Prevalence and risk factors for CTX-M gram-negative bacteria in hospitalized patients at a tertiary care hospital in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

Emergence and spread of extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing gram-negative bacteria, mainly due to CTX-M, is a major global public health problem. Patients infected with ESBL-producing gram-negative bacteria have an increased risk of treatment failure and death. We investigated the prevalence and risk factors for CTX-M gram-negative bacteria isolated from clinical specimens of patients hospitalized at a tertiary care hospital in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Isolated gram-negative bacteria from inpatients admitted at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) between August 2013 and August 2015 were fully genome sequenced. The prevalence of ESBL-producing gram-negative bacteria was determined based on the presence of bla\textsubscript{CTX-M}. The odds ratio (OR) and risk factors for ESBL-producing gram-negative bacteria due to CTX-M were assessed using logistic regression models. The overall CTX-M prevalence (95% CI) was 13.6% (10.1–18.1). Adjusted for other factors, the OR of CTX-M gram-negative bacteria for patients previously hospitalized was 0.26 (0.08–0.88), p = 0.031; the OR for patients currently on antibiotics was 4.02 (1.29–12.58), p = 0.017; the OR for patients currently on ceftriaxone was 0.14 (0.04–0.46), p = 0.001; and the OR for patients with wound infections was 0.24 (0.09–0.61), p = 0.003. The prevalence of ESBL-producing gram-negative bacteria due to CTX-M in this setting is relatively low compared to other previous reports in similar settings. However, to properly stop further spread in the hospital, we recommend setting up a hospital surveillance system that takes full advantage of the available next-generation sequencing facility to routinely screen for all types of bacterial resistance genes.

General information
Publication status: Published
Organisations: Department of Bio and Health Informatics, Genomic Epidemiology, National Food Institute, Research group for Genomic Epidemiology, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, University of Copenhagen, East African Health Research Commission
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Pages: 897-906
Publication date: 20 Feb 2018
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
Volume: 37
Issue number: 5
ISSN (Print): 0934-9723
Ratings:
BFI (2018): BFI-level 1
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
Original language: English
Keywords: CTX-M, ESBL, Gram-negative bacteria, Prevalence, Tanzania, Whole genome sequencing
Electronic versions:
10.1007_2Fs10096_018_3196_8.pdf
DOIs:
10.1007/s10096-018-3196-8
Source: Scopus
Source-ID: 8504223376
Research output: Contribution to journal › Journal article – Annual report year: 2018 › Research › peer-review