



Bacteriological and Molecular Studies on some Bacteria Isolated From Mastitic Cattle and Humans Contact

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ABSTRACT

This study was done on a total of 92 mastitic milk samples (50 clinical, 42 sub-clinical) and 40 hand swabs from contact humans were collected from different dairy farms at Gharbia governorate. The collected samples were examined bacteriologically to isolate mastitis pathogens (*Staph. aureus*, *Strept. agalactiae*, *S. dysgalactiae* and *Strept. uberis*). From clinical mastitic samples, six isolates were *S. aureus* (12%) and one isolate was (2%) *S. dysgalactiae*. Among sub clinical mastitic milk samples two isolates were *S. aureus* (4.6%) and one isolate (2.3%) *S. agalactiae*. While *S. uberis* were not detected. From contact human hand swabs both *S. aureus* and *Streptococcus* species were not detected. Antibiotic sensitivity test revealed that all bacterial isolates were highly sensitive to enrofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, sulpha trimethoprim and gentamicin respectively, while all isolates were resistant to penicillin followed by amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid. Two isolates of *S. aureus* were screened for detection of enterotoxin genes (*Sea*, *Seb*, *Sec*, *Sed* and *See*) by multiplex PCR. Only *Sed* gene was detected in one isolate. *Cfb* gene (CAMP factor) and *hyl* (hyaluronidase) gene were detected in *S. agalactiae*. *mig* (surface-expressed *mig* protein) gene was detected in *S. dysgalactiae*.

Key words: Mastitic bacteria, Cattle, Humans contact

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1. INTRODUCTION

Mastitis is an important disease that limits dairy production. The disease should be studied as it causes financial loss as a result of reduced milk yield, discarded milk following antibiotic therapy, veterinary expense and culling of mastitic cows (Radostitis *et al.*, 2007). It is primarily resulting from an invasion of mammary tissues by pathogenic microorganisms through the teat canal resulting in physical, chemical, pathological changes in glandular tissues and milk (Quinn

et al., 2002 and Radostitis, 2007) Many infectious agents are responsible in causing the disease in dairy animals as bacterial agents like *Staphylococcus spp.*, *Streptococcus spp.*, *Escherichia coli*, *Corynebacterium spp.*, *Klebsiella spp.*, *Pseudomonas spp.*, Mycoplasmal agents, fungal agents, viral agents are responsible for the disease (Radostits *et al.*, 1995). Mastitis can occur in a clinical and sub clinical form, the latter is commonly occurring in most

herds (Gruet *et al.*, 2001 and Awale *et al.*, 2012). The controls of mastitis in dairy herds are accomplished in part with the aid of antibiotics therapy (NMC, 1999).

Staphylococcus aureus is a versatile pathogen responsible for a variety of infections in humans and animals (Hata *et al.*, 2008). The production of enterotoxins is particularly significant from a public health standpoint as the ingestion of preformed toxins is a major cause of food poisoning worldwide (Le Loir *et al.*, 2003 and Srinivasan *et al.*, 2006).

S. agalactiae is a highly contagious agent and commonly found in the mammary gland of cattle (Fonseca and Santos.,2000) and usually associated with acute clinical -mastitis and persistent subclinical infections (Hillerton *et al.*, 2004). The molecular tests on *S. agalactiae* indicated the presence of virulence genes as *fbsA* (encoding fibrinogen-binding protein),and *hyl*(encodes hyaluronidase enzyme) which play a role in pathogenesis of *S. agalactiae* (Arbini *et al.*, 2016).

The *fbsA* gene is responsible for encoding the protein *fbsA* , which allows the binding of *S. agalactiae* to fibrinogen, soluble or mobilized from extracellular matrix of the host organism (Sukhnanand *et al.*, 2005). The adherence of *S. agalactiae* to host tissues is important in the early infection process (Frost *et al.*,1977 and Rosini *et al* 2006), and recent studies have shown that the protein *fbsA* also has platelet function and

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS:

2.1. Sampling : a total of 92 mastitic milk samples (50 clinical, 42 sub-clinical) and 40 hand swabs from contact humans were collected from different dairy farms at Gharbia governorate.

A. Milk samples:

Mastitis milk samples were collected aseptically into screw capped bottles and kept at 4°C until microbiological examination.

may cause other problems during infection (Pietrocola *et al.*,2005), but may also be involved escape mechanism in the immune system, preventing opsonization by macrophages and neutrophils (Sukhnanand *et al.*, 2005).

The gene is responsible for *hlyB* protein called hyaluronatylase [*hlyB*], which is very important for the pathogenesis of *S. agalactiae* (Glazer *et al.*,2002). This protein belongs to a special group of enzymes called hyaluronidase that responsible for the degradation of polysaccharides such as chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, and especially the N acetyl glucosamine, which is part of the composition of hyaluronic acid facilitating the spread of *S. agalactiae* during infection (Akhtar *et al.*, 2006).

Among the environmental streptococci, *S. dysgalactiae* is one of the most prevalent, which may infect mammary glands as favorable conditions are present (Todhunter *et al.*, 1995). It can produce a surface-expressed M- like proteins called *mig*, which promote dissemination of the organism into host tissue (calvinho *et al.*, 1998). So, the current study aimed to isolate and identify some bacteria from mastitic milk and human contact and to detect some of their virulence genes using biochemical tests and PCR respectively.

Twenty five ml from each sample were homogenized with 225 ml of buffered peptone water (BPW) for pre-enrichment and incubated at 37°C for 24 h (Addis *et al.*, 2011).

B. contact human hand swabs:

Moistened sterile swabs were rolled over the palm of hands, finger tips , nails and area between fingers of human contacts. Each swab was inserted in tubes containing BPW

for pre- enrichment.

2.2. Bacterial isolation by cultivation: A loopful from the pre-enriched culture homogenate in BPW was streaked onto the surface of Baird Parker agar, mannitol salt agar and Edward's medium. The inoculated plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 to 48 hours then examined for bacteriological growth. Suspected colonies which appeared on different media were sub cultured, purified, and preserved in semisolid agar for further identification. Bacterial colonies were identified morphologically and microscopically using Gram stain as well as biochemically using methods described by Koneman et al., (1988) and Quinn et al., (2002).

2.3. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing : It was done according to Quinn et al. (1994) and Winn et al. (2006): The obtained bacterial isolates were tested in vitro for their susceptibility to the following antimicrobial discs: enrofloxacin (Enr 10), ciprofloxacin (Cip5), penicillin (P10), amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid (Amc 10), oxytetracyclin (OT 30), gentamicin (Gen 30) and sulpha trimethoprim (Sxt25).

2.4.Extraction of bacterial DNA :

DNA was purified according to QIAamp DNA mini kit instructions.

2.5. Multiplex PCR for identification of *Streptococcus* species:

Purified DNA of *S. agalactiae*, *S. dysgalactiae* and *S. uberis* isolates was subjected to a multiplex PCR for the identification according to (Raemy et al., 2013) as shown in the table(1).

2.6.Multiplex PCR for detection of *Staph. aureus* enterotoxins :

Purified DNA of *Staph. aureus* isolates was subjected to a multiplex PCR for the

identification of enterotoxins according to (Mehrotra et al., 2000).as shown in the table (2) and agarose gel electrophoreses according to (Sambrook et al., 1989) with agarose gel (1.5 g).

Cycling conditions of the primers during cPCR : Temperature and time conditions of the two primers during PCR are shown in table (3) according to specific authors and Emerald Amp GT PCR mastermix (Takara) kit.

3. RESULTS:

Incidence of bacterial species: from clinical mastitic milk samples a total of six isolates of *S. aureus* (12%) and one isolate (2%) of *S. dysgalactiae* were isolated. Among sub clinical mastitic milk samples two isolates of *S. aureus*(4.6%) and one isolate (2.3%) of *S. agalactiae*. while *S. uberis* were not detected. In contact human hand swabs no *S. aureus* and no *Streptococcus* species were detected.

Antibiotic sensitivity test results:

Antibiotic sensitivity determination revealed that all bacterial isolates were susceptible to enrofloxacin (100%), ciprofloxacin (90%), sulpha /trimethoprim and gentamicin (70%). Moderate sensitivity to oxytetracyclin (40%). On the other hand all isolates were resistant to penicillin followed by amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid.

Detection of enterotoxin genes in *Staph. aureus* by multiplex PCR: Two isolates of *S. aureus* were screened randomly for detection of enterotoxin virulence genes by multiplex PCR and the result revealed that one isolate contain only *Sed* gene.

Detection of virulence genes in *S. agalactiae* and *S. dysgalactiae* by PCR: *cfb*gene (CAMP factor) and *hyl*(hyaluronidase) gene were detected in *S. agalactiae*. *mig* (surface-expressed *mig* protein) gene was detected in *S. dysgalactiae*.

Table (1): Designing of primers used for *Streptococcus* species identification:

Target gene	sequence Primer		Amplified product	Reference
<i>S. agalactiae</i> <i>cfb</i> (CAMP factor)	<i>F</i>	TTTCACCAGCTGTATTAGAAGTA	153 bp	Ke <i>et al.</i> , 2000
	<i>R</i>	GTTCCCTGAACATTATCTTTGAT		
<i>S. agalactiae</i> <i>hyl</i>	<i>F</i>	CATACCTTAACAAAGATATATAA CAA	950 bp	Krishnaveni <i>et al.</i> , 2014
	<i>R</i>	AGATTTTTTTAGAGAATGAGAAGTTTTTT		
<i>S. dysgalactiae</i> <i>mig</i>	<i>F</i>	CGTTTTTAGTTTCGGGAGCA	188 bp	
	<i>R</i>	TGCCTTCAATTGAGTCTGCTG		

Table (2) : Designing of primers used for detection *Staph. aureus* enterotoxins:

Target gene		Sequence	Amplified product	Reference
<i>Sea</i>	<i>F</i>	GGTTATCAATGTGCGGGTGG	102 bp	Mehrotra <i>et al.</i> , 2000
	<i>R</i>	CGGCACTTTTTCTCTTCGG		
<i>Seb</i>	<i>F</i>	GTATGGTGGTGTAACTGAGC	164 bp	
	<i>R</i>	CCAAATAGTGACGAGTTAGG		
<i>Sec</i>	<i>F</i>	AGATGAAGTAGTTGATGTGTATGG	451 bp	
	<i>R</i>	CACACTTTTAGAATCAACCG		
<i>Sed</i>	<i>F</i>	CCAATAATAGGAGAAAATAAAAG	278 bp	
	<i>R</i>	ATTGGTATTTTTTTTCGTTTC		
<i>See</i>	<i>F</i>	AGGTTTTTTCACAGGTCATCC	209 bp	
	<i>R</i>	CTTTTTTTTCTTCGGTCAATC		

Table (3): Cycling conditions of the primers during cPCR :

Gene	Primary denaturation	Secondary denaturation	Annealing	Extension	No. of cycles	Final extension
<i>S. aureus</i> <i>enterotoxin</i>	94°C 5 min.	94°C 30 sec.	50°C 45 sec.	72°C 45 sec.	35	72°C 10 min.
<i>Streptococcus</i> virulence genes	95°C 15 min	94°C 60 sec	54.6 C 60 sec.	72°C 60 sec	35	72°C 10 min.



Figure (1): Gel electrophoresis pattern of multiplex PCR for *Streptococcus* species identification: Lane (2) : amplification of *skIA3* gen of *S. agalactiae* at 487 bp . Lane (12) : amplification of *16S* RNA gene of *S. dysgalactiae* at 279 bp.

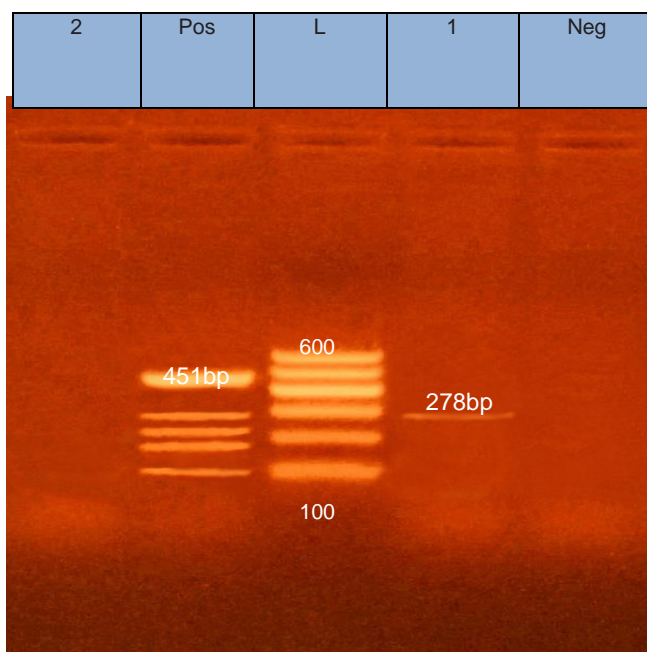


Figure (2): Gel electrophoresis pattern of multiplex PCR for detection of enterotoxigenes of *S. aureus* : Lane (1) positive amplification of *Sed* gene at 278 bp, L: ladder from 100 bp to 600 bp, Pos: positive control, N: Negative control.

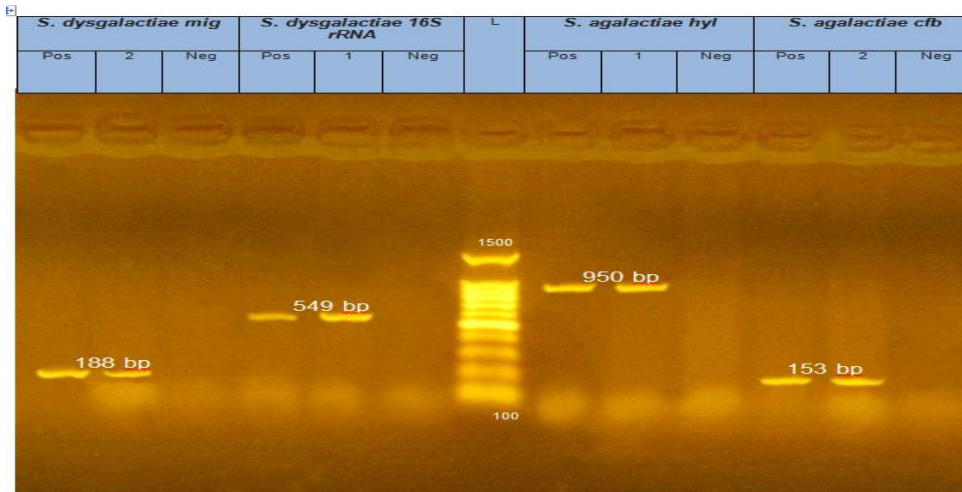


Figure (3): Gel electrophoresis pattern for detection of some virulence genes of *S. agalactiae* and *S. dysgalactiae* : At right lane 1 positive amplification of *hyl* gene at 950 bp , lane 2 positive amplification of *cfb* gene at 153bp . At left lane 1 positive amplification of *16SrRNA* gene, Lane 2 positive amplification of *migg* gene at 188 bp.

4. DISCUSSION:

Regarding to obtained data *Staph. aureus* was the major pathogen causing clinical mastitis with incidence of (12%). Similar result of (13.5%) from clinical mastitis was detected previously by Deif , (2011). Higher incidence of *Staph. aureus* (28.32%) was detected by Ali et al. (2011), (53.4%) by Alekish et al. (2013), and (43.3%) by Duguma et al. (2014). Lower *Staph. Aureus* isolation rate (6.7%) from clinical mastitis than the current study was previously reported by Sargeant et al. (1998), and (10%) by El-Dahshan and Nada (2015).

In the current study *S. aureus* was isolated with percentage of (4.6%) from sub-clinical mastitis. Higher incidence of *Staph. aureus* isolates from sub-clinical mastitis with percentage of (29%) was recorded by Calderon and Virginia (2008) and (52.2%) by Abdel-Rady and Sayed (2009), 35.71% by Abera et al. (2013) and (26.08%) by Hande et al. (2015). Higher incidence of *S. aureus* may be attributed to the fact that the principal reservoirs of *S. aureus* are the skin of the udder and milk of infected gland also *S. aureus* is a contagious organism with capacity to penetrate into the tissue producing deep seated foci (Ranjan et al., 2011).

Staphylococcus aureus is the most important and prevalent contagious mammary pathogen. It causes clinical and subclinical intra mammary infection with serious economic loss and herd management problems in dairy cows

(Deogo et al., 2002). Nearly 95% of staphylococcal food poisoning are caused by SE types from SEA to SEE by (Tamarapu et al. 2001), SEA is considered the most commonly involved enterotoxin (Balaban and Rasooly, 2000). Such toxins are the more resistant and the ingestion of at least 1 gram of enterotoxin per 100 grams of food is enough to induce food poisoning (Tranter, 1996) ; Cremonsei et al., 2005). Therefore, the determination of SEs producing strains in food is important with respect to assessing public health risks (Aydin et al., 2011).

In the present study two isolates of *S. aureus* were examined randomly for detection of enterotoxin virulence genes (*Sea*, *Seb*, *Sec*, *Sed* and *See*) by multiplex PCR, only *Sed* gene was detected . this result agreed with the results obtained by Elsayed et al. (2015) who detected enterotoxine type D on *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from clinical and subclinical mastitis. While Abeer et al.(2010) detected *Sea* and *Seb* genes in bovine milk samples. On the other hand Mohamed et al. (2016) reported that none of *Staph. aureus* strains which isolated from mastitic milk samples produce enterotoxins A, B, C, D or E.

Milkers' hands are considered as an initial point of contamination with *Staph. aureus* in dairy farms (Olivindo et al., 2009). Nearly, 30-50% of humans carry *Staph. aureus* and one third to one half of the organisms have been shown to be

enterotoxigenic (Bergdoll, 1989).

Regarding to isolation of *Staph. aureus* from contact human hand swabs in the present study, it was not isolated from contact human hand swabs. In other studies, the isolation rate of *Staph. aureus* from milkers' hand swabs were previously reported by Lee *et al.* (2012) with percentage of 3.3% in Brazil and 45.9% by Adesiyun *et al.* (1998) in Trinidad. Moreover, an isolation rate of 44.1% was reported in skin swabs of dairy workers in Aswan, Egypt by Abdel-All *et al.* (2010) and was isolated with percentage of 10% from milkers' hand swabs by El-Gedawy *et al.* (2014) in Sharkia, Egypt.

Streptococcus species as *S. agalactiae*, *S. dysgalactiae* and *S. uberis* have been reported as common causative agents for mastitis (Khan *et al.*, 2003). PCR amplification of species-specific parts of the gene encoding the 16S rRNA and *cfb* gene, had been successfully used for the rapid and reliable identification of these species (Jayarao *et al.*, 1992) and Picard *et al.* (2004).

In the present study it is clear that isolation of *Streptococci* has been limited by both species of *S. agalactiae* with percentage of (2.3%) from sub clinical mastitis and *S. dysgalactiae* with percentage of (2%) from clinical mastitis, while were not isolated from contact human hand swabs. These results were nearly similar to results of Heba (2011) who has isolated *S. agalactiae* with percent (3.1%) from clinical mastitic cases and (2%) from sub

clinical mastitic cases and *S. dysgalactiae* with (1.2%) from clinical mastitic cases and (1.3%) from sub clinical mastitic cases. Also lower incidence of *S. agalactiae* were recovered by El-Zubeir *et al.* (2006), at rate of 0.83%. Lower isolation rate of *S. dysgalactiae* with (2.5%) and (4%) was recorded by Balakrishnan *et al.* (2004) and Turutoglu *et al.* (1995) respectively. On the other hand, higher incidences of *S. agalactiae* isolated from mastitic cows were recovered by Borkowoska *et al.* (2006) and Bi *et al.* (2016) with isolation rates of 84.8% and 92.2%, respectively. Higher isolation rate of *S. dysgalactiae* with 14%, 17% and 72.3% was recorded by Moges *et al.* (2011), El Jakee *et al.* (2013) and Bi *et al.* (2016) respectively.

S. agalactiae is an obligate organism of the epithelium and tissue of the mammary gland. It can be eradicated from dairy herds, through detection and segregation of infected cows, using hygienic milking and intra mammary infusion of antimicrobial agents (Schalm *et al.*, 1971); Gyles and Thoen (1993). Some virulence factors, including fibrinogen binding protein (*fnb*), hyaluronatelyase, and CAMP factor (*cfb*) are responsible for *S. agalactiae* infections (Franken *et al.*, 2001) and Beckmann *et al.*, 2002). In the present study, PCR detection of *cfb* gene encoding for CAMP factor and *hyl* gene encoding for hyaluronidase gene of *S. agalactiae* revealed that, *cfb* gene was amplified at 153 bp. These results are in accordance with the results of Krishnaveni *et al.* (2014) and El-Gedawy *et al.* (2014) who

have been reported that *cfb* gene was detected in all *S. agalactiae* isolates. *hyl* gene was detected and amplified at 950 bp. Other study by Ayman et al. (2015) reported that *hyl* gene was detected in *S. agalactiae* isolated from milk samples with (81.39%), while Clarisse (2011) and Abdel-Tawab et al. (2017) reported that (38.8%) and (25%) respectively of *S. agalactiae* isolates contain *hyl* gene. Also *S. dysgalactiae* able to produce M-like protein called *mig* which involved in resisting phagocytosis by bovine neutrophils and spread of infection Song et al.,(2001). In the current study *mig* gene of *S. dysgalactiae* was detected and amplified at 188 bp in the examined isolate. Our finding agreed with the finding of Abdel-Tawab et al. (2017) who recorded that *mig* gene of *S. dysgalactiae* was detected in the all examined isolates of *S. dysgalactiae*. However, Ibrahim et al. (2016) stated that *mig* gene was detected with percentage of (77.8%) of the examined isolates.

Antibiotic sensitivity determination revealed that all bacterial isolates (*S.*

aureus, and *Streptococcus* spp) were fully susceptible to enrofloxacin (100%), followed by ciprofloxacin (90%) , sulpha /trimethoprim and gentamicin (70%). While moderate sensitivity to oxytetracyclin (40%). On the other hand all isolates were fully resistant to penicillin and amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid. These results go in parallel with the results of Al-ekish et al. (2013), Chandrasekaran et al., (2014), Idriss et al. (2014) , Yasin et al. (2016) and Tavakoli and Pourtaghi (2017).

5. CONCLUSION:

Detection of some bacteria as *S. aureus* and *Streptococcus* species from mastitic milk of cattle and contact human was found to be an important point for animal health and contact humans. Multiplex PCR can be used as rapid and accurate method for detection of *Streptococcus* mastitis and virulence genes of *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Enrofloxacin and ciprofloxacin were the most effective antibiotics on treatment of cattle mastitis.

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