Antibiotic Resistance Profile of Milk Samples from Cattle Mastitis

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to assess the antibiotic sensitivity pattern of the organisms from mastitic milk submitted from different districts viz., Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, and Pulwama of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India. A total of 106 milk samples received by Institute of Animal Health and Biological Products, Zakura, Srinagar were subjected to in-vitro antibiotic sensitivity tests against the ten commonly used antimicrobials. Antibiogram studies showed highest resistance against Amoxycillin, Ampicillin, Cefipime, Doxycycline and Ceftriaxone while majority of the cultures showed susceptibility to Gentamicin, Amikacin and Ciprofloxacin. The present study reports a high resistance among Beta-Lactam group of antibiotics suggesting the non-judicious use of these drugs because of their wide spectrum of action. It is concluded that antibiotic sensitivity testing should be performed whenever possible before using antimicrobials so as to select the proper and sensitive antimicrobial drugs and avoid the indiscriminate use of antimicrobial drugs and prevent development of resistance among the micro-organisms.

Keywords
Antibiotic sensitivity test, Mastitis, Antibiogram, Milk samples, Resistant Antimicrobials

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Introduction

Mastitis is an inflammatory condition of udder of animals, which is characterized by the chemical and physical alterations in the milk (Blood and Radostitis, 1989). Due to mastitis volume of milk produced decreases enormously thus causing great economic loss to the dairy industry (Sasidhar et al., 2002). There are two forms of mastitis viz. Clinical and sub-clinical, but sub-clinical form of mastitis is more important because it is more prevalent than clinical form and adversely affects both quality and quantity of milk produced (Seegers et al., 2003). The most common aetiological agents causing mastitis include E. coli, Staphylococcus spp, Streptococcus spp, Pseudomonas spp and Mycoplasma spp. Various antimicrobials are being used in the field to treat cases of mastitis. However indiscriminate use of antimicrobials without prior testing for
selecting the specific antibiotic for a specific aetiopathological has led to the ineffective treatments and also results in the development of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance is one of the main reasons for the low milk production rates in dairy industry and also responsible for treatment failures (Barkema et al., 2006). The phenomenon of antimicrobial resistance is a worldwide cause of concern and is considered a great threat to both human health and food supply chain (Cosgrove and Carmeli, 2014). The main aim of the present study is the antibiotic resistance testing of milk samples received from individual farmers and field functionaries. This study will help us in the generation of antibiogram patterns which will be useful for stopping the ruthless use of antibiotics and will promote use of specific antibiotic for a specific aetiological agent.

**Materials and Methods**

A total of 106 milk samples from the cases of mastitis in cattle from the various districts viz., Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, and Pulwama were received at Institute of Animal Health and Biological Products, Zakura, Srinagar, during the period September 2019-July 2020. A loop of milk from each sample received was inoculated into the nutrient broth and incubated at temperature 37°C for 24 hours.

**Antibiotic sensitivity testing**

The antibiotic sensitivity test was performed as per Kirby-Bauer antibiotic disc diffusion method. The bacterial growth in nutrient broth was directly inoculated on Mueller-Hinton agar plates by means of cotton swabs to ensure confluent growth of organisms as per guidelines of Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, CLSI. Incubation of petridish layered with agar containing antibiotic disc was done at 37°C for 24 hours. The antibiotic susceptibility of the organism to different antimicrobial drugs was observed by measuring the diameter of zone of inhibitions (in mm) and was compared with the standard chart (Fig.1). Based on this comparison the test organisms were determined to be resistant or susceptible to the antibiotic.

The milk cultures were tested for their sensitivity against 10 different antimicrobials which are in common use under field conditions. The antibiotic discs provided by the supplier (Himedia, Mumbai) were used in the study and included gentamicin (50µg), ciprofloxacin (10µg), amikacin (30µg), levofloxacin (5µg), ceftriaxone (30µg), doxycycline hydrochloride (10µg), amoxicillin (30µg), ampicillin (10µg), enrofloxacin (10µg) and Cefipime/Tazobactam (30µg). The concentration of antibiotic in each filter paper disc was as per the CLSI standards.

**Results and Discussion**

During the study period, a total of 106 mastitis milk samples were received and tested for antibiotic sensitivity. Out of total number of samples tested, sensitivity was observed in the descending order as Gentamicin (96.23%), Amikacin (88.68%) and Ciprofloxacin (81.13%) while the resistance in descending was observed as Amoxicillin (96.23%), Ampicillin (90.57%), and Cefipime/tazobactam (83.02%) (Table 1). In this study, the overall antibiogram profile indicated that gentamicin, amikacin and ciprofloxacin are the most effective antibiotics against micro-organisms responsible for the cases of mastitis.
One of the leading causes for low milk production in India has been seen to be due to mastitis which is mostly of infectious nature (Deb et al., 2013). There are several reports of drug resistance in the common bacterial organisms responsible for mastitis because of indiscriminate use of antibiotics (Jeykumar et al., 2013). Many researchers have already reported multiple drug resistance in mastitis cases (Roychoudhury and Dutta, 2009; Chavan et al., 2007). The long term use of third generation cephalosporins has led to the occurrence of resistance against mastitis causing bacteria (Moon et al., 2007). Judicial use of antimicrobials can effectively lessen the problem of multiple drug resistance. This study was carried out to perform antimicrobial susceptibility tests to choose...
most appropriate antimicrobial agents for effective and rationale treatment of mastitis cases.

Our study showed highest susceptibility towards gentamicin and amikacin which is in close agreement with many workers (Ranjan et al., 2010; Sarangi et al., 2009; Moges et al., 2011). Gentamicin was reported to be the most effective drug among the antimicrobials used by many researchers (Sumathi et al., 2008). For selecting the most appropriate antibiotic and to have updated knowledge with respect to changing trends of antibiotic resistance, regular testing of milk cultures for determining the susceptibility patterns is highly useful and important. This practice will help us in developing antibiotic usage policy at the local level and will also contribute towards avoiding the indiscriminate use of antibiotics which are no longer effective in treating the cases of mastitis. The present study showed a high percentage of resistance against most commonly used antibiotics and gentamicin proved to be drug of choice in majority of antibiotic sensitivity tests conducted.

One of the important things to restrict the development of multidrug resistance will be generation of awareness among the animal owners and field functionaries for reducing the unnecessary use of antimicrobial agents. As mastitis is considered as a leading cause of antimicrobial usage in farm animals, especially in dairy sector, quick diagnosis and generation of correct antibiogram is very essential to prevent spread of resistant microorganisms to other susceptible animals.

In conclusion, this study showed the highest resistance against the Beta-Lactam group of antibiotics which are used irrationally because of their broad spectrum of action. It is therefore important that antibiotic sensitivity testing should be made a regular practice so that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics can be avoided and development of antibiotic resistance among micro-organisms can be minimized.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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