

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern and Biofilm Production of Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (MDROs) Isolated from Suez-Canal University Hospitals

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ABSTRACT

Key words:

Biofilm, Bacterial susceptibility, MDROs

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Background: The increase of morbidity of infected patients with multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) necessitated use of alternative drugs as tigacycline and colistin. **Methodology:** A total of 172 isolates were tested for detection of MDR, XDR, and PDR bacteria, testing biofilm-formation by CRA and TCP methods, combined disc test for ESBL production among Gram negative; Cefoxitin disk diffusion and PCR for presence of the *mecA* gene among Gram positive strains. Disc diffusion method was done to assess susceptibility to Tigecycline and Colistin. **Results:** Variable drug resistance 45% XDR and 23% MDR for Gram negative and 28%, 19%, respectively for *Staphylococcus* species was recorded. The high sensitivity to Tigacycline was found among all *Klebsiella*, *E. Coli* and *Enterobacter* isolates, also to all isolated *Staphylococcal* species, while highest colistin sensitivity was noticed in 33% of ESBL producing *Enterobacter*. **Conclusion:** Increased prevalence of MDROs. Tigacycline was highly active against MDROs rather than colistin.

INTRODUCTION

Antibiotic resistance is a serious problem, the misuse or overuse of antibiotics leads to the development of resistant or super-resistant bacterial strains¹.

A rise of the prevalence of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) infections and its consequences like consumption of healthcare resources through prolonged hospital stay².

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), describe acquired resistance profiles in multidrug-resistant organisms³.

Multidrug-resistant organisms MDROs have been divided into three categories: Multi drug resistance (MDR) was defined as acquired non-susceptibility to at least one agent in three or more antimicrobial categories, extensive drug-resistance (XDR) was defined as non-susceptibility to at least one agent in all but two or fewer antimicrobial categories and pan-drug resistance (PDR) was defined as non-susceptibility to all agents in all antimicrobial categories³.

Polysaccharide Intercellular Adhesin (PIA) is an exo-polysaccharide matrix of microbial and host origin where microorganisms are accumulated forming the biofilm⁴, Gram positive cocci, Gram negative bacilli and *Candida albicans* are all bacterial pathogens that are capable of forming biofilm⁵.

A biofilm make organisms resistant to anti-microbial agents through failure of antibiotics to penetrate the polysaccharide matrix and also growth of cells of the biofilm in starved state, exchange of plasmids responsible for drug resistance due to adherence of cells increases the anti-microbial resistance⁶, also induction of a biofilm phenotype characterized by activated multidrug-efflux pumps and altered membrane-protein composition⁷.

Tigecycline, a derivative of minocycline, is one of the glycylicycline classes of antibiotics, acts as an inhibitor of bacterial protein synthesis, it is bound to the same high-affinity site as tetracycline in the 16S rRNA⁸.

In vitro and in vivo studies have shown that Tigacycline has broad spectrum of activity against a variety of Gram-positive and Gram-negative aerobic MDROs⁹, anaerobic and atypical pathogens, including vancomycin-resistant enterococci, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Enterobacteriaceae, non-Enterobacteriaceae except *Pseudomonas*⁹.

Consequent to an increasing number of infections with multi-resistant Gram-negative bacteria¹⁰, Colistin was used as an alternative antibiotic for treatment of MDROs¹¹.

Colistin (polymyxin E), was proven to be effective for treatment of infections caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterobacter sp.*

Salmonella sp, *Shigella sp*, and *Haemophilus influenzae*.

This study aims to detect the antibiotic susceptibility pattern, different resistance profiles, mechanisms of resistance, biofilm Production of Multidrug- Resistant Gram negative and Gram positive organisms causing hospital acquired infections and to determine role of Tigecycline and Colistin as alternative line of treatment to MDROs.

METHODOLOGY

Bacterial isolates:

The study was conducted in Suez- Canal University Hospitals from September 2016 to May 2018. A total of 172 non-repetitive, clinically significant isolates from hospitalized patients were included in the study.

The organisms were identified by conventional methods. The organisms which were tested included Gram negative bacteria included *E.coli* (n= 62), *Klebsiella spp* (n=28), *Pseudomonas* (n=20) and *Enterobacter* (n=4). The source of these isolates included urine (n=65), sputum (n=21), pus (n=17) and blood (n=11); *Staphylococcus* isolates which recovered from Catheter Related Blood Stream Infections (CRBSI); *S. aureus* (n=20), *coagulase negative staphylococci* (CoNS) (n=38) (*S. epidermidis*, *S. hemolyticus*, *S. schleiferi*, *S. warnei* and *S. Lugdunensis*).

Anti-microbial susceptibility testing:

Antibiotic susceptibility testing was done using standard Kirby-Bauer disk diffusion method and interpreted according to the CLSI guidelines¹², Antibiotic discs (Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) for Gram positive strains included; clindamycin (DA 2µg), erythromycin (E 15µg), rifampin (RF 5µg), gentamycin (CN 10µg), ciprofloxacin (CIP 5µg), tetracycline (TE 30µg) and cotrimoxazole (SXT 25µg).

Gram negative bacterial strains were tested for the following 5 classes of antibiotics: Cephalosporins (ceftazidime (CAZ 30µg), cefotaxime (CTX 30µg) and cefepime (FEP 30µg)); Monobactams (aztreonam (ATM 30 µg), piperacillin (PRL100µg); Carbapenms: imipenem (IMP10µg) and meropenem (MEM 10µg); Aminoglycosides (gentamicin (CN 10 µg), tobramycin (TOB 10µg) and amikacin (AK 30µg) and Fluroquinolones (nalidixic acid (NA 30µg), norfloxacin (NOR 10µg), levofloxacin (LEV 5µg), ciprofloxacin (CIP 5 µg) and ofloxacin (OFX 5 µg).

Test for biofilm production

All isolates were screened for their ability to form biofilm by the Congo Red Agar (CRA) method¹³ and the Tissue Culture Plate (TCP)¹⁴ methods respectively.

Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) detection

All the Gram negative strains were screened for ESBL production using cefotaxime (CTX 30µg) and ceftazidime (CAZ 30 µg). Strains showing a zone of

inhibition of ≤ 27 mm for CTX and ≤ 22 mm for CAZ were selected for ESBL combined disc conformation test. Combined discs of CTC (40 µg) and CZC (40 µg) were used in the confirmation test according to the CLSI M2-A10 guideline¹⁵. Isolates of *K. pneumoniae* were tested for ESBL production in a previous work by the standard disc diffusion method in addition to the ESBL NDP test and flow cytometric assay¹⁶. *K. pneumoniae* ATCC 700603 and *E. coli* ATCC 25922 were used as ESBL- positive and negative, respectively.

Methicillin resistance:

It was detected in *Staphylococcus* and CoNS strains using disc diffusion method cefoxitin (FOX 30µg) (Oxoid, Cambridge, UK), the results were interpreted in accordance with CLSI guidelines¹⁷. These strains were analyzed by PCR for the presence of the *mecA* gene in a previous study¹⁸.

Susceptibility to Tigecycline and Colistin

Disc diffusion susceptibility testing was performed for all the isolates using Tigecycline (TGC) disks (15 µg; Oxoid Ltd, Basingstoke, Hants, UK). The interpretation of zone diameters for all Gram negative bacteria was done using the US FDA Tigecycline susceptible breakpoints listed for Enterobacteriaceae (≥ 19 mm zone size). Resistance was defined as zone size ≤ 14 mm. Interpretation of zone diameters of all Gram-positive bacteria were done using the US FDA Tigecycline susceptible breakpoints listed for *S. aureus* (≥ 19 mm zone size) according to¹⁹. For colistin susceptibility, disk diffusion testing was performed for all Gram negative bacteria using colistin disks (CST 10µg) according to the EUCAST guidelines²⁰.

Statistical analysis:

Data were organized in a database file, and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) for Windows (version 16.0; Chicago, SPSS Inc) software program. As for qualitative data, distribution was calculated. The chi square test was used and the level of significance was considered at p-value $<0.05\%$ to compare between groups.

RESULTS

This study was carried out on 172 non repetitive isolates. Gram negative organisms comprised 114 (66%) isolates; while Gram positive organisms comprised 58 (34%) isolates. *Staphylococcus* isolates recovered from Catheter Related Blood Stream Infections (CRBSI), were twenty (34.5%) *S. aureus* and 38 (65.5%) strains of *coagulase negative staphylococci* (CoNS): (20) *S. epidermidis*, (9) *S. hemolyticus* strains, (3) *S. schleiferi* strains, (2) *S. warnei* strains, and (4) strains of *S. Lugdunensis*.

Isolated Gram negative organisms:

Sixty two (54%) *E.coli* strains, 28 (25%) *Klebsiella spp.*, 20 (17%) *Pseudomonas*, finally 4 (4%) *Enterobacter* strains (Table 1). *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

was the most frequent isolated *Klebsiella* species (n=21) (75%), followed by *K.oxytoca* (n=6) (22%) and only one isolate was *K.ozaeae* (3%) (Table 2).

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of Gram negative strains

	Frequency	Percentage
<i>E.coli</i>	62	54%
<i>Klebsella. spp.</i>	28	25%
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	20	17%
<i>Enterobacter</i>	4	4%
Total	114	100%

Table 2: Frequency and percentage of Klebsella. spp.

<i>Klebsella. spp.</i>	Frequency	Percentage
<i>K.pneumonia</i>	21	75
<i>K.oxytoca</i>	6	22%
<i>K.ozaeae</i>	1	3%
Total	28	100%

Biofilm production among Gram negative bacteria were 59% by CRA (59 out of 114) and 63% by TCP (72 out of 114) respectively. Biofilm production was prominent among *Klebsiella* spp. 75% and 72% by CRA and TCP, respectively. *Pseudomonas* strains showed biofilm production by CRA and 45% and 65% by TCP, respectively (Table 3).

ESBL production was founded among 62.3% (71 out of 114) of isolated Gram negative bacteria, The commonest species were *Enterobacter* (75%), *E. coli* (68%) and *Pseudomonas* (60%)

Drug resistance among isolated Gram negative bacteria were 45% XDR, 23% MDR and 7% PDR. Especially MDR and XDR were predominantly noticed among *Pseudomonas* (50%, 40%) and *E.coli* (27%, 48%) while PDR was noticed among *Enterobacter* (25%) and *Klebsiella.spp* (18%) (Table 3).

Table 3: Percentage of biofilm production, ESBL, MDR, XDR, PDR among Gram negative isolates

	Biofilm production		ESBL 62% 71/114	MDR 23% 26/114	XDR 45% 51/114	PDR 7% 8/114
	CRA	TCP				
E.coli N= (62)	45%	58%	68%	27%	48%	2%
Klebsiella N= (28)	75%	72%	50%	25%	32%	18%
Pseudomonas N= (20)	45%	65%	60%	50%	40%	5%
Enterobacter N= (4)	25%	75%	75%	25%	0%	25%

E.coli strains showed antibiotic resistance to cephalosporins, carbapenems, Monobactam, Piperacillin higher among ESBL Biofilm producing *E.coli* strains than other groups; higher resistance to fluroquinolones, monobactam among ESBL producers with statistically significant difference to Cephalosporins, Tobramycin, Piperacillin and Imipinem (Table 4).

Klebsiella isolates showed higher antibiotic resistance among ESBL Biofilm producers, except resistance to carbapenemes and fluroquinilone were higher among non ESBL non Biofilm producers with

statistically significant difference to Meropenem and Imipinem.

Pseudomonas isolates showed higher antibiotic resistance among ESBL Biofilm producers rather than other strains, with statistically significant difference to Piperacillin-Aztreonam Cefepime, Nalidixic acid and Fluroquinilones.

Enterobacter isolates showed antibiotic resistance among non ESBL non biofilm producers, with statistically significant difference to Aminoglycosides, Amikacin, Aztreonam and Fluroquinilones (Table 4).

Table 4: Antibiotic resistance pattern among ESBL biofilm, ESBL only, biofilm only and non-ESBL non-biofilm producers Gram negative isolates

	ESBL BIOFILM				ESBL ONLY				BIOFILM ONLY				NON ESBL NONBIOFILM			
	E. coli	Klep	Pseudo	Entero	E. coli	Klep	Pseudo	Entero	E. coli	Klep	Pseudo	Entero	E. coli	Klep	Pseudo	Entero
# of Resistant strains	38	14	12	3	4	0	0	0	2	5	1	0	18	9	7	1
CTX	87% ***	86%	100%	100%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	100%	0%	56%	77%	100%	100%
CAZ	95% ***	93%	100%	100%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	100%	0%	56%	78%	86%	100%
FEP	84% ***	64%	92% ***	67%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	80%	0%	0%	50%	89%	0%	100%
CN	34% ***	43%	100% ***	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%	44%	44%	14%	100% ***
TOB	45% ***	57%	58%	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	100%	80%	0%	0%	83%	44%	14%	100% ***
AK	3%	29%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	100%	0%	6%	22%	42%	100% ***
MEM	45%	29%	25%	67%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	22%	78% ***	14%	100%
IMP	0% ***	7%	50%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	22%	44% ***	14%	100%
PRL	82% ***	79%	75% ***	33%	75%	0%	0%	0%	50%	100%	0%	0%	72%	89%	14%	100%
ATM	74%	57%	83% ***	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	80%	0%	0%	56%	78%	0%	100% ***
NA	71%	29%	100% ***	33%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	67%	56%	0%	100%
NOR	66%	21%	100% ***	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	61%	44%	0%	100% ***
CIP	66%	21%	100% ***	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	61%	44%	0%	100% ***
LEV	66%	21%	100% ***	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	61%	44%	0%	100% ***
OFX	66%	21%	100% ***	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	61%	44%	0%	100% ***

*** Statistical significance difference (P value < 0.05)

Percentage of MDR, XDR (82%, 67%) among ESBL biofilm producers E.coli isolates were higher than non ESBL biofilm producers with statistically significant difference (p value =0.048).

Percentage of MDR, XDR (71%, 56%) among ESBL biofilm producers klebsiella spp. isolates were higher than non ESBL biofilm producers without a statistically significant difference (P value =0.330).

Among Pseudomonas isolates percentage of MDR (60%) were higher among non ESBL biofilm producers; while XDR was (100%) among ESBL biofilm producers Pseudomonas isolates, with statistically significant difference (P value =0.070).

All MDR Enterobacter isolates were ESBL biofilm producers, while XDR isolates were non ESBL biofilm producers without a statistically significant difference (P value =0.135). The results are shown in table 5.

Table 5: Relation between drug resistance (MDR,XDR) and ESBL Biofilm producers and non-producers

Antibiotic Resistance	ESBL BIOFILM				Non ESBL, Non BIOFILM			
	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Klep</i>	<i>Pseudo</i>	<i>Entero</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Klep</i>	<i>Pseudo</i>	<i>Entero</i>
MDR	82%	71%	30 %	100%	12%	14%	60%	0%
XDR	67%	56%	100%	0%	27%	33%	0%	100%
P- value	0.048	0.330	0.070	0.135	0.048	0.330	0.070	0.135

The high sensitivity to Tigacyclin (TGC) was found among all Klebsiella isolates (ESBL, MDR, XDR), E.coli isolates (ESBL, MDR) and Enterobacter isolates (Figure 1). Colistin sensitivity is noticed among 33% of ESBL producing Enterobacter, and (8% ESBL, 10% MDR, 12.5% XDR) Pseudomonas isolates (Figure 2).

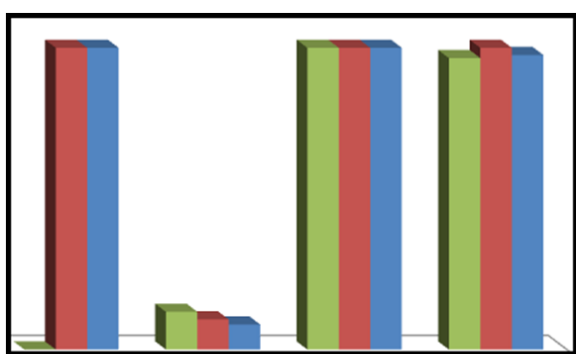


Fig. 1: TGC sensitivity in (ESBL, MDR, XDR) among Gram negative isolates.

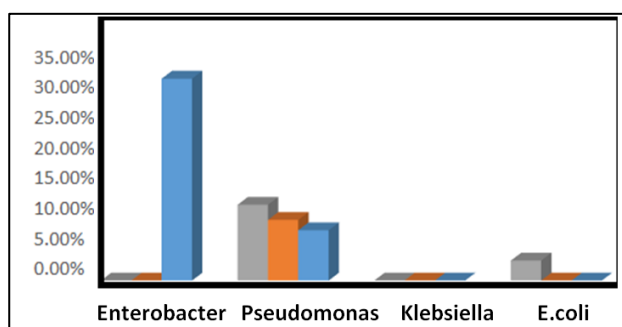


Fig. 2: Colistin sensitivity among (ESBL, MDR, XDR) Gram negative isolates

Among (58) *Staphylococcus* strains 33 (57%) and 37 (64%) were biofilm producers by CRA and TCP

methods respectively; furthermore Percentage of MDR and XDR were 19% (11/58), 28% (16/58) respectively; moreover the Cefoxitin resistance was detected among 25 (43%) *Staphylococcus* strains while the *mecA* gene was found in 19 (33%) isolates only.

All isolated staphylococcal species, including biofilm producers and methicillin resistant isolates were susceptible to Tigacyclin.

Antibiotic resistance pattern according to Methicillin resistance and biofilm production

Isolated *Staphylococcus* spp. were classified into Four groups according to biofilm production and methicillin resistance (Table 6).

Table 6: Biofilm forming abilities and methicillin resistance (*mecA* gene) for *Staphylococcus* isolates

	Frequency	Percentage
Biofilm Only	22	38%
Biofilm Producer and Methicillin Resistant	15	26%
Methicillin Resistance Only	4	7%
Non Methicillin Resistant- non Biofilm Producer	17	29%
Total	58	100%

The highest antibiotic resistance was noticed among biofilm producing staphylococcus isolates rather than other groups, with statistically significant difference to clindamycin. Among twenty two biofilm producers 73% were resistant to erythromycin, while 59% were resistant to clindamycin, gentamycin and tetracycline. Fifteen (47%) methicillin resistant biofilm producing isolates were resistant to gentamycin and tetracycline, while 40% were resistant to erythromycin (Table 7).

Table 7: Antibiotic resistance pattern according to Methicillin resistance (MR) and biofilm production

Antibiotic Resistance	MR Biofilm 15		MR Only 4		Biofilm Only 22		Non MR- Non Biofilm 17		P-VALUE SIG<0.05
	NO	%*	NO	%*	NO	%*	NO	%*	
Clindamycin	3	20%	1	25%	13	59%	4	24%	0.044*
Erythromycin	6	40%	3	75%	16	73%	13	77%	0.117
Rifampin	3	20%	1	25%	5	23%	5	29%	0.935
Gentamycin	7	47%	2	50%	13	59%	10	59%	0.871
Ciprofloxacin	5	33%	1	25%	10	46%	5	29%	0.700
Tetracycline	7	47%	1	25%	13	59%	6	35%	0.391
Cotrimoxazole	4	27%	1	25%	10	46%	6	35%	0.653

DISCUSSION

The major challenges in the therapy and control of nosocomial infections are antimicrobial resistance and the emergence of multi-drug resistant organisms.

In this study, *E. coli*, *Klebsiella.spp* and *pseudomonas* were the most common Gram negative organisms causing different nosocomial infections as follows, UTI (57%) followed by pneumonia (18.4%), SSI (17%) and septicemia (9.6%), while Coagulase negative *Staphylococcus* and *S. aureus* were the commonest causing Catheter Related Blood Stream Infections (CRBSI). Our findings are consistent with Balkhair²¹.

Biofilm producing Gram negative bacteria in this study were 51.8%, 63.2% by CRA and TCP, respectively. Using the TCP method as a gold standard method, biofilm production was higher among *Klebsiella* spp. (72%), *Pseudomonas* (65%) and *E.coli* strains (58%). These findings are consistent with Venkata²², also Carlos et al.²³ found the highest biofilm producers was *Pseudomonas* spp (83%),

In this study, ESBL was found among 71 /114 (62%) of isolated Gram negative bacteria, mainly among *Enterobacter* (75%), *E.coli* (68%), *pseudomonas* (60%) and *Klebsiella* spp (50%).

These results are similar to a study conducted by Nesma et al.²⁴ who found that the rate of ESBL was 48%, also the highest species were *E.coli* 50%, *Klebsiella* 48% and 33% *Enterobacter* 33% .

The biofilm prevents antimicrobial agents from entering the bacterium, also protect bacteria from the host's immune system, leading to persistent infections²⁵. All our ESBL biofilm Gram negative producers showed more resistance to the most tested antibiotics, Likewise ESBL producers *E.coli* strains showed higher resistance to fluroquinolones and monobactam.

Sundaram et al.²⁶ found that most of the biofilm producers were multiple drug resistant; Sabina Fatima²⁷ found that drug resistance and biofilm production are directly proportional and 54% of MDR isolates were found to be biofilm producers .

Our percentage of MDR, ESBL among Gram negative bacteria were (23%, 62%) respectively. Giuffrè et al.²⁸ found in their study the prevalences of MDR, ESBL producing GNB were 28.8% and 11.7% respectively. In our study XDR is 45%, it is mainly noticed among *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas* and *Klebsiella* spp. respectively.

Our findings are consistent with a study conducted by Sabina Fatima et al.²⁷, who reported that 32.6% of *E. coli* and 25% of *Klebsiella* spp were MDR, followed by *Pseudomonas* spp; Jaggi et al.²⁹ in their study found that *Klebsiella* spp and *E.coli* were highest multi-drug resistance organisms as a result of ESBL production. Basak et al.³⁰ found 33.5%, 12.1% of GNB bacteria were MDR, XDR respectively, no PDR strain was detected, also the commonest MDR species were *E. coli* (31.6%), and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (30%) .

Additionally, MDR among ESBL biofilm producers were higher than the non producers in *Enterobacter*, *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. Also XDR among ESBL biofilm producers were highly noticed in *Pseudomonas*, *E.coli* and *klebsiella* spp.

Balkhair²¹ reported that ESBL producers were highly resistance to quinolones and piperacillin/tazobactam, considering them as multidrug-resistance organism.

Considering methicillin resistant and biofilm producers *Staphylococcus* as members of MDRO 33% and 64% of our strains carry *mecA* gene and biofilm producers respectively. In the light of drug resistance 19% and 28% were MDR and XDR, respectively.

The Biofilm producing group showed higher resistance rather than other groups to tested clindamycin, gentamycin, tetracycline (59%); as well as ciprofloxacin and cotrimoxazole (45.5%) respectively. These results are similar to Oliveira³¹ who found that biofilm produces *Staphylococcal* species have high and variable multi-drug resistance, mainly to oxacillin (69.4%), erythromycin (40.8%), gentamycin (36.7%), sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim (16.3%).

Jinnethe et al.³² found that the prevalence of erythromycin and clindamycin resistance in *S. aureus*

was (58%, 57%), and in Coagulase-negative Staphylococci were (63.4%, 45.1%) respectively. moreover all isolated *Staphylococcal* species, including biofilm producers and methicillin resistant isolates were susceptible to Tigacycline. Tigacycline was active against all MRSA isolates from complicated SSTIs³³. As well as, Livermore³⁴ noticed that it is a potent antimicrobial agent, when it is compared with linezolid and vancomycin, it exhibits greater activity than linezolid against vancomycin-resistant *E. faecalis* and *E. faecium* (VRE), also it can be used as empiric treatment of serious infections sustained by some of the commonly encountered pathogens.

Equally important, highest Tigacycline sensitivity was detected among all Klebsiella (ESBL, MDR, XDR), *E. coli* (ESBL, MDR) and Enterobacter isolates; Tigacycline has a bacteriostatic action with wide antibacterial activity not only against Gram-positive organisms, but also against Gram-negatives³⁵.

Comparatively, in our result, Colistin sensitivity was noticed among 33% of ESBL producing Enterobacter, and (8%, 10%, 12.5%) ESBL, MDR, XDR Pseudomonas isolates, all our Klebsiella sp., and 97% of E. coli were colistin resistant. Linden³⁶ reported that the increasing systemic use of colistin against MDR pathogens, lead to development of resistance in nosocomial strains.

Nachimuthu et al.³⁷ reported that resistance to colistin was 29%, and it included different species *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *P. aeruginosa*, *A. baumannii*, *P. mirabilis*, . In the same way colistin resistance in *K. pneumoniae* ranged from 6.8% in South Korea³⁸, to 27% in Australia³⁹.

In conclusion, this study shows an increase of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). A strong relation was detected between ESBL producers, biofilm producers, MRSA and MDROs. Tigacycline was highly active against MSSA, MRSA isolates, *Klebsiella*, *E. coli* and Enterobacter isolates. Moreover Colistin sensitivity is noticed in ESBL producers Enterobacter, XDR Pseudomonas isolates, while all *Klebsiella* sp., and most of *E. coli* were colistin resistant. This increasing resistance patterns highlight the importance of antibiotic policy and guidelines, also aggressive adherence to infection control strategies and practices.

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