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Epidemiologic and Microbiologic Characteristics of 28 Hospitalized Patients Cocolonized With Multiple Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) in the United States

Timileyin Adediran, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Anthony Harris, University of Maryland School of Medicine; J. Kristie Johnson, University of Maryland School of Medicine; David Calfee, NY-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell; Loren Miller, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; Minh-Hong Nguyen, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Medicine; Katherine Goodman, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Lisa Pineles, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Lyndsay O'Hara, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Background: As carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) prevalence increases in the United States, the risk of cocolonization with multiple CRE may also be increasing, with unknown clinical and epidemiological significance. In this study, we aimed to describe the epidemiologic and microbiologic characteristics of inpatients cocolonized with multiple CRE. **Methods:** We conducted a secondary analysis of a large, multicenter prospective cohort study evaluating risk factors for CRE transmission to healthcare personnel gown and gloves. Patients were identified between January 2016 and June 2019 from 4 states. Patients enrolled in the study had a clinical or surveillance culture positive for CRE within 7 days of enrollment. We collected and cultured samples from the following sites from each CRE-colonized patient: stool, perianal area, and skin. A modified carbapenem inactivation method (mCIM) was used to detect the presence or absence of carbapenemase(s). EDTA-modified CIM (eCIM) was used to differentiate between serine and metal-dependent carbapenemases. **Results:** Of the 313 CRE-colonized patients enrolled in the study, 28 (8.9%) were cocolonized with at least 2 different CRE. Additionally, 3 patients were cocolonized with >2 different CRE (1.0%). Of the 28 patients, 19 (67.6%) were enrolled with positive clinical cultures. Table 1 summarizes the demographic and clinical characteristics of these patients. The most frequently used antibiotic prior to positive culture was vancomycin (n = 33, 18.3%).

TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AMONG PATIENTS WITH CRE CO-COLONIZATION (N=28)

CHARACTERISTICS	N (%)
AGE, MEAN (SD)	56.8 (16.4)
MALE	18 (64.3)
HISPANIC	3 (11.5)
RACE	
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	8 (30.8)
WHITE	13 (50.0)
ASIAN	5 (19.2)
ADMITTED TO ICU	15 (53.6)
NUMBER OF DEVICES, MEDIAN (IQR)	4 (1-5)
DURATION OF ANTIBIOTICS IN DAYS, MEAN(SD)	23.4 (60.7)
LENGTH OF STAY, MEAN (SD)	55.2 (71.5)
DAYS FROM HOSPITAL ADMISSION TO POSITIVE CULTURE, MEAN(SD)	21.7 (31.0)
DAYS FROM POSITIVE CULTURE TO DISCHARGE, MEAN(SD)	35 (45.7)
TRAVEL OUT OF COUNTRY IN THE LAST YEAR	2 (7.1)
LTAC IN THE LAST YEAR	7 (25)
OUTCOME	
DEATH	4 (14.3)
DISCHARGED	10 (35.7)
TRANSFER TO OTHER FACILITY	14 (50.0)

Fig. 1.

Among the 62 isolates from 59 samples from 28 patients cocolonized patients, the most common CRE species were *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (n = 18, 29.0%), *Escherichia coli* (n = 10, 16.1%), and *Enterobacter cloacae* (n = 9, 14.5%). Of the 62 isolates, 38 (61.3%) were mCIM positive and 8 (12.9%) were eCIM positive. Of the 38 mCIM-positive isolates, 33 (86.8%) were KPC positive, 4 (10.5%) were NDM positive, and 1 (2.6%) was negative for both KPC and NDM. Also, 2 *E. coli*, 1 *K. pneumoniae*, and 1 *E. cloacae* were NDM-producing CRE. **Conclusion:** Cocolonization with multiple CRE occurs frequently in the acute-care setting. Characterizing patients with CRE cocolonization may be important to informing infection control practices and interventions to limit the spread of these organisms, but further study is needed.

Funding: None**Disclosures:** None

Doi:10.1017/ice.2020.547

Presentation Type:

Top Rated Posters

Epidemiology and Clinical Outcomes Associated With Extensively Drug-Resistant (XDR) *Acinetobacter* in US Veterans' Affairs Health Care

Margaret Fitzpatrick, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine; Katie Suda, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Linda Poggensee, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital; Amanda Vivo, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital; Marissa Gutkowski, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital; Geneva Wilson, University of Iowa; Charlesnika Evans, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Background: Infections caused by *Acinetobacter* spp are often healthcare acquired, difficult to treat, and associated with high mortality. Extensively drug-resistant (XDR) *Acinetobacter* are nonsusceptible to at least 1 agent in all but 2 or fewer antimicrobial classes. Epidemiologic and outcome data for XDR *Acinetobacter* are limited and have largely been reported outside the United States. This national cohort study describes epidemiology, clinical characteristics, and outcomes for patients with XDR *Acinetobacter* in VA health care. **Methods:** This was a retrospective cohort study including microbiology and clinical data from all patients hospitalized between 2012 and 2018 at any VA medical center who had cultures that grew XDR *Acinetobacter* spp. Performance and reporting of bacterial speciation and antibiotic susceptibility testing were performed by each VA laboratory according to their protocol. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize data. **Results:** Of 11,541 unique patients with 15,358 cultures that grew *Acinetobacter* spp during the study period, 410 (3.6%) patients had 670 (4.4%) cultures that grew XDR *Acinetobacter*. Mean age was 68 years (SD, 12.2 years) and the median Charlson comorbidity index was 3 (IQR, 1–5). The greatest proportion of isolates were from the respiratory tract (n = 235, 35%) followed by urine (n = 184, 28%). The South had the greatest proportion of patients with XDR *Acinetobacter* (n = 162, 40%); almost all patients were seen at urban VA medical centers (n = 406, 99%). Most patients (n = 335, 82%) had had antibiotic exposure in the prior 90 days, most commonly vancomycin (n = 238, 65%) and third- or fourth-generation cephalosporins (n = 155, 38%). Most patients (n = 334, 81%) also had a hospital or long-term care admission in the prior 90 days. Fig. 1 shows antibiotic susceptibilities of XDR *Acinetobacter* isolates; polymyxins, tigecycline, and minocycline

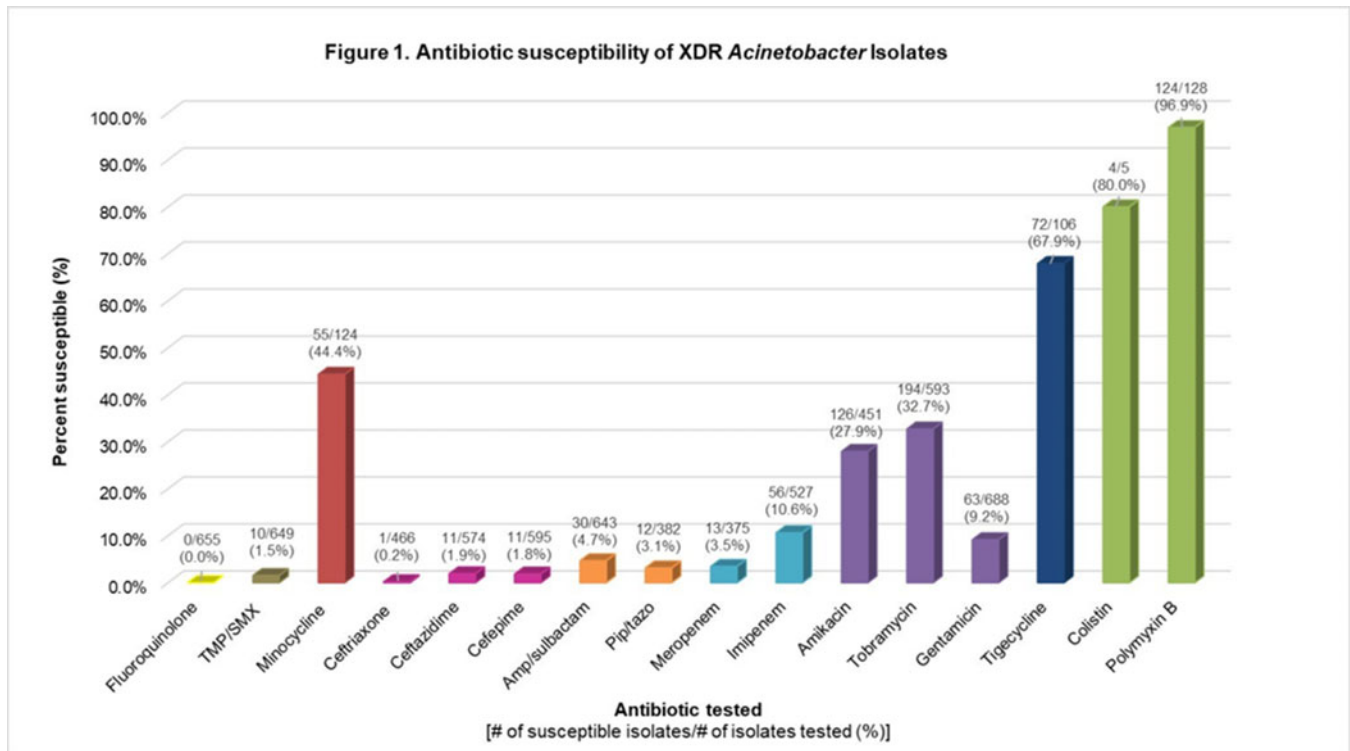


Fig. 1.

demonstrated the highest susceptibility. In-hospital mortality occurred in 90 patients (22%), 30-day mortality in 97 patients (24%), and 1-year mortality in 198 patients (48%). Of 93 patients, 23% were readmitted to the hospital within 90 days. **Conclusions:** Providers should maintain a heightened suspicion for infection with XDR *Acinetobacter* spp in older patients seen at urban medical centers who have had recent healthcare and antibiotic exposures, particularly if they have respiratory or urinary tract infections. Isolation of XDR *Acinetobacter* is associated with high in-hospital and 30-day mortality. New antibiotics targeting MDR gram-negative bacteria generally lack activity against *Acinetobacter*, leaving polymyxins, tigecycline, and minocycline as the only limited treatment options. Therefore, novel antibiotics for XDR *Acinetobacter* are urgently needed.

Funding: None

Disclosures: None

Doi:10.1017/ice.2020.548

Presentation Type:

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ESBL Types and Plasmid Heterogeneity in Urinary *E. coli* Isolates: Results From a Nationwide Multicenter Study in Croatia

Tomislav Mestrovic, Dr. Zora Profocic Polyclinic and University Centre Varazdin, University North, Croatia; Marija Krilanovic, Public Health Institute of Dubrovnik-Neretva County, Dubrovnik, Croatia;

Maja Tomic-Paradzic, Public Health Institute of Brod-Posavina County, Slavonski Brod, Croatia; Natasa Belder, University

Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia and University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia; Zoran Herljevic, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia; Rick Conzemius, Austrian Institute for Technology, Vienna, Austria; Ivan Barisic, Austrian Institute for Technology, Vienna, Austria; Jasmina Vranes, Teaching Institute of Public Health "Dr. Andrija Stampar", Zagreb, Croatia; Vesna Elvedi-Gasparovic, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia and University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia; Branka Bedenic, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia and University of Zagreb Medical School, Zagreb, Croatia

Background: The prevalence of *Escherichia coli* strains producing extended-spectrum β -lactamases (ESBLs) has increased both in the community and in healthcare settings. Furthermore, recent studies in nursing homes and long-term care facilities have shown that these institutions can act as potential reservoirs of ESBL- and CTX-M-producing *E. coli*. Consequently, we aimed to characterize ESBLs produced by *E. coli* isolates causing hospital-onset, long-term care facility and community infections throughout Croatia (Europe), as well as to compare antimicrobial sensitivity patterns, molecular specificities, plasmid types and epidemiological features. **Methods:** From a total pool of 16,333 *E. coli* isolates, 164 ESBL-producing strains with reduced susceptibility to third-generation cephalosporins were used for further appraisal. Phenotypic tests for the detection of ESBLs and plasmid-mediated AmpC β -lactamases were initially pursued (including a novel version of modified CIM test named cephalosporin inactivation method), followed by conjugation experiments, molecular detection of resistance genes, plasmid extraction with PCR-based replicon typing, serotyping, genotyping with pulsed-field gel