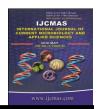


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Biofilm Production by *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from Bovine Mastitis Related with Resistance to the Antibiotics

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Staphylococcus aureus, Biofilm, Bovine Mastitis, Antibiotics resistant.

Article Info

Accepted: 06 April 2016 Available Online: 10 May 2016 The objective of this study is by focusing on the use of biofilm and probiotics on prevention and treatment of mastitis in cows. Fifty one isolates of *Staphylococcus aureus* were collected from different local areas in Iraq. In this study, forty eight *Staphylococcus aureus* were producing biofilm in different thickness while the remaining three isolates couldn't produce biofilm. Six of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates (from the forty eight) had higher thickness (3mm) of biofilm in which the protein concentration were 62,66,70,72,80 and 85 mg/ml., subsequentially. *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates that produce high thickness of biofilm appeared to be more resistant to most common antibiotics and had significant differences at 18 ±0.25 with the level p<0.05.

Introduction

One of the defense mechanisms of *S. aureus* is the capacity to form biofilm. A biofilm is an aggregate of microorganisms in which cells adhere to each other on a surface, these adherent cells are frequently embedded within a self- produced matrix of extracellular polymeric substance (Medora *et al.*, 2010).

Biofilm EPS, which is also referred to as slime (although not everything described as slime is a biofilm), is a polymeric conglomeration generally composed of

extracellular DNA, proteins and polysaccharides, biofilms may form on living or non-living surfaces and can be prevalent in natural, industrial and hospital settings (Hall-Stoodley *et al.*, 2004; Lear and Lewis, 2012). The microbial cells growing in a biofilm are physiologically distinct from planktonic cells of the same organism, which by contrast are single-cells that may float or swim in a liquid medium, microbes from a biofilm in response to many factors, which may include cellular recognition of specific or non-specific

attachment sites on a surface, nutritional cues, or in some cases, by exposure planktonic cells to sub-inhibitory concentrations of antibiotics (Karatan and Watnick, 2009).

Adhesion of bacterial cells (e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus*) to the mammary gland epithelium has been considered the primary step in the pathogenesis of mastitis (Cifrian *et al.*, 1994).

Initial biofilm formation mastitis cases occur proximately 24 hours after exposure to the infecting microorganism, bacterial clusters appear in the mammary alveoli and lactiferous ducts and also within the interstitial tissue (Hensen *et al.*, 2000).

Research on the molecular and genetic basis of biofilm development has demonstrated that when cells switch from planktonic to community mode, they also undergo a shift in behavior that involves alteration in the activity of numerous genes, there is evidence that specific genes must be transcribed during the attachment phase of biofilm development, in many cases, the activation of these genes is required for synthesis of the extracellular matrix that protects the pathogens inside (Costerton *et al.*, 1999).

Materials and Methods

Milk Sample Collection for Staphylococcus aureus Isolation

One hundred forty two (142) milk samples were collected from Abu Ghraib cow fields, Al-Rashedia cow field, field of College of Veterinary Medicine–University of Baghdad, field of College of Agriculture-University of Baghdad, Radwanyya fields from cows suffering acute clinical and sub clinical mastitis.

California mastitis test is an indirect test used to determine the somatic cells amount in milk. A field test was conducted by put equal amounts of milk in California lotion paddle and mixed well light circular motion and horizontal for 10 seconds according to Schalm *et al.*, 1971.

Results and Discussion

Table (1) shown that the results out of (51) *S. aureus* isolates, 48 isolates produce biofilm (94.117%), and these results were in agreement with Vasudevan *et al.* (2003), who demonstrated that (32) of (35) *S. aureus* isolates were slime positive, while Zmantar *et al.* (2010) found that (26) out of (46) isolates of *S.aureus* with mean (56.5%) were slime producers.

The results showed that these isolates different in its biofilm producing efficiency, the thickness of biofilm which measured in these isolates ranged between 0.2-3 mm, these results nearby Yarmorade (2013) showed that thickness of biofilm produced by *S.aureus* ranged between 0.2-1.5 mm., and agreement with Al-Tabakchally (2015) that found the thickness of biofilm produced by *E. coli* between 0.2 -2 mm,but disagreement with Al-Ilthawe (2010) found that the thickness of biofilm produced by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ranged between 1.1-6.5 mm.

Gondogan et al. (2006) found that (58) out of (110) S.aureus isolates were slime producers, while Fox et al., (2005) found a higher percentage (41%) of biofilm-positive isolates from milk, but Baselga et al. (1993) demonstrated a lower percentage of 12% of biofilm-positive producer isolates in (92) bovine isolates tested. Staphylococcus aureus is the main etiological organism responsible for bovine mastitis, while ability of S. aureus to form biofilms plays an

important role in the pathogenesis of mastitis, biofilm formation in S. aureus is associated with the production polysaccharide intercellular adhesion (PIA) protein and several other proteins, several environmental factors, including glucose, osmolarity, oleic acid and temperature, have been reported to affect biofilm formation in S. aureus on the other hand, previous studies that lactose increased biofilm formation in S.aureus predominantly by inducing PIA production, whereas milk increased biofilm formation through PIA as well as by increasing the production of other biofilm-associated proteins, which might be mediated by the transcriptional regulators intercellular adhesion regulator (icaR) and repressor of biofilm (rbf) (Xue, 2014).

Staphylococcus aureus and coagulasenegative staphylococci (CoNS), characterized by the ability of the causative microorganisms to colonize surfaces of biomaterials by adhering to their surface in biofilms structured communities of cells encased in self produced polymeric matrix, the capacity of Staphylococci to form biofilms allowing it to evade host immune defense mechanisms and antibiotic therapy is considered to be crucial in colonizing the surfaces of the implants, an understanding of the composition of staphylococcal biofilms and the detailed chemical structure of biofilm components is essential for a clear understanding of the pathogenesis of these bacteria, and the designing of new therapeutic tools against staphylococcal infections (Evgueny et al., 2005).

Internalization is an important step in staphylococcal mastitis pathogenesis (Hensen *et al.*, 2000). *In vitro* studies have shown that Staphylococci are able to adhere to and invade bovine mammary epithelium, biofilm formation is a potential virulence factor (Almeida and Oliver, 2001). During intramammary infection bacterial clusters

may develop within the udder and biofilm structures may facilitate Staphylococci adherence and colonization of the mammary gland epithelium (Hensen *et al.*, 2000).

In other bacterial genera, the ability to form biofilm appears to be associated with invasiveness (Latasa *et al.*, 2005). In *S. aureus*, this relationship has not yet been clarified although it has been shown that capsule and other exoproducts may inhibit internalization, the abilities of Staphylococci to be internalized and form a biofilm can contribute to host immunological defense evasion that subsequently impairs antimicrobial therapy (Manuela *et al.*, 2011).

Most studies of biofilm biology have taken a reductionist approach, where single-species biofilms have been extensively investigated. However, biofilms in nature mostly comprise multiple species, where interspecies interactions with shape the development, structure and function of these communities differently from biofilm (Lee et al., 2014). S.aureus populations isolates results showed differences in the thickening ring formed into test tube in the measuring laboratory, after thickened episode turned out to be ranging from (0.2 to 3) mm Table (2).

Biofilm of Protein Concentration

Direct contact of *S. aureus* with the surface is required for attachment and subsequent colonization by produce extracellular polymeric substance (EPS) that will glue the cell to the surface and form the biofilm matrix, this material composed of polysaccharides, and may also proteins, nucleic acid and polymeric lipophilic compounds. (Neu *et al.*, 2001).

Zulfiqar *et al.*, (2013) found that many strains of methicillin sensitive *S. aureus* MSSA isolates were biofilm positive and

majority were found to carry agr type II, also found that isolates of methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) carry icaA gene, polymerase chain reaction studies suggested that all of the biofilm positive MRSA isolates belong SCC*mec* type IV and carry agr type II, this showed the strong association of SCCmec IV agr type II and biofilm formation in food borne.

Six isolates which gave the highest thickness of biofilm that belong to local numbers (11, 22, 30, 33, 37. and 45) were used to measure the protein concentration in its crude biofilm according to Biuret method (Fenk *et al.*, 2007). Table (3) shown the results showed the highest protein concentration of biofilm produced by *S aureus* isolate number 30, was 85 mg/ml., while the lower one by *S.aureus* isolate number 37 was 62 mg/ml.

Figure (1a,b)shown the results were in agreement with (AL-Tabakchally 2015), who found that the protein concentration of the biofilm for *E.coli* isolates was 92 mg/ml, while Yarmorad (2013) showed that *Staphylococcus aureus* produced Biofilm with low protein concentration 9 mg/ml for one *S.aureus* isolates and 18 mg/ml from another caused mastitis cases, and Al-Ithawy (2010) found that the highest protein concentration of biofilm extract produced by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was 0.12 mg/ml only.

A biofilm can be defined as a microbially-derived sessile community, typified by cells that are attached to a substratum, interface or to each other are embedded in a matrix of extracellular polymeric substance, and exhibit an altered phenotype with regard to growth, gene expression and protein production, biofilm thickness can range from a single cell layer to a substantial community encased by a viscous polymeric milieu, structural analyses have shown that

in some cases unique pillar or mushroomshaped structures can be formed by the micro-colony architecture of these dense biofilms, however other structures do form depending on the environmental conditions (Nathan *et al.*, 2011).

In vitro, strains differ in their ability to withstand killing by neutrophils, form biofilms or invade mammary epithelial cells (Hensen, 2000). Biofilm formation and invasion into mammary cells can be expected to protect *S. aureus* from the host immune response and from antibiotics by making the bacteria inaccessible (Cucarella *et al.*, 2004).

The ability to survive phagocytosis by neutrophils would protect the bacteria even if they were exposed to the host immune response, except maybe in the case of antibiotics that penetrated intracellularly, such as macrolides (any of a class of antibiotics containing a lactone ring of which the first and best known is erythromycin) (Janosi *et al.*, 2001).

Susceptibility tests were conducted for the 48 isolates of *S.aureus* against different 12 antibiotics to assess the prevalence of antibiotic resistance. These isolates were divided into two categories, first one the *S. aureus* isolates produced biofilm thickness between 0.2 -0.9 mm. and the second, *S. aureus* isolates produced biofilm thickness between 1-3 mm., each isolates was tested against (12 antibiotics. The zone of inhibition of bacterial growth around the antibiotic disc were measured to check isolates susceptibility. The inhibition zone measured by HiAntibiotic Zone ScaleTMC, (Figure 2).

Table (3) showed the highest sensitivity of *S.aureus* that produced biofilm (0.1-0.9 mm) isolates to Ciprofloxacin (84%), then Chloramphenicol, Azithromycin and

Kanamycin (76%), while the Nitrofurantion and Vancomycin (52%) and less sensitivity were Piperacillin (12%), Trimethoprim+Sulphamethoxazole (28%) and Gentamycin (36%), also the results were showed the higher resistant to piperacillin (56%), Cloxacillin (28%) whilst Nitrofurantin, Amoxicillin+Clavulanic acid, Chloramphenicol, Azithromycin and Kanamycin were 12 %.

The results showed the highest sensitivity of *S. aureus* that produced biofilm (1-3 mm)

isolates to Azithromycin and Ciprofloxacin were (78.2%), Chloramphenicol (73.9%), Kanamycin (65.2%), while Gentamycin and Trimethoprim +Sulphamethoxazole (52.1%), in addition the highest resistant of aureus Cloxacillin (47.8%),to Amoxicillin+ Clavulanic acid, Polymyxin B, and Piperacillin (26%),the lowest antibiotics Vancomycin, were Chloramphinicol, Azithromycin, Gentamycin Trimethoprim and Sulphamethoxazole (8.6%) Table (4).

Table.1 The Biofilm Production by Different *S.Aureus* Isolates

No. of isolates	Result	No. of isolates	Result	No. of isolates	Result
1	+	20	+	39	+
2	+	21	+	40	+
3	+	22	+	41	+
4	+	23	+	42	+
5	+	24	+	43	+
6	+	25	+	44	+
7	+	26	+	45	+
8	+	27	+	46	+
9	+	28	+	47	+
10	+	29	+	48	+
11	+	30	+	49	-
12	+	31	+	50	-
13	+	32	+	51	-
14	+	33	+		
15	+	34	+		
16	+	35	+		
17	+	36	+		
18	+	37	+		
19	+	38	+		

⁽⁺⁾ produce Biofilm;

⁽⁻⁾ notproduceBiofilm

Table.2 Thickness of Biofilm Produced by Different Isolates of S. aureus

Number of	Thickness of	Number of	Thickness of
isolates	biofilm	isolates	biofilm
1	0.2	25	1.2
2	0.2	26	0.8
3	0.4	27	2.6
4	0.8	28	2.4
5	0.7	29	0.4
6	0.7	30	3.0
7	0.2	31	0.6
8	0.2	32	0.8
9	0.3	33	3.0
10	0.9	34	1.8
11	3.0	35	2.2
12	0.6	36	0.3
13	0.4	37	3.0
14	0.2	38	0.8
15	0.8	39	2.6
16	2.0	40	2.0
17	2.6	41	0.6
18	1.4	42	1.4
19	2.8	43	1.0
20	0.2	44	0.5
21	0.9	45	3.0
22	3.0	46	1.0
23	2.2	47	1.4
24	0.4	48	1.2

Table.3 S. aureus Isolates Producing Biofilm 3mm Thickness

No. of <i>S.aureus</i> isolates	Protein Concentration (mg/ml)
11	66
22	70
30	85
33	80
37	62
45	72

Table.3 The Antibiotic Sensitivity Test of (25) *S. aureus* Isolates Produce Thin Layer (0.2-0.9) mm of Biofilm

Number of <i>S.aureus</i> isolates produced biofilm (0.1-0.9)mm						
	Resistant		Intermediate		Susceptible	
Antibiotics	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nitrofurantion	3	12	9	36	13	52
Amoxicillin/	3	12	10	40	12	48
Clavulanic acid						
Vancomycin	4	16	8	32	13	52
Polymyxin B	4	16	10	40	11	44
Chloramphenicol	3	12	3	12	19	76
Cloxacillin	7	28	8	32	10	40
Azithromycin	3	12	3	12	19	76
Piperacillin	14	56	8	32	3	12
Gentamycin	4	16	12	48	9	36
Trimethoprim/	4	16	14	56	7	28
sulphamethoxazole						
Ciprofloxacin	2	8	2	8	21	84
Kanamycin	3	12	3	12	19	76

Table.4 Susceptibility Test of Antibiotics against (25) *S. aureus* Isolates Produced Thick layer (0.2-0.9) mm of Biofilm

Thickness of biofilm (0.2-0.9) mm	Sensitive	Intermediate	Resistance
Antibiotics µg			
Nitrofurantion 300	0.4154±0.06186b	0.5300±0.07000Bb	0.8667±0.03333Aa
Amoxicillin+ Clavulanic acid 30	0.5000±0.08842b	0.4818±.06983Cb	0.7000±0.05774Ba
Vancomycin 30	0.5000±0.07110b	0.4714±0.07781	0.6500±0.15000 Ba
		Cb	
Polymyxin B 300	0.5333±0.07521b	0.4300±0.07753Cb	0.7333±0.06667Ba
Chloramphenicol 30	0.4789±0.06145b	0.6000±0.05774Ba	0.6667±0.13333Ba
Cloxacillin 1	0.5200±0.08537	0.5000±0.09063B	0.5286±0.09932B
Azithromycin 15	0.4882±0.06580	0.5750±0.10308B	0.6750±0.11087B
Piperacillin 100	0.5667±0.11450	0.4429±0.07514B	0.5333±0.08009BC
Gentamycin 20	0.5300±0.08699	0.5167±0.07671B	0.4240±0.08539C
Trimethoprim+ Sulphamethoxazole	0.5000±0.09063	0.5000±0.06887B	0.6000±0.15811B
25			
Ciprofloxacin 10	0.5143±0.05744b	0.3500±0.05000Cb	0.7000±0.10000Ba
Kanamycin 30	0.4722±0.05648b	0.7333±0.03333Aa	0.6333±0.21858Bb

Different Capital letters denote significant (p<0.05) differences among antibiotics.

Different small letters denote significant (p<0.05) differences among characters(thickness of biofilm)

Table.5 The Antibiotics Sensitivity Test for 23 S. aureus Isolates Produce Thick Layer (1-3)mm of Biofilm

Number of <i>S.aureus</i> isolates produced biofilm (1-3)mm						
	Resistant		Intermediate		Susceptible	
Antibiotics	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nitrofurantion	4	17.3	8	34.7	11	47.8
Amoxicillin/ Clavulanic acid	6	26	9	39.1	8	34.7
Vancomycin	2	8.6	11	47.8	10	43.4
Polymyxin B	6	26	12	52.1	5	21.7
Chloramphenicol	2	8.6	4	17.3	17	73.9
Cloxacillin	11	47.8	5	21.7	7	30.4
Azithromycin	2	8.6	3	13	18	78.2
Piperacillin	6	26	14	60.8	3	13
Gentamycin	2	8.6	9	39.1	12	52.1
Trimethoprim/	2	8.6	9	39.1	12	52.1
sulphamethoxazole						
Ciprofloxacin	3	13	2	8.6	18	78.2
Kanamycin	3	13	5	21.7	15	65.2

Table.6 Susceptibility Test of Antibiotics against (23) S. aureus Isolates Produced Thick Layer (1-3) mm of Biofilm

Thickness of biofilm (1-3) mm	Sensitive	Intermediate	Resistance	
A mailt indian wa				
Antibiotics µg	1.545.0.2407	1.5455 : 0.24125	2 1000 : 0 25166	
Nitrofurantion 300	1.545±0.2407	1.5455±0.24135	3.1000±0.25166	
	Db	Cb	Aa	
Amoxicillin+ Clavulanic acid 30	1.3250±0.11299	2.3778±0.1222	2.9667±0.3333	
	Сс	Cb	Ba	
Vancomycin 30	2.1600±0.18809	2.0182±0.25075	2.9333±0.06667	
	Bb	Cb	Ba	
Polymyxin B 300	1.2000±0.08944	2.1500±0.14381	2.9625±0.02631	
	Cc	Cb	Ba	
Chloramphenicol 30	1.8824±0.15440	2.7000±0.3000	2.9000±0.07071	
•	Bb	Ba	Ba	
Cloxacillin 1	1.5714±0.25608	1.8000±0.24495	2.7091±0.11237	
	Cb	Db	Ba	
Azithromycin 15	2.0222±0.16160	2.4667±0.53333	2.9667±0.03333	
•	Bc	Bb	Ba	
Piperacillin 100	2.2667±0.43716	1.7857±0.15473	2.9750±0.01637	
-	Ab	Dc	Ba	
Gentamycin 20	1.7667±0.20865	2.5111±0.14948	2.9333±0.06667	
•	Bc	Bb	Ba	
Trimethoprim+	1.7333±0.18641	2.5556±0.17249	2.9667±0.0333	
Sulphamethoxazole 25	Bc	Bb	Ba	
Ciprofloxacin 10	1.9333±0.15424	2.9667±0.0333	2.9500±0.05000	
-	Bb	Aa	Ba	
Kanamycin 30	2.000±0.19712	0.7333±0.0333	0.6333±0.21858	
-	Ba	Eb	Cb	

note: Different Capital letters denote significant (p<0.05) differences among antibiotics.

Different small letters denote significant (p<0.05) differences among characters (thickness of biofilm)

Figure.1a Thickness of Biofilm produced by Staphylococcus aureus



Figure.1b *S. aureus* produced a Dense Material of Biofilm Stick to the Internal wall of the Tube Stained by Saphranine Dye

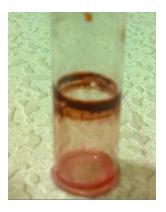


Figure.2 Hi Antibiotic Zone Scale TMC, that measured the Thickness of Biofilm Layer Produced by *S. aureus* Isolates



The results showed in sensitivity there were no significant differences in among all of concentration of antibiotics. While the intermediate were Significant differences

among the concentration of antibiotics in which Kanamycin have been more value than the other antibiotics, and the lowest were Amoxacillin + Clavulanic acid. Vancomycin, Polymyxin, and В Ciprofloxacin, also the table showed that resistance were significance differences Antibiotics in which among the Nitrofurantion have been higher value and the lowest one were Piperacillin and Gentamycin. As the table shown, the resistance has superior value as compared intermediate and sensitivity Amoxicillin+ Clavulanic acid, Vancomycin Chloramphinicol Polymyxin and В. resistance and intermediate higher than sensitivity while Cloxacillin has no significant as well as Azanthromycin, Piperacillin, Gentamycin Trimethoprim+Sulphamethoxazole. The results of resistance to S. aureus that produced biofilm showed were significant differences against Vancomycin agreement with Harriott and Noverr (2009).

The sensitivity results showed there was high significant differences in Piperacillin 100 among different concentration of antibiotics, then Kanamycin, and others Vancomycin, Chloramphenicol and Ciprofloxacin and the lowest one was Nitrofurantion (Table 5).

While the intermediate were Significant differences among the concentration of antibiotics in which Ciprofloxacin have been more value than the other antibiotics, and the lowest were Kanamycin also the table showed that resistance were significance differences among Antibiotics in which the Nitrofurantion have been higher value and the lowest one was Kanamycin.

Table (6), the resistance of Nitrofurantion has superior value as compared with intermediate and sensitivity. The sensitivity

of Gentamycin against S.aureus was (1.7667 ± 0.20865) appeared significant differences at level p< 0.05, this result disagreement with (Coraca et al., 2012) he Gentamycin was the most showed the effective inhibitors of S. aureus biofilmrelated infections, but the sensitivity of S. toward Vancomycin aureus (2.1600±0.18809) appeared less significant differences that result agreement with 2013) who said that (Okuda *et al.*, Vancomycin, aglycopeptide antibiotic used in the treatment of S.aureus infections, showed less activity against biofilm cells.

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