Prevalence and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of Staphylococcus aureus isolated from different clinical sources

*Aliaa Abdelghafar¹, Nehal Yousef² and Momen Askoura³

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of pharmacy, Zagazig University, Egypt ¹dr306aliaa@gmail.com,²dr.nehalyousef@gmail.com,³momenaskora@yahoo.com.

Received: 2 Jan 2020 /Accepted: 22 Mar 2020 /Published online : 20 Jul 2020

ABSTRACT

Staphylococcus aureus is a Gram positive bacterium living as a commensal on skin, mouth and upper respiratory system, making it a risk factor for opportunistic and nosocomial infections. It is the major cause of skin, bone, pneumonia, soft tissue, and urinary tract infections and other invasive infections in both the community and hospital settings. High prevalence of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) strains between staphylococcal isolates is very problematic. MRSA strains are common causes of nosocomial infections and are associated with increased morbidity and mortality. The aim of this study is to characterize prevalence of MRSA isolates and determine antibiotic susceptibility patterns of S. aureus clinical isolates toward various antibiotics by disc diffusion method. S. aureus isolates showed high resistance to both β -lactams and tetracycline and intermediate resistance to gentamycin, azithromycin and erythromycin. However, low bacterial resistance was noted against chloramphenicol, ciprofloxacin, clindamycin and sulphamethoxazole-trimethoprim. S. aureus isolates that linezolid and vancomycin are the most effective antistaphylococcal drugs.

Key words: Staphylococcus aureus, Multidrug Resistance, MRSA, Antibiotic Susceptibility.

INTRODUCTION

S. aureus is a Gram-positive cocci facultative anaerobe, non-motile and nonsporing bacterium (Khattak et al. 2015). S. aureus causes a wide range of illnesses due to its higher capacity to colonize and grow in different kinds of host tissues (Kluytmans et al. 1997). S. aureus is an aggressive pathogen, causing a range of acute and pyogenic infections, including abscesses, bacteremia, central nervous system infections, endocarditis, osteomyelitis, pneumonia, urinary tract infections, chronic and lung infections associated with cystic fibrosis. In addition, S. *aureus* is responsible for several syndromes caused by exotoxins and enterotoxins, including food poisoning and scalded skin and toxic shock syndromes (Lyczak 2002, Projan 1997).

S. aureus infection has been alarming mainly due to its resistance to multiple antibiotics (Stefani et al. 2012). Multidrugresistant S. aureus is a common cause of nosocomial infections and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality (Espedido &Gosbell 2012). Resistance to commonly used antimicrobial drugs is frequently encountered

with S. aureus. Some of these mechanisms include; inactivation of antibiotics by the enzymes, decreased affinity for the antibiotics caused by alteration of the target, efflux pumps, and trapping of the antibiotic (Pantosti et al. 2007). As well as higher bacteria capacity to produce biofilm in indwelling medical devices (Manandhar et al. 2018). Biofilms are essentially the extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) that provide unique niches to bacterial cells. Low oxygen availability and nutrient deficiency among others are features of biofilm favoring the development of antibiotic tolerant persister cells (Waters et al. 2016). In addition, biofilm also protect the embedded bacterial cells from the host immune cells thus facilitating the survival of pathogens for a prolonged period (Donlan &Costerton 2002, McCann et al. 2008, Namvar et al. 2013).

The objective of this study is to characterize both prevalence and antibiotic susceptibility patterns of S. aureus clinical isolates to various antibiotics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial isolation and identification

A total of 233 clinical specimens were collected from patients admitted to Zagazig University Hospitals and burn unit of El-Ahrar Educational Hospital in Zagazig, Egypt. Specimens were collected using sterile containers or sterile cotton swabs according to Blair et al. (1970). Swabs were cultured on the surface of nutrient agar, blood agar and mannitol salt agar pates then incubated at 37°C for 24 hours (Winn et al. 2006). All bacterial isolates were identified as S. aureus based on Gram staining, colony morphology and biochemical characters using standard biochemical methods including catalase. oxidase, coagulase, hemolysis on blood agar, mannitol fermentation and gelatin liquefaction tests (Gerhardt et al. 1981).

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing

The antibiotic susceptibility test was done according to (Bauer et al. 1966). The antibiotic discs used in this study were obtained from Oxide (Hampshire, England). These discs are methicillin (ME, 5µg), ceftriaxone (CRO, 30µg), cefotaxime (CTX, 30µg), chloramphenicol 30µg), azithromycin (C, (AZM, 15 µg), erythromycin (E, 15µg), ciprofloxacin (CIP, 5µg), gentamicin (CN, 10µg), tetracycline (TE, 30µg), clindamycin (DA, 2µg), linezolid (LZD, 30µg), vancomycin (VA, 30µg), sulphamethoxazole-trimethoprim (SXT, 25µg). The antibiotic susceptibility was performed as follows: bacterial suspensions were prepared from overnight cultures on Muller-Hinton (MH) agar (Oxoid, Hampshire, England). Bacterial density was adjusted to 0.5 McFarland standard which corresponds to approximately (1.5×108 CFU/mL). The surface of MH agar plate was evenly inoculated with bacterial suspensions using sterile swabs. Plates were dried before applying the antibiotic discs, incubated overnight at 37°C. The diameters of inhibition zones around discs were measured and results were interpreted according to Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute guidelines (CLSI, 2018).

RESULTS

Isolation and identification of staphylococcal isolates

A total of 103 isolates were obtained from different clinical sources as shown in table 1. S. aureus isolates were identified microscopically as Gram positive cocci arranged in bunches. They were confirmed biochemically as shown in **table 2**.

 Table 1: Source and number of S. aureus isolates

Source	Number (NO) of <i>S. aureus</i> isolates
Burn	45
Wound & pus	33
Eye infection	5
Ear infection	3
Endotracheal aspirates	10
Urine infection	7

Test	Result	
Pigmentation on nutrient	Golden yellow	
agar	colony	
Catalase test	+	
Coagulase test	+	
Oxidase test	+	
Mannitol fermentation	Mannitol fermentor	
Hemolysis on blood agar	β - hemolysis	
Gelatin liquefaction	+	

Table 2: Biochemical identification of S. aureus isolates

Antimicrobial susceptibility of *S. aureus* isolates

As shown in table 3, S. aureus isolates showed complete resistance to methicillin (100%). Staphylococcus isolates were highly to cefotaxime and resistance ceftriaxone tetracycline (92.2%) each), (63.1%). Intermediate resistance was found against gentamycin (47.5%), erythromycin (31.1%) and azithromycin (30.1%). Low resistance was chloramphenicol found against (22.3%),ciprofloxacin (20.4%), clindamycin (6.7%), sulphamethoxazole-trimethoprim (5.8%). All S. aureus isolates showed complete sensitivity to both linezolid and vancomycin (100%). High frequency of multidrug resistance (MDR) was found among the tested isolates (64%) as shown in table 4.

Table 3: Antibiotic resistance profile of S. aureus isolates to different antibiotics

Antibiotic disc	NO of resistant
	isolate (%)
Methicillin	103 (100)
Cefotaxime	95 (92.2)
Ceftriaxone	95 (92.2)
Tetracycline	65 (63.1)
Gentamycin	49 (47.5)
Azithromycin	31 (30.1)
Erythromycin	32 (31.1)
Chloramphenicol	23 (22.3)
Ciprofloxacin	21(20.4)
Clindamycin	7 (6.7)
Sulphamethoxazole-	6 (5.8)
trimethoprim	
Linezolid	0 (0%)
Vancomycin	0 (0%)

DISCUSSION

S. aureus is a common opportunistic bacterium responsible for a wide range of diseases such as skin and soft-tissue infections (STIs) (Corrado et al. 2016). S. aureus is also a major cause of food-borne illness worldwide (Hennekinne et al. 2012).

Antibiotics resistance is a critical problem worldwide. It has been found to be increased amongst pathogenic bacteria (Weber &Rutala 2006). The antibiotic resistance crisis may be attributed to the overuse and misuse of these medications, as well as a lack of new drug development by the pharmaceutical industry due to high cost and challenging regulatory requirements (Gould &Bal 2013). This study is an attempt to assess prevalence and antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of S. aureus isolates obtained from different sources.

A total of 103 S. aureus were isolated in this study with a prevalence rate of 44.2%. This is similar to that observed by (A. Abbas et al. 2018, El-Daker et al. 2008) who reported a prevalence rate 45.6 % and 48%, respectively). However showed a higher prevalence rate (64.8% and 58.5%, respectively). And (Datta et al. 2011) showed a lower prevalence rate (35%). The major source was found in burn, pus and wound in agreement with (Ahmed et al. 2014, Gitau et al. 2018, Kadry 2016). On the other hand, minor sources were in urine, eye and ear in agreement with (Al-Zoubi et al. 2015, Kadry 2016).

The increased percentage of S. aureus isolated from pus could be attributed to exposure of wounds which makes them more prone to infections and poor hygiene (Gitau et al. 2018).

The isolates recovered were completely resistant to methicillin (100%) which agrees with (Kadry et al. 2016) who also reported 100% and similar to (Ahmed et al. 2014) who reported 94%. While in (Ahmad et al. 2013, Verma et al. 2000) resistance rate was lower (80.8% and 50% respectively).

Our study show high resistance to ceftriaxone and cefotaxime (92.2%). This was similar to (Ahmed et al. 2014) who reported high resistant rate to CTX (88.9%), However (Sanjana et al. 2010) reported intermediate resistance (31.6%).

Our study show high resistance to tetracycline (63.1%). This was similar to (Ahmad et al. 2013, Al-Zoubi et al. 2015) that reported resistance rate were (68.6% and 58.4% respectively), However in (Ahmed et al. 2014) reported higher resistance rate (90.3%) and in (Gitau et al. 2018) reported lower resistance rate 33%.

In this study S. aureus isolates show intermediate resistance to gentamycin 47.5%, azithromycin 30.1% and erythromycin 31.1%. This result agrees with (Dweba et al. 2019) who reported (47%, 37.2% and 23% respectively). While result obtained by (Wu et al. 2018) show lower resistance rate to gentamycin 16.7%. However (Marais et al. 2009) showed that high resistant to gentamycin and erythromycin (65.7% and 78.6% respectively).

S. aureus isolates show low resistance against chloramphenicol and ciprofloxacin (22.3% and 20.4% respectively). Those findings were in agreement with that mentioned by (Wu et al. 2018) where resistance rates were (23.3% each). And in (Kumari et al. 2008) showed resistance rate to ciprofloxacin was 22.8%. While (Marais et al. 2009, Tiwari et al. Zagazig J. Pharm. Sci. Jun, 2020 Vol. 30, Issue 1, pp. 1-8

2008) reported higher resistance rate against ciprofloxacin (75.75 % and 69.7% respectively). And (Ahmed et al. 2014) reported high resistance to chloramphenicol 61.3%.

In this study S. aureus isolates show low resitance toward clindamycin 6.7%. This finding was similar to (Gitau et al. 2018) that reported resistance rate of 14%. On the other hand (Akanbi et al. 2017, Fluit et al. 2001) reported high resistance rate (76.7% and 80% respectively).

In our study resistance rate against sulphamethoxazole –trimethoprim was 5.8%. That was in accordance to (Liang et al. 2019) who reported 10.7% resistance rate. On the other hand (Dweba et al. 2019) reported high resistance rate to SXT (58.4%).While (Wu et al. 2018) reported complete sensitivity to SXT.

S. aureus isolates showed complete sensitivity to linezolid and vancomycin. This finding was similar to (Fluit et al. 2001, Gitau et al. 2018, Liang et al. 2019, Marais et al. 2009). This show that vancomycin is the drug of choice for treating multidrug resistance MRSA infection, however regular monitoring of vancomycin sensitivity and routine testing of other newer glycopeptides like teicoplanin should be carried out. Further, the regular surveillance of hospital associated infections including monitoring antibiotic sensitivity pattern of MRSA and formulation of definite antibiotic policy may be helpful for reducing the incidence of MRSA infection (Sanjana et al. 2010). And linezolid showed a perfect staphylococcus aureus activity but is very expensive (Gitau et al. 2018).

The emergence of multidrug-resistant strains of MRSA is worrisome in the present therapeutic scenario. Multidrug resistance was defined as resistance of the strain towards three or more antibiotics at a given point of time (Tiwari et al. 2008). In this study, 64% of S. aureus isolates were MDR. This result was similar to (Liang et al. 2019, Styers et al. 2006) who found that (65%, 68.6% respectively) of S. aureus isolates were MDR. But was not agreed with (Al-Zoubi et al. 2015) at which 31% S. aureus isolates were MDR. However (Fluit et al. 2001) reported high percentage of MDR was 87%.

Conclusion

This study shows that S. aureus is the major pathogen associated with soft tissue infections. Also show high prevalence of MRSA isolates and its resistance pattern to wide variety of antibiotic so were are extremely in need for surveillance of MRSA and its antimicrobial profile. The hospital infection control policy and guidelines should be strictly implemented and followed so as to enable the clinicians to deliver better and proper health care to the patient.

Table 4: Frequency of multidrug resistance isolates of S. aureus

NO. of resistance isolates	NO. of antibiotic classes	Antibiotic classes
4		β – Lactam, aminoglycosides, macrolides, tetracycline, phenicols, lincosamide and fluroquinolones.
1	7	β – Lactam, macrolides, tetracycline, phenicol, lincosamide, fluroquinolones and folate pathway antagonism.
3		β – Lactam, aminoglycosides, macrolides, tetracycline, fluroquinolones and folate pathway antagonism.
1	6	β – Lactam ,aminoglycosides, macrolides, tetracycline , phenicols and fluroquinolones
3	5	β – Lactam, aminoglycosides, tetracycline, phenicol and fluroquinolones.
4		β – Lactam, aminoglycosides, tetracycline, and fluroquinolones.
3		β – Lactam ,aminoglycosides ,tetracycline , and macrolide
3	4	β – Lactam, phenicol ,tetracycline , and macrolide
2		β – Lactam, phenicol, tetracycline, and aminoglycosides.
1]	β – Lactam, aminoglycosides, lincosamides and macrolide
22		β – Lactam, tetracycline, and aminoglycosides.
8	_	β – Lactam, phenicol and tetracycline
6		β – Lactam, tetracycline, and macrolide
3	3	β – Lactam, macrolide and fluroquinolones.

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ISSN 1110-5089 ISSN (on-line) 2356_9786

انتشار واختبار الحساسيه للمضادات الحيويه لعزلات المكورات العنقوديه الذهبيه المفصوله من عينات سريريه

قسم الميكر وبيولوجي والمناعه – كليه الصيدله – جامعه الزقازيق- مصر

علياء عبدالغفار, نهال السيد يوسف, مؤمن محمود عز العرب

المكورات العنقوديه الذهبيه هي بكتريا موجبه الجرام متعايشه علي الجلد والفم والجهاز التنفسي العلوي مما جعلها عامل خطر رئيسي ف عدوي المستشفيات .

تعتبُر ۖ هي ٱلسبب الرنَّيسي بالأمراض المتعلقه بالجلد والعظام واصابات الانسجه الرخوه وعدوي الجهاز البولي والالتهاب الرئوي وتجرثم الدم المرتبط بالرعايه الصحية في بيئات المجتمع والمستشفيات وغيرها .

وأصبح الوضع أكثر سوء عندما ظهرت العز لات السريريه للمكورات العنقودية الذهبية المقاومه للمضادات الحيويه وخاصه الميثيسلين فهي سبب رئيسي في معظم المشاكل الصحيه المتمثله ف ارتفاع معدل الوفيات سنويا .

تهدف هذه الدراسه لدراسه مدّي انتشار واختبار حساسيه المضادات الحيوية لهذه العز لات بطريقه انتشار القرص (الديسك). تم تجميع مائه وثلاثه عينه من مصادر مختلفه بمستشفيات جامعه الزقازيق .

بعد اختبار الحساسيه وجد ان السفوتاكسيم والسيفترياكسون والتيتراسكلين من اكثر المضادات الميكروبيه مقاومه ولوحظ مقاومه متوسطه تجاه الجنتاميسين والازيثروميسين والايريثروميسين ومقاومه منخفضه ضد السيبروفلوكساسين. والكلينداميسين والكلور امفينكول ومركبات السلفا .

بينما وجد ان الفانكوميسين واللينز وليد من اكثر المضادات الميكر وبيه فعاليه تجاه المكور ات العنقوديه الذهبيه .