

Original Research Article

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## Characterization of Coagulase-Negative Staphylococci Isolated from Hospitalized Patients in Narayana Medical College and Hospital Nellore, A.P. South India

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### ABSTRACT

Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CNS) are a main cause of nosocomial infection. The main purpose of this study was to determination of frequency of CNS isolates in in hospitalized patients and their susceptibility pattern to antimicrobial agents. During 11 months study, 147CNS clinical isolates were recovered from hospitalized patients in NMC & hospital Nellore south India. The age of patients was 10 to 70yrs. *In vitro* susceptibility of isolates to 14 antimicrobial agents – ampicillin, oxacillin, cefexime. azithromycin, ofloxacin, clindamycin, amikacim, tegacyclin, vancomycin, tegacyclin. vancomycin, amoxicillin with clavulanic acid, Tycarcillin with clavulanic acid, piperacillin with tazobactam. sporflaxacin and linezolid was performed by Kirby-Bauer's Disk diffusion method according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) criteria. Out of 147 patients were infected with CNS during study period in different clinical specimens includes fifty four (36.73%) were isolated from urine. Fifty three (36.05%) from the pus 21(14.29%) from sputum, 19(12.93%) from blood samples. Most of CNS isolates were sensitive to linezolid 134(91.16%), tegacyclin 130(88.44%) and vancomycin 123(83.67%). Highest resistance seen cefexime 96(65.31), azythromycin 79(53.74%), ampicillin 76(51.70%) Multi-drug resistant CNS with reduced susceptibility to linezolid, vancomycin emerging pathogens of clinical concern. Monitoring of antibiotic resistance with attention to multi-resistant profile and aware to practitioners in the field is necessary.

#### Keywords

Coagulase-negative Staphylococci; Antimicrobial susceptibility; Nosocomial infection.

#### Article Info

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### Introduction

Nosocomial infections are important public health problems in developing countries as well as in developed countries. Nosocomial or hospital acquired infections are usually defined as infections that are identified at least 48-72 hours following admission to hospital and health care facility (Ziebuhr *et al.*, 2006). The most frequent types of nosocomial infections are bloodstream infection (BSI) urinary tract infection (UTI) pneumonia and surgical wound infection

Celik *et al.*, 2005). Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CNS) are a group of microorganisms that known as normal biota of human skin and mucous membranes. CNS are consisting of 39 Species and 16 Species of them are known to cause infection in human.

Since 1970, CNS is recognized as important agents of a wide variety of human nosocomial infections. They account for 9% of nosocomial infections (Piette *et al.*, 2009).

The two most frequently encountered CNS species in clinical samples are *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*. Overall, *S. epidermidis* is the predominant agent in nosocomial infection, bacteremia, intravascular catheter-related infections, endocarditis, central nervous system shunt infections, urinary tract infections, ophthalmologic infections, dialysis related infections and surgical wounds while *saprophyticus* is more associated with urinary tract infections in females. Therefore, CNS isolates have received more attention recently as a cause of above mentioned infections (Guirguitzova *et al.*, 2002). Accurate species level identification of CNS is expensive and time consuming .according to past researchers, identification to species level is not necessary for good patient management and treatment (Heikens *et al.*, 2005).

Nowadays the role of CNS as potential agents of nosocomial blood stream infections and UTI has been recognised CNS isolates account for 30% nosocomial blood stream infections. Among CNS isolates *Staphylococcus epidermidis* is most frequently associated with blood stream infection (Javadpour *et al.*, 2010). The use of indwelling medical devices such as central and peripheral venous catheters, artificial heart valves, valvular prostheses, pace-makers and orthopaedic prostheses in patients is the one of main predisposing agents *S. epidermidis* bacteremia (Stoll *et al.*, 2002). UTI is one of the most frequent types of nosocomial infections and probably affects about one-half of all people during their lifetimes.

Many of clinicians are commonly encountered with UTIs in developing countries. UTI refer to the existence of microbial pathogens in the urinary tract and defined as the growth of a single pathogen of >10<sup>5</sup> colony-forming units per millilitre from

properly collected mid-stream urine specimens (Barisic *et al.*, 2003). UTIs are often caused by different bacteria. Bacterial agents are responsible for a spectrum of UTI that can be ranged from mild irritative voiding to bacteremic sepsis and death; UTIs can often be symptomatic or asymptomatic (Stamm *et al.*, 2001).

The major causatives of UTIS are *Escherichia coli* and other *Enterobacteriaceae*. Although relative frequency of the pathogens varies depending upon age, sex, catheterization and hospitalization but in complicated urinary tract infections and hospitalized patients, Gram negative rods complicated urinary tract infections and hospitalized patients, Gram-negative rods (*Pseudomonas* spp) and gram positive cocci (coagulase negative *Staphylococci*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus* group B, *Enterococci*) are comparatively more common (Ronald, 2003).

Recently, in all over the world, resistance to antibiotics among CNS isolates has been reported. The infections associated with CNS requiring surveillance of antimicrobial therapy. In appropriate use of antimicrobial agents in treatment of patients recently has led to the spread of antimicrobial resistance among CNS isolates. On the other hand, widespread resistance among CNS isolates is major problem for the empirical treatment of nosocomial infections (Stamm *et al.*, 2001; Ronald, 2009). During the past decade CNS isolates exhibited a remarkable ability “to rapidly develop antibiotic resistance. Area-specific monitoring studies in order to detection of antimicrobial resistance patterns, effective treatment and decrease mortality rates is necessary.

Considering lack of information about antimicrobial resistance profiles of CNS clinical isolates and increasing infections, the object of this study was to investigate the

frequency of CNS isolates in hospitalized patients and their susceptibility pattern to commonly used antimicrobial agents.

## **Materials and Methods**

### **Bacterial Isolates**

The present descriptive study was performed on cases who were hospitalized in different wards of hospital. A total of 147 clinically significant CNS isolates from different clinical samples for a period of 11 months (from Jun 2014 to May 2015) CNSs were isolated from sputum, blood, pus, and urine samples. Isolates were diagnosed as true pathogen when isolated in pure culture from infected sites. UTI refer to the existence of microbial pathogens in the urinary tract and defined as the growth of a single pathogen of >10 colony-forming units per milliliter (CFU/ml) from properly collected midstream urine specimens. All the cases had history of nosocomial infection and clinical examination was conducted by physician to exclude community-acquired infections.

The plates were incubated in aerobic conditions at 37 °C for 24-48 hours. Negative cultures were maintained in incubator up to 2 days. Identification of specimens was performed by Grams staining, catalase, manitol fermentation and coagulase tests and other conventional biochemical tests. Coagulase test was done both slide and tube methods (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 2012). Samples confirmed as a CNS isolates were stored in Tryptic Soy Broth containing 20% glycerol at 70°C and were subjected to further investigation

### **Antimicrobial susceptibility testing**

To evaluate antimicrobial susceptibility of isolates Kirby-Bauer's Disk diffusion method was done according Clinical Laboratory and

Standards Institute (CLSI; formerly National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards) criteria (Ghadiri *et al.*, 2012). The following antimicrobial agents were used in this study: Ampicillin; oxacillin Cefexime; azithromycin, ofloxacin, ampicillin, ticarcillin, vancomycin, clindamycin, amoxicillin with clavulanic acid, ticarcillin with clavulanic acid, piperacillin with tazobactam, sporflaxacin, linazolid.

Briefly, the bacterial suspension obtained from overnight cultures. The turbidity of each bacterial suspension was adjusted equivalent to a no. 0.5 McFarland standard and then inoculated on Mueller-Hinton agar Diameter of inhibition zones was measured after incubation at 37°C for 18-24 hours, and data were reported as susceptible and resistance

## **Results and Discussion**

Over a period of 11 months study CNS accounts for 147 isolates in hospitalized patients. The age range of the patients was from 2 to 70 years. 147 isolates of which there were 67 (45.58%) females and 80 (54.42%) males as shown in table 1.

Occurrence of infection with CNS was highest in the age group 40 to 49 year 29(19.73%) and the lowest in the age less than 10 years 3(2.04%)

In males, majority of the CNS found in the age group 50 to 59 years 19(12.93%) and in females age group 20 to 29 years 17(11.56%). Frequency of CNS in different age groups is shown in table 2

No much significant difference was found between isolated bacteria and age of the patients

Among 147 isolates of CNS, 54(36.73 %) were isolated from the urine 53(36.055%)

from pus, 21(14.29%) from sputum and 19(12.93%) from blood sample. High % of isolates are from urine followed by pus, sputum and blood as shown in table 3.

All isolates of CNS were negative for free and tube coagulase.

The profile of isolated bacterial showed wide different level of resistance for tested antibiotics (Data are shown in table 4). Antibiotic susceptibility testing of the isolates showed maximum resistance cefexime 93(65.31%) azytromycin 79(53.74%) ampicillin 76 (51.70%) followed by clindamycin 47 (31,97%). Oxacillin 43 (29.25%), tecarcillin with clavulanic acid 43 (29.25%), amoxicillin with clavulanic acid 40 (27.21%), sporflaxacin 34(23.13%), amikacin 31(21.09%). oflaxacin 30(20.14%).

Most of the isolates were sensitive to linazolid, tygycyclin, vancomycin.

Multidrug resistant (MDR) was defined as resistance to at least three or more antibiotics.

Nosocomial infection is a global problem that affects both developed and developing countries. Recent studies have revealed the importance of CNS as one of the causes of nosocomial or healthcare related infections. Many of nosocomial infections are associated with microorganisms that are resistant to antibiotics and can easily spread by hospital environment and personnel. Monitoring of antimicrobial susceptibility can aid to clinicians for prescript appropriate antibiotics and prevent the development of drug resistance (Cleven *et al.*, 2006). Effective treatment of patients with UTI and blood stream infections associated with CNS commonly relays on the identification of the type of organisms and the selection of an effective antibiotic agent to the organism in question. The pattern of antimicrobial

resistance of CNS producing infection varies in different regions and especially different wards. In this study, the frequency of CNS isolated from hospitalized patients are 67(45.58%) females and 80 (54.42%) males. Among different clinical samples, CNS isolates were isolated from 54 (36.73 %) urine samples followed by pus 53(36.05%) sputum 21(14;29%) and blood 19(12.93%). CNS isolated from urine 54(36.73%) is highest. This result is consistent with the results of recent studies in India (Asangi, 2011; Sarathbabu *et al.*, 2011). In a study done by Vaez *et al.*, in 2012, CNS was mostly isolated from blood cultures that are in contrary with our study (nellore). In another study done by Banelj *et al.*, 72 of 150 strains of CNS (60%) were isolated from blood samples, 36(24%) from pus samples, 15(10%) from urinary catheter tip and 12(8%) from the urine samples. The sex distribution of patients in our study female was between 20 to 49 years. This result is similar to those reported from many other researchers.

In this study, we investigated the frequency and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of CNS isolated This study revealed that all of CNS isolates were mostly sensitive to linazolid, tegycyclin and vancomycin. Our finding about vancomycin is in accordance with: studies done in India 2012, Spain 2002, England 2004, Asia Pacific region 2007, USA 2007 and Turkey 2007 (Cuevas *et al.*, 1986; Reynolds *et al.*, 2002).

In our study, the highest resistance rate of the CNS was against cefexime 93(65.31%) followed by azytromycin 79(53.74%) ampicillin 76(51.70%) followed by clindamycin 47(31,97%). Oxacillin 43(29.25%), tecarcillin with clavulanic acid 43(29.25%), amoxicillin with clavulanic acid 40(27.21%), sporflaxacin 34(23.13%), amikacin 31(21.09%), oflaxacin 30(20.14%).

This study correlates with a study by Asangi *et al.*, where the antibiotic susceptibility testing showed maximum resistance to ampicillin. In study Sader *et al.*, (2007) 85°-95% of CNS were resistance to ampicillin and penicillin. High resistances to these antibiotics have been reported by several researchers. Resistance to ampicillin, cefexime azithromycin, among our isolates may related to improper usage of this antibiotic for treatment of other infections, increase use of other beta lactam antibiotics in hospital and acquisition of resistant during hospitalization.

Resistances to Erythromycin (azythromycin) have been reported differently by several researchers. In Spain, resistance to

Erythromycin (azythromycin) increased progressively in CNS from 41% in 1986 to 63% in 2002 (20). Asangi *et al.*, showed high level of resistance to erythromycin among CNS isolates. In two surveillance studies, performed in 2006, in US and Europe CNS isolates had increased resistance rate to erythromycin (Jones *et al.*, 2006). The possible reasons of high resistant rate to erythromycin may be related to use of erythromycin in treatment of disease caused by CNS and common infections, increase exposure of this isolates to new macrolide, efflux of the drug and ribosomal methylation. Cross resistance between clindamycin and macrolides is well described by several investigators.

**Table.1** Sex wise distribution

Total male	80(54.42%)
Total female	67(45.58%)
Total	147(100.00%)

**Table.2** Age wise distribution

AGE	MALE	%	FEMAIL	%	TOTAL	%
<10	2	1.36%	1	0.68%	3	2.04%
10 TO 19	5	3.40%	4	2.72%	9	6.12%
20 TO 29	8	5.44%	17	11.56%	25	17.01%
30 TO 39	11	7.48%	6	4.08%	17	11.56%
40 TO 49	14	9.52%	15	10.20%	29	19.73%
50 TO 59	19	12.93%	8	5.44%	27	18.37%
60 TO 69	13	8.84%	10	6.80%	23	15.65%
>70	8	5.44%	6	4.08%	14	9.52%

**Table.3** Sample wise distribution

Blood	19	12.93%
Pus	53	36.05%
Sputam	21	14.29%
Urine	54	36.73%
Total	147	100.00%

**Table.4** Results of antibiotic susceptible test

S.No.	Antibiotics	No of resistance	No of susceptibility	Total
1	Ampicillin	76(51.70%)	71(48.30%)	100.00%
2	Oxacillin	43(29.25%)	104(70.75%)	100.00%
3	Cefixime	96(65.31%)	51(34.69%)	100.00%
4	Azithromycin	79(53.74%)	68(46.26%)	100.00%
5	Ofloxacin	30(29.47%)	117(79.59%)	100.00%
6	Clindamycin	47(31.97%)	100(68.03%)	
7	Amikacin	31(21.09%)	116(78.91%)	100.00%
8	Tegycycline	17(11.56%)	130(88.44%)	100.00%
9	Vancomycin	24(16.33%)	123(83.67%)	100.00%
10	Amoxicillin+Clavulanic Acid	40(27.21%)	107(72.79.03%)	100.00%
11	Tircillin with Clavlanicacid	43(29.25%)	104(70.75%)	100.00%
12	Piperacillin+Tazobactam	28(19.05%)	119(80.95%)	100.00%
13	Sparfloxacin	34(23.13%)	113(76.87%)	100.00%
14	Linezolid	13(8.84%)	134(91.16%)	100.00%

The resistance rate to linzolid was 8.84% in our study. US and Turkey, Englands, Australia and Irland linazolid resistance is higher (Biedenbach *et al.*, 2007). The resistance rate to gentamicin in among CNS isolates was higher than other studies (Zia *et al.*, 2010; Khorshidi *et al.*, 2003). The data from our investigation exhibited that ampicillin, penicillin, cefoxime, cefalotin, gentamycin, oxacillin and erythromycin had not good activity against CNS isolates.

It should not be ignored that MDR strains of CNS can serve as a reservoir of resistance genes and can spread to the other microorganisms. Therefore, in order to prevent further spread of multi-drug resistant CNS, the use of antibiotics should be monitored and implementation of infection control. In the other hand, continued use of antibiotic for treatment of infections associated with CNS isolates should be supported by monitoring of antimicrobial susceptibility to prevent the spread of

resistant isolates and also eliminate the use of antibiotics for a prolonged period. Resistant to linzolid tegycycline and vancomycin has seen minimum among our isolates it seems that them can be effective drugs for treatment of infections associated with CNS isolates. According to our findings, ampicillin, penicillin, cefoxitin, gentamicin, and erythromycin are not effective drugs for treatment of infections associated with CNS. Progressive increase in resistant to these antibiotics and multiple resistances in present study, may be related to increased usage of these antibiotics for treatment and also ability of strains in acquisition of resistance genes to other organisms of different species. Our investigation also exhibited that use of linzolid in order to decrease spread of resistance gene among CNS isolates must be revised.

In conclusion, high level of resistance among CNS isolates limits the use of antimicrobial Agents for therapy and also the spread of

MDR isolates is threat for hospitalized patients. Continuous surveillance for multidrug resistant strains is necessary to prevent the further spread of resistant isolates.

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