

Antibiotic Susceptibility Profile and Horizontal Gene Transfer in *Pseudomonas* sp. Isolated from Clinical Specimens

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Abstract : The extensive use of antibiotics has led to increases emergence of antibiotic-resistant organisms. *Pseudomonas* is a notorious opportunistic pathogen involved in nosocomial infections and exhibit innate resistance to many antibiotics. The present study was conducted to assess the prevalence, levels of antimicrobial susceptibility and resistance mechanisms of *Pseudomonas*. A total of thirty clinical strains of *Pseudomonas* were isolated from different clinical sites of infection. All clinical specimens were collected from Chughtais Lahore Lab. Jail road, during 8-07-2010 to 11-01-2011. Biochemical characterization was done using routine biochemical tests. Antimicrobial susceptibility was determined by Kirby-Bauer method. The plasmids were isolated from all the strains and digested with restriction enzyme PstI and EcoRI. Transfer of Multi-resistance plasmid was checked via transformation and conjugation to confirm the plasmid mediated resistance to antibiotics. The prevalence of *Pseudomonas* in clinical specimens was found out to be 14% of all bacterial infections. IPM has shown to be the most effective drug against *Pseudomonas* followed by CES, PTB and meropenem, whereas most of the *Pseudomonas* strains have developed significant resistance against Penicillins and some Cephalosporins. Antibiotic resistance determinants were carried by plasmids, as they conferred resistance to transformed K1 strains. The isolates readily undergo conjugation, transferring the resistant genes to other strains, illustrating the high rates of cross infection and nosocomial infection in the immunocompromised patients.

Keywords : pseudomonas, antibiotics, drug resistance, horizontal gene transfer

Conference Title : ICPM 2016 : International Conference on Pathology and Microbiology

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : February 25-26, 2016