Molecular epidemiology of virulence and antimicrobial resistance determinants in Klebsiella pneumoniae from hospitalised patients in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania - DTU Orbit (04/03/2019)

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This study aimed to use whole-genome sequencing to determine virulence and antimicrobial resistance genes in K. pneumoniae isolated from patients in a tertiary care hospital in Kilimanjaro. K. pneumoniae isolates from patients attending Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre between August 2013 and August 2015 were fully genome-sequenced and analysed locally. Sequence analysis was done for identification of virulence and AMR genes. Plasmid and multi-locus sequence typing and capsular or capsular (K) typing were performed and phylogeny was done to ascertain K. pneumoniae relatedness. Stata 13 (College Station, TX, 77845, USA) was used to determine Cohen’s kappa coefficient of agreement between the phenotypically tested and sequence-predicted resistance. A total of 16 (47.1%) sequence types (STs) and 10 (29.4%) K types were identified in 30 (88.2%) and 17 (50.0%) of all analysed isolates, respectively. K. pneumoniae ST17 were 6 (17.6%). The commonest determinants were blaCTX-M-15 in 16 (47.1%) isolates bleSHV in 30 (88.2%), blaOXA-1 in 8 (23.5%) and blTEM-1 in 18 (52.9%) isolates. Resistance genes for aminoglycosides were detected in 21 (61.8%) isolates, fluoroquinolones in 13 (38.2%) and quinolones 34 (100%). Ceftazidime and ceftriaxone showed the strongest agreement between phenotype- and sequence-based resistance results: 93.8%, kappa = 0.87 and p = 0.0002. Yersinia bactin determinant was detected in 12 (35.3%) of K. pneumoniae. The proportion of AMR and virulence determinants detected in K. pneumoniae is alarming. WGS-based diagnostic approach has showed promising potentials in clinical microbiology, hospital outbreak source tracing virulence and AMR detection at KCMC.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Bio and Health Informatics, Genomic Epidemiology, Research group for Genomic Epidemiology, Technical University of Denmark, National Food Institute, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, University of Copenhagen, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre
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Pages: 1901-1914
Publication date: 2018
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
Volume: 37
Issue number: 10
ISSN (Print): 0934-9723
Ratings:
BFI (2019): BFI-level 1
Web of Science (2019): Indexed yes
BFI (2018): BFI-level 1
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 2.81 SJR 1.312 SNIP 1.179
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 2.537
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 2.81 SJR 1.331 SNIP 1.134
Web of Science (2016): Impact factor 2.727
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 2.62 SJR 1.232 SNIP 1.16
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 2.857
BFI (2014): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 2.68 SJR 1.235 SNIP 1.212
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 2.668
BFI (2013): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 2.63 SJR 1.106 SNIP 1.05
Web of Science (2013): Impact factor 2.544
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 1