Draft Genome Sequence of the Tumor-Targeting *Salmonella enterica* Serovar Typhimurium Strain SL7207

Sile A. Johnson, Michael J. Ormsby, Daniel M. Wall
Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

**ABSTRACT** *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium strain SL7207 is a genetically modified derivative of strain SL1344, which preferentially accumulates in tumors and can be used as a vehicle for tissue-specific gene delivery *in vivo*. Here, we report the draft genome sequence of SL7207, confirming a purported aroA deletion and four single-nucleotide polymorphisms compared to SL1344.

*Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium is most well known for causing acute gastroenteritis. If left untreated, *S*. Typhimurium infection can lead to systemic disease resulting in host septic shock and, in extreme cases, death. Despite these adverse effects, multiple *Salmonella* serovars have been demonstrated to preferentially colonize tumor tissue when administered intravenously and delay tumor growth. SL7207 is one of the most promising strains utilized for this purpose (1). SL7207 is reported to have a deletion in *aroA*, resulting in bacterial auxotrophy for two compounds: p-aminobenzoic acid and 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate (2). These compounds are not found in mammalian tissue, rendering the bacteria attenuated in the mammalian host and lending to its suitability as a therapeutic agent. The parent strain of SL7207, SL3261, was engineered as a vaccine strain, and it has been used in cancer therapy studies (1, 3, 4). However, many studies have identified the tumor-preferential localizaton of SL7207 when administered intravenously (5–7). Multiple studies have employed SL7207 for its tumor disruption and tumor-specific DNA vaccine delivery, as well as identified tumor-specific *Salmonella* promoters and immune components involved in *Salmonella*-tumor localization. Furthermore, bioluminescent SL7207 has been employed as an agent to identify the location of tumors and metastasis *in vivo* (8, 9).

However, a detailed analysis of the genetic makeup of this strain is lacking. To gain a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying the antitumor properties of SL7207, its entire genome was sequenced.

Genomic DNA of *S*. Typhimurium SL7207 was extracted from a freshly grown single colony using an Illumina Nextera XT DNA sample kit per the manufacturer’s protocol (Illumina, USA). Sequencing was performed by Illumina MiSeq using a 2 × 250 paired-end protocol. Read quality analysis and trimming were conducted using Trimmomatic and then quality assessed using in-house scripts combined with SAMtools, BedTools, and BWA-MEM. *De novo* assembly was conducted with SPAdes version 3.5, resulting in a total of 68 contigs, with 30 larger than 1,000 bp. The draft genome of strain SL7207 contains 5,026,283 bp, with 52.16% G+C content, and encodes 4,754 coding sequences (CDSs), nine rRNAs, and 84 tRNAs. *S*. Typhimurium SL1344, in comparison, encodes 4,605 CDSs, 22 rRNAs, and 85 tRNAs. The contigs of SL7207 were reordered against the complete genome of SL1344, and aligned using progressiveMauve (version 20150226, build 10) (10). A list of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) was generated from Mauve and visually inspected using CLC Genomics Workbench version 7.
The seminal differentiating feature between the ancestral virulent strain, SL1344, and SL7207 is the 1,194-bp deletion in araA in SL7207. Furthermore, eight SNPs were identified: four intergenic and four intragenic, with two being synonymous and two being nonsynonymous. SNPs were found in four genes; SNPs in menC (menaquinone metabolism) (11) and ackA (acetyl-CoA biosynthesis) (12) were synonymous, whereas SNPs in ptsL (mannose transport) (13, 14) and ycdT (motility) (15) were nonsynonymous.

The genome sequence of SL7207 provides the foundation for further molecular characterization of the strain in its use as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of cancer.

**Acknowledgments**

Strain SL7207 was kindly provided by Siegfried Weiss, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Germany. Genome sequencing was provided by MicrobesNG (http://www.microbesng.uk), which is supported by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC; grant number BB/LO24209/1).

This work was funded by the Wellcome Trust through a Wellcome Trust PhD studentship to S.A.J. (102460/Z/13/Z) and by BBSRC grants BB/K008005/1 and BB/P003281/1 awarded to D.M.W.

**References**

1. Hoiseth SK, Stocker BAD. 1981. Aromatic-dependent Salmonella typhimurium are non-virulent and effective as live vaccines. Nature 291: 238–239. https://doi.org/10.1038/291238a0.

2. Denich K, Börlin P, O’Hanley PD, Howard M, Heath AW. 1993. Expression of the murine interleukin-4 gene in an attenuated araA strain of Salmonella typhimurium: persistence and immune response in BALB/c mice and susceptibility to macrophage killing. Infect Immun 61:4818–4827.

3. Avogadri F, Martinoli C, Petrovska L, Chiodoni C, Transidico P, Bronte V, Longhi R, Colombo MP, Dougan G, Resigo M. 2005. Cancer immunotherapy based on killing of Salmonella -infected tumor cells. Cancer Res 65:3920–3927. https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-04-3002.

4. Avogadri F, Mittal D, Saccheri F, Sarrafope M, Ciocca M, Larghi P, Orecchia R, Rescigno M. 2008. Intratumoral Salmonella typhimurium induces a systemic anti-tumor immune response that is directed by low-dose radiation to treat distal disease. Eur J Immunol 38:1937–1947. https://doi.org/10.1002/eji.200730035.

5. Crull K, Bunemann D, Weiss S. 2011. Influence of infection route and virulence factors on colonization of solid tumors by Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium. FEMS Immunol Med Microbiol 62:75–83. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-695X.2011.00790.x.

6. Stritzker J, Weibel S, Seubert C, Götz A, Tresch A, van Rooijen N, Oelschlaeger TA, Hill PJ, Gentschew I, Szalay AA. 2010. Enterobacterial tumor colonization in mice depends on bacterial metabolism and macrophages but is independent of chemotaxis and motility. Int J Med Microbiol 300:449–456. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijmm.2010.02.004.

7. Westphal K, Leschner S, Jablonksa J, Loesner H, Weiss S. 2008. Containment of tumor-colonizing bacteria by host neutrophils. Cancer Res 68:2952–2960. https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-07-2984.

8. Yu YA, Shabahang S, Timiyasova TM, Zhang Q, Belski R, Gentschew I, Goebel W, Szalay AA. 2004. Visualization of tumors and metastases in live animals with bacteria and vaccinia virus encoding light-emitting proteins. Nat Biotechnol 22:313–320. https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt937.

9. Cronin M, Akin AR, Collins SA, Meganck J, Kim JB, Baban CK, Joyce SA, van Dam GM, Zhang N, van Sinderen D, O’Sullivan GC, Kasahara N, Gahan CG, Francis KP, Tanyney M. 2012. High resolution in vivo bioluminescent imaging for the study of bacterial tumour targeting. PLoS One 7:e63940. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0030940.

10. Darling ACE, Mau B, Blattner FR, Perna NT. 2004. Mauve: multiple alignment of conserved genomic sequence with rearrangements. Genome Res 14:1394–1403. https://doi.org/10.1101/gr.2289704.

11. Sharma V, Meganathan R, Hudspeth ME. 1993. Menaquinone (vitamin K2) biosynthesis: cloning, nucleotide sequence, and expression of the menC gene from Escherichia coli. J Bacteriol 175:4917–4921. https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.175.15.4917-4921.1993.

12. Brown TD, Jones-Mortimer MC, Kornberg HL. 1977. Influence of infection route and virulence factors on colonization of solid tumors by Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium. FEMS Immunol Med Microbiol 62:75–83. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-695X.2011.00790.x.

13. Erni B, Zanolari B, Kocher HP. 1987. The mannose permease of E. coli, is encoded by a ptsL gene from Escherichia coli. J Gen Microbiol 102:327–336. https://doi.org/10.1099/00221287-102-3-327.

14. Williams N, Fox JK, Shea C, Roseman S. 1986. Pel, the protein that permits lambda DNA penetration of E. coli cells, is encoded by a gene in ptsM and is required for mannose utilization by the phosphotransferase system. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 83:8934–8938. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.83.23.8934.

15. Jonas K, Edwards AN, Simm R, Romeo T, Römling U, Melefors O. 2008. The RNA binding protein CsrA controls cyclic di-GMP metabolism by directly regulating the expression of GGDFe proteins. Mol Microbiol 70:236–257. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2958.2008.06411.x.