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OPEN PEER REVIEW

High Prevalence of *bla*$_{OXA-48}$ and *bla*$_{NDM}$-Producing Carbapenem-Resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* Isolated from Clinical Samples in Shahid Rajaei Hospital in Tehran, Iran

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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Contents

1 Original submission Referee 1 2
2 Revision 1 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 7

1 Original submission

1 comment · 7 Nov 2022

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 7 Nov 2022

1. Klebsiella spp. are intrinsically resistant to penicillins, so it is evident that they are 100% resistant to ampicillin, rendering antimicrobial susceptibility testing for this antibiotic unnecessary.
2. blaNDM is highly important, so it should be added to the list of keywords.
3) AmpC lactamases should be corrected and written as AmpC β-lactamases.
4) Since the objective is to determine Klebsiella, either the sentence should end before the word “including” or the important distinguishing tests for these bacteria, such as citrate, Indole, and urease, should be added.
5) What is the reference for the mCIM method? Is it CLSI or Tasi et al.?
6) NDM is a metallo beta-lactamase, and in your study, 66.7% of CRKP were NDM producers. So why, in the Results part, have you written “ Among the metallo beta-lactamase genes, blaVIM was the most frequent (5%), followed by blaSPM (3.3%).”?
7) According to what reference has the lowest rate of CRKP been reported from Tehran?
8) In the introduction, the term " outer membrane proteins" should be written as " outer membrane porins".
9) The term K pneumonia should be written in italics 3 lines before the beginning of the methods.

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear editor and reviewers

Many thanks for your e-mail regarding our submitted manuscript. Also great thanks for the reviewers' comments and their help. Our point to point responses to the reviewers is attached. I hope this could be enough to cover all the comments. All modifications were highlighted in the manuscript; in yellow. We hope this meets the established reputation for quality of your esteemed journal.Anyway, I should be grateful if you let me know about any further changes required.

1. *Klebsiella* spp. are intrinsically resistant to penicillins, so it is evident that they are 100% resistant to ampicillin, rendering conducting antimicrobial susceptibility testing for this antibiotic unnecessary.

Reply: Many thanks for your comment. You are right and the antibiogram related to ampicillin was removed. The remaining investigated antibiotics are highlighted in the text.

2. bla_{NDM} is highly important so it should be added to the list of key words.

Reply: Many thanks for your comment. bla_{NDM} is added to the list of key words.

3) AmpC lactamases should be corrected and written as AmpC β-lactamases.

Reply: Many thanks for your comment. It was corrected in the text.

4) Since the objective is to determine *Klebsiella*, either the sentence should end before including or the important distinguishing tests of this bacteria such as citrate, Indole, and urease should be added.

Reply: Many thanks for your comment. In the abstract section, it is mentioned that *K. pneumoniae* isolates were identified by standard microbiological tests. Also, these tests were added to the method section.

5) What is the reference to mCIM method? Is it CLSI or Tasi et al?

Reply: Thank you very much for your attention. To identify the presence of carbapenemase, a modified carbapenem inactivation method (mCIM) was performed on carbapenem-resistant isolates in accordance with Tasi et al, study. It was corrected in the text.

6) NDM is a metallo beta-lactamase , and in your study 66.7% of CRKP were NDM-producer. So why, in the Results part, have you written“ Among the metallo beta-lactamase genes, bla_{VIM} was the most frequent (5%), followed by bla_{SPM} (3.3%).”?

Reply: We are very grateful for your attention. The part mentioned in the text was corrected. Among the metallo beta-lactamase genes, bla_{SPM} was the least frequent (3.3%), followed by bla_{VIM} (5%).

7) According to what reference has the least rate of CRKP been reported from Tehran?

Reply: In a systematic review conducted by Vaez, et al in Iran, the pooled prevalence of CRKP was estimated to be 11.3%. The highest and lowest prevalence rates of CRKP were in Isfahan 58% and Tehran 0.004, respectively. The highest and lowest resistance rates were seen against aztreonam (55%) and amikacin (23%), respectively.

Ref: Vaez H, Sahebkar A, Khademi F. Carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in Iran: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Chemotherapy*. 2019;**31**(1):1-8.

8) In introduction, the term " outer membrane proteins" should be written as " outer membrane porins".

Reply: Many thanks for your comment. It was applied.

9) The term K pneumonia should be written in italics 3 lines before the beginning of methods.

Reply: Many thanks for your comment. It was applied.

2 Revision 1

0 comments

No public comments in this round.