1) | 13(39.4) | 13(72.2) | 9(27.3) |
| Total | 51 VIM isolates | | | | | | | |

### Discussion

Previously, only producers of the MBLs \textit{bla}_{\text{VIM}} and \textit{bla}_{\text{IMP}} had been detected. \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} producing strains are surely threatening; firstly, \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} encoding plasmids co-carryage multiple resistance determinants, they are commonly accounted as MDR isolates. Secondly, \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} positive isolates have a potential for extent through the transfer of the plasmid \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM}} gene (16). As explained previously, there are rare published reports of \textit{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}} co-existence of multiple carbapenem resistance genes.
Infections with $\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}$ producing isolates in non-endemic regions such as Europe and North America are often linked to visits and hospitalization in endemic regions such as Indian subcontinent (17). The first report of $\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}$ positive in $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ came from Serbia (18). $\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}$ producing $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ is extremely rare (19). To date there are no reports of co-harboring occurrence $\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}$ in $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ isolates in Iran. Nevertheless, $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ isolates producing three carbapenemase genes is rare and has been reported in Brazil ($\text{bla}_{\text{SPM-1}}, \text{bla}_{\text{PC-2}}$, and $\text{bla}_{\text{NIM-2}}$) (20), Denmark ($\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}, \text{bla}_{\text{TIM-2}}, \text{bla}_{\text{IMP-1}}$) (8), Bangladesh ($\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}, \text{bla}_{\text{TIM-2}}$, and $\text{bla}_{\text{IMP-1}}$) (21) and Turkey ($\text{bla}_{\text{TM-1}}, \text{bla}_{\text{TIM-2}}$, and $\text{bla}_{\text{GES-3}}$) (22). Although these cases are scarce and sporadic, information of its occurrence is vital because NDM-positive $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ is an organism with potent colonization ability in the hospital for long periods (23). To best of our knowledge, we report the first report of $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ isolates producing four carbapenemases co-existence $\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}, \text{ bla}_{\text{TIM-2}}, \text{bla}_{\text{IMP-1}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{OXA-10}}$ from Iran. The acquisition of MBL-carbapenemase $\text{bla}_{\text{NDM-1}}, \text{bla}_{\text{TIM-2}}, \text{bla}_{\text{IMP}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{SPM}}$ led to emergence of MDR or XDR $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ (16).

In the present study, imipenem resistance in burn and non-burn patients was 83.2% and 57.5% respectively. Imipenem was the ninth and fourth effective drugs in burn and non-burn isolates respectively, while in other researches particularly on burned patients in Iran, it was the most effective antipseudomonal antibiotic (24) in 10.8% of 415 isolates. In burn patients, ceftazidime (with 26.9% sensitivity) and ertapenem, gentamicin and cefotaxime (with 94.8% resistance) and in non-burn patients amikacin (with 40.5% sensitivity) and imipenem (with 91.8%) resistance were the most and least effective antipseudomonal antibiotics. Even though, amikacin is the most effective antibiotic for infection of CRPA isolates, and also is a good drug for the treatment of non-burn isolates in CRPA isolates, but interestingly, we found that amikacin was a poorly antibiotic for burn infections due to CRPA isolates, the rate of resistance to this antibiotic was 92.4% which is relatively high in burn isolate. Similar to current study, another study among burned patients, reported 97.5% of $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ isolates were resistant to imipenem and 90% of isolates resistant to amikacin (25). In Isfahan, surveyed 106 $P. \text{aeruginosa}$ was isolated and 62 (58.5%) of isolates were imipenem resistance also MBL detected in
In the current study, 21.6% and 28.8% of MBL producing strains, carried blaIMP and blaVIM, respectively. This rate is slightly higher than the result reported in previous studies, which can be a serious concern that may be because of a general increase in the extent of attainment of MBL genes among P. aeruginosa. This genes are found to be located on the class I integron and can hence quickly transfer among P. aeruginosa strains (27, 28). Compared to present study, lower resistant to imipenem (n=26, 25.2%), which 19 (73.0%) of them produce MBL, 6 (31.5%) samples had blaVIM gene and 2 (10.5%) had blaIMP gene. Lower percentage of IMP expression (10.5%) than our study has been also reported (29). One general concept has been evidenced that the quick appearance and dissemination of carbapenemase-producing strains is mostly due to the acquisition of blaNDM and blaVIM (7, 28). Antimicrobial susceptibility results of VIM and IMP positive isolates in burns and non-burns isolates indicated that high resistance to antibiotics. The corporation of other resistance determinants along with blaVIM confers the phenotype to become resistant to most of the accessible antibiotics (28). Aminoglycosides resistance genes on the similar gene cassette along with blaVIM, therefore making the phenotype resistance to gentamicin and amikacin as well (30). Recognition of MBL-producing isolates can be effective for correct treatment of patients especially in burned patients (2). The mortality rate of patients infected with MBL-producing P. aeruginosa was higher (51.2%) than mortality caused by non-MBL-producing strains (32.1%) (31). Aztreonam is not appreciably hydrolyzed by NDM enzymes. Aztreonam was more effective than the carbapenems (31), but our study showed that 62% of these isolates were resistant to aztreonam. This occurrence of blaOXA-16 was inside the range by Golshani (64%), Mirsalehian (74%), but more than other areas; however, blaOXA-16 is prevalent in P. aeruginosa (24, 32).

Several phenotypic methods to detect MBL production have been developed, comprising the MHT, DDST, DDPT and E-test (15, 33). The MHT is the only CLSI recommended carbapenemase-screening method detected the weak carbapenemase activity enzyme. However, PCR is specific for detection of blaNDM. The reports have shown a poor sensitivity of DDST and MHT phenotypic technique for detection blaNDM, furthermore, due to its high false negative results, evaluating the performance of the MBL are needed (15, 33, 34). In the present study, 51.8% and 89.7% blaNDM,MBL isolates were positive in DDST and DDPT methods. There is a need for a more thorough evaluation of blaNDM, in P. aeruginosa (35,36).

Conclusion

These findings imply the importance of blaNDM,MBL screening in Iran, which are being reported as potential regions of blaNDM endemicity. The emergence of an acutely drug-resistant strain carrying multiple carbapenemase genes is threatening global health. Dipicolinic acid is a superior MBL inhibitor in DDPT than EDTA in DDST method for the detection of MBL-blaNDM,MBL-producing P. aeruginosa. More research is needed to detect the blaNDM source.

Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (Including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, redundancy, etc.) have been completely observed by the authors.

Acknowledgements

The authors appreciate and thank the Research Deputy and Vice-chancellor for research affairs of the Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, particularly the Infectious and Tropical diseases research center of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences in Ahvaz, Iran. The authors particularly thank Dr. Shahcheraghi F and Dr. Solgi H from the Pasteur Institute Iran, for positive control genes. This study was...
supported by a grant (No OG-94166) from Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences and Cellular and Molecular Research Center.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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