Presence of $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$ beta-lactamase genes among isolates of $\textit{Pseudomonas aeruginosa}$ from South West of Iran

Elham Davodian, Nourkhoda Sadeghifard, Abdolmajid Ghasemian, Samileh Noorbakhsh

To cite this article: Elham Davodian, Nourkhoda Sadeghifard, Abdolmajid Ghasemian, Samileh Noorbakhsh (2016) Presence of $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$ beta-lactamase genes among isolates of $\textit{Pseudomonas aeruginosa}$ from South West of Iran, Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health 6:3, 211–213, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jegh.2016.02.002

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jegh.2016.02.002

Published online: 23 April 2019
SHORT COMMUNICATION

Presence of $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$ beta-lactamase genes among isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* from South West of Iran

Elham Davodian, Nourkhoda Sadeghifard, Abdolmajid Ghasemian, Samileh Noorbakhsh

*Department of Microbiology, School of Paramedical Sciences, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran*

*Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran*

*Department of Bacteriology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran*

*Research Center of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

Received 6 November 2015; received in revised form 18 December 2015; accepted 12 February 2016

Available online 2 March 2016

**KEYWORDS**

Beta-lactamase; ESBLs; ICU patients; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

**Abstract**  
*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates have acquired resistance to antibiotics such as novel beta-lactams. The aim of this study was to investigate the $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$, $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$, and $\text{bla}_{\text{PSE-1}}$ genes among isolates of *P. aeruginosa* among intensive care unit (ICU) patients. Sixty-five isolates were collected. The antibiotic susceptibility testing and combined disk tests were performed to detect the isolates producing extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) among ceftazidime-resistant isolates. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$, $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$, and $\text{bla}_{\text{PSE-1}}$ genes was conducted. Ten (15.3%) isolates were ESBL-positive, of which 40% ($n = 4$) belonged to males and 60% ($n = 6$) were collected from females. Moreover, two and one isolates harbored $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$ genes, respectively.

© 2016 Published by Elsevier Ltd. on behalf of Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)).

1. Introduction

Among several acquired beta-lactamase enzymes, the $\text{bla}_{\text{PER-1}}$ and $\text{bla}_{\text{VEB-1}}$, although produced less frequently, have clinical importance because of conferring resistance to oxyimino beta-lactams.
Resistance to carbapenems is also of high concern, because of the spectrum of activity against Gram-negative and Gram-positive isolates. In *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, similar to *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*, a combination of several mechanisms contributes to the high level of resistance to carbapenems [2]. The aim of this study was to detect the genes encoding Class A extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) of *P. aeruginosa* [2]. The aim of this study was to detect the genes encoding Class A extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) of *P. aeruginosa* [2].

2. Material and methods

2.1. Antibiotic susceptibility and ESBL testing

A total of 65 clinical isolates of *P. aeruginosa* were collected from ICU patients and different infection sites in hospitals in Tehran (*n* = 11), Shiraz (*n* = 12), Kermanshah (*n* = 10), Ilam (*n* = 8), Kerman (*n* = 7), and Ahvaz (*n* = 17) in Iran between 2009 and 2011. The antibiotic susceptibility testing was conducted according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute 2012 guidelines. The antibiotics disks were included as previously described. Briefly, a swab of 0.5 McFarland was cultured on Müeller–Hinton agar and the disks were ordered following the Kirby Bauer method [3]. The combined disk test was performed with ceftazidime and cefotaxime with or without clavulanic acid placed on Müeller–Hinton agar media (containing cloxacillin).

2.2. Polymerase chain reaction amplification of *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub>, *bla*<sub>VEB-1</sub>, and *bla*<sub>PSE-1</sub> genes

The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed for the amplification of *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub>, *bla*<sub>VEB-1</sub>, and *bla*<sub>PSE-1</sub> genes with specific primers. The reaction mixture (PCR master mix) included: 10× PCR buffer = 2.5 μL, MgCl<sub>2</sub> (50 mM) = 1.5 μL, di-nucleotide triphosphate (dNTP) (10 Mm) = 0.75 μL, forward and reverse primers (each with 100 μm) = 2.5 μL, Taq DNA polymerase (5 U/μL) = 0.2 μL, template (DNA) = 1 μL, and nuclelease-free H<sub>2</sub>O = 14.05 μL (Sigma, Tehran province, Tehran, Iran). The PCR amplification conditions of the *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub>, *bla*<sub>VEB-1</sub>, and *bla*<sub>PSE-1</sub> genes are added in Table 1. The Tris-Acetate-EDTA (TAE) buffer (EDTA 0.5 M, glacial acetic acid, and Tris) was used for the electrophoresis of products. The Student t test was used for analysis, and *p* < 0.05 was considered as significant.

3. Results

Of 10 ESBL-positive ICU isolates, 20% (*n* = 2) harbored the *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub> gene (925 bp), which occurred in Ahwaz hospital in the South West of Iran. Moreover, one isolate amplified the *bla*<sub>VEB-1</sub> (with 634 bp) in Ahwaz Hospital. The presence of two *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub> genes was demonstrated in two isolates with panantibiotic resistance in urine samples.

4. Discussion

About half of the isolates in this study were resistant to the third generation cephalosporins, but we detected only 2 *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub>- and one *bla*<sub>VEB-1</sub>-positive isolates, indicating that the presence of other enzymes, such as Amp-C, ESBLs, and metallo-beta-lactamases or mechanisms including efflux pumps for cephalosporin resistance may be cooperated in this phenomenon. Interestingly, although 44 isolates were ceftazidime-resistant *P. aeruginosa*, 10 isolates were ESBL producers. Several previous studies obtained the same results. The presence of other mechanisms of resistance or other enzymes is possible. This is the first report of these beta-lactamases in the South West of Iran. The two *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub>- and one *bla*<sub>VEB-1</sub>-positive isolates were collected from urine samples in one hospital ICU setting of Ahwaz city and also for two *bla*<sub>PER-1</sub>-positive isolates, the antibiotic susceptibility profile was the same, suggesting the occurrence of related isolates. Of the 10 ESBL-positive isolates, 40% (*n* = 4) belonged to males and 60% (*n* = 6) were collected from female patients. Furthermore, none of the ESBL producers amplified the *bla*<sub>PSE-1</sub> gene. The distribution of ESBL producers and genes among several hospitals of the country (Tehran, Shiraz, Kermanshah, Ilam, Kerman, and Ahvaz) is demonstrated in Table 1.

**Conflicts of interest**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.
References

[1] Bonomo RA, Szabo D. Mechanisms of multidrug resistance in *Acinetobacter* species and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Clin Infect Dis 2006;43:S49–56.

[2] Papp-Wallace KM, Endimiani A, Taracila MA, Bonomo RA. Carbapenems: past, present, and future. Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2011;55:4943–60.

[3] Ghasemian A, Peerayeh SN, Bakhshi B, Mirzaee M. Detection of accessory gene regulator groups genes and cassette chromosome mec types among *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from intensive care unit patients. Asian Pac J Trop Dis 2015;5:153–7.