

Original Research Article

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Multidrug Resistance Pattern in Confirmed Cases of Central Venous Catheter Blood Stream Infections in a Tertiary Care Hospital: A Prospective Study

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ABSTRACT

Central venous access which plays an important role in the management of critically ill patients, also puts patient at the risk of central venous catheter associated bloodstream infections (CVC-BSI). These infections are difficult to treat because they are being increasingly caused by multi-drug resistant organisms. This study was carried out to determine CVC-BSI rate in Intensive Care Units of a tertiary care hospital and to identify the antibiotic resistance profile of the infectious agents involved. Distal 5cm of the central venous catheter and blood samples were collected and processed using conventional culture methods as per standard protocol. During the study of one year, 720 patients were treated by indwelling catheter, of which 36 developed bloodstream infections, amounting to a CVC_BSI rate of 7.14 per 1000 catheter days. We observed that 73.07% of the Gram negative bacteria isolated from the cases were ESBL producers, 57.69% were AmpC producers and 34.61% were Co-producers of both ESBL and AmpC. Prevention of infusate contamination and aseptic handling by healthcare personnel will play a great role in bringing down the CVC-BSI rates and curb the nuisance of spread of multi drug resistant hospital acquired infections.

Keywords

CVCBSI,
Incidence rate,
Antimicrobial
resistance.

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Introduction

Central line associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) is a major contributing factor to in-hospital mortality and morbidity, extending the in-patient stay by 10 days and expenditure per patient by US\$30,000 (Rello *et al.*, 2000). In the intensive care unit setting the incidence of infection is often higher than in the less acute in-patient or ambulatory setting (Deepti *et al.*, 2014). Nosocomial infections are frequently encountered in intensive care units (ICU) because of the severity of underlying diseases, the frequency of invasive interventions and the frequent use of wide-spectrum antibiotics (Dogru *et al.*, 2010).

Central Venous Catheter is often used as a portal for the delivery of medications, parenteral nutrition, collection of blood samples and monitoring hemodynamic variables in critically ill patients (Chopdekar *et al.*, 2011). Central venous access not only plays an important role in the management of critically ill patients, but also puts patients at risk of various iatrogenic complications including central venous catheter associated bloodstream infections (CVC-BSI). Apart from the escalating rates, HAIs are now increasingly being caused by multi-drug-resistant organisms, which are difficult to

treat due to paucity of new antimicrobials (Mathur *et al.*, 2015).

The most common microorganisms involved in Device associated nosocomial infections are those belonging to Enterobacteriaceae family, Acinetobacter species, Pseudomonas species, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and Coagulase Negative Staphylococci (Mehta *et al.*, 2007; Kanj *et al.*, 2012). Bio film formation in catheters has not only been implicated as an important factor involved in device related infection but also confers resistance to antimicrobial treatment. In a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Nosocomial Infections Surveillance (NNIS) System report, the U.S. pooled mean rate of Central Venous Catheter (CVC)-related bloodstream infections, was 4.0 per 1000 CVC days (Rosenthal *et al.*, 2006).

Over the past several decades, the frequency of antimicrobial resistance and its association with serious infectious diseases have increased at alarming rates (Pawar *et al.*, 2008). Extensive antibiotic resistance has been observed in GNB. Antibiotic resistance develops through different mechanisms, such as the alteration of the drug target and drug inactivation by enzymes.

Production of Extended spectrum β -lactamases (ESBL), Amp C β lactamases (AmpC) and metallo β lactamases (MBL) are responsible for multidrug resistance of these pathogens (Joseph *et al.*, 2010).

The present study has been undertaken to determine CVCBSI rate, in Intensive Care Units of our hospital, a tertiary care government hospital, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital (KIMSH), Hubballi, to identify the infectious agents involved and their antibiotic resistance profiles during the period between December 2013 and December 2014.

Materials and Methods

Source of data

Samples collected from patients admitted in different Intensive Care Units such as Medical, Surgical, Orthopedic, Paediatrics, Neonatal and Obstetrics Intensive Care Units (ICU) of Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, Hubballi.

Inclusion criteria

Patients admitted to the ICUs having central line associated blood stream infection which is defined as an infection that is identified at least 48 to 72 hours following admission associated with Central venous catheter. Patients having infection at the time of or prior to hospitalization were excluded from the study.

The central line was removed aseptically and the distal 5cm of the catheter amputated. Simultaneously blood samples were drawn for blood culture and inoculated on to BHI broth.

Processing in laboratory

Samples were inoculated onto Thioglycollate broth, Chocolate agar, Blood agar and Mac Conkey agar. The plates were incubated aerobically overnight at 37°C and observed for growth on the next day. If growth was observed in Thioglycollate broth, subcultures were made on chocolate and Mac Conkey agar. Brain heart infusion broth for blood culture was incubated up to 7 days. If growth was observed, a subculture was made on to chocolate agar and Mac Conkey agar. The identification and antibiotic sensitivity was done by the disc diffusion test as recommended by CLSI guidelines (2012). Screening test for ESBL production was done using Ceftazidime disks. A zone diameter of \leq 22 mm was considered as probable ESBL

producer, which was confirmed by Phenotypic confirmatory disc diffusion test using Ceftazidime and Ceftazidime + Clavulanic acid (CLSI, 2013).

Isolates were screened for AmpC production using Cefoxitin disk. Isolates with Cefoxitin zone of < 18 mm were considered as screen positives. Phenotypic confirmation of AmpC beta-lactamase was done by using AmpC disk test.

Screening test for MBL production was done using Imipenem disk. Isolates with zone of < 19 mm were considered as screen positive and were subjected to Imipenem-EDTA Combined disk test for Phenotypic confirmation (Behera *et al.*, 2008).

Isolates were screened for KPC production using Ertapenem disk. Isolates with Ertapenem zones ≤ 21 mm were considered as screen positive.

Phenotypic confirmatory test for KPC production was done using Modified Hodge Test (MHT) (CLSI, 2013).

Isolates were screened for MRSA production by Cefoxitin disc diffusion method. Zone size was interpreted according to CLSI criteria: susceptible, ≥ 22 mm; resistant, ≤ 21 mm.

Calculation of CVCBSI rate

CVCBSI rates per 1000 device days were calculated by dividing the total number of central venous catheter associated infection by the total number of device days and multiplying the result with 1000 (Guanche *et al.*).

Statistical analysis: Statistical analysis was done by Fischer's Exact test using SPSS software and test of proportions wherever applicable.

Results and Discussion

During the study period of one year, 720 patients were treated by indwelling catheter, of which 36 patients developed bloodstream infection. The total central venous catheter days amounted to 3600 in the study population. A total 36 episodes of CVCBSI occurred in these patients, amounting to a CVCBSI rate of 7.14 per 1000 catheter days. The different organisms isolated were *Staphylococcus* species 10 (27.7%), *Acinetobacter baumannii* 9(25%), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* 8(22%), *Klebsiella pneumonia* 6(16.66%) followed by *Citrobacter koseri* 2(5.55%) and *Escherichia coli* 1(2.77%) as shown in table 1.

Based on the screening tests and confirmatory tests conducted to determine the drug resistance mechanisms, we observed that, out of the total 36 CVCBSI cases, 26(72.22%) were caused by Gram negative bacteria, of which 19 (73.07%) were ESBL producing infections, 15 (57.69%) were AmpC producers and 9 (34.61%) were Co-producers of both ESBL and AmpC. Among the total 14 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated, 3 (21.42%) were MBL producers (Tables 2 and 3).

Among the 6 *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from central line catheter samples of CVCBSI, 4 were Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). However, out of the 4 CoNS, 2 were detected to be MR CoNS by cefoxitin disc diffusion test (Table 4). All the 36 cases of CVCBSI recovered with no deaths recorded

The pathogens isolated from CVCBSI patients showed multi drug resistance. The ESBL and AmpC beta lactamase producing organisms were almost unanimously resistant to ampicillin, cefazolin, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, cefepime and tetracycline. The most effective antibiotic was Imipenem

followed by amikacin for the Gram negative isolates. The *S. aureus* was resistant to ampicillin and ciprofloxacin. All the *Staphylococci* isolates were sensitive to azithromycin, clindamicin, linezolid and vancomycin. The overall resistance pattern of the pathogens isolated from the CVCBSI patients is given below in table 5.

Nosocomial infections are one of the most important causes of mortality and morbidity as well as of the increase in health expenditures. It has been reported that ICUs account for 25% of nosocomial infections. In the ICU, central venous access might be needed for extended periods of time; patients can be colonised with hospital-acquired organisms, and the catheter may be manipulated several times daily for administration of fluids, drugs, and blood products. By several analyses, the cost of central venous catheter (CVC) associated bloodstream infections (BSIs) is substantial, both in terms of morbidity and in terms of financial resources. Through this study, an attempt has been made to assess the Central venous catheter associated bloodstream infection (CVCBSI) rate, in different Intensive Care Units of our hospital, to identify the infectious agents involved and their antibiotic resistance profiles during the period between December 2013 and December 2014.

In this study the central venous catheter associated bloodstream infection (CVCBSI) rate in 1000 catheter days was found to be 7.14. Various authors have reported variable data on CLABSIs from India (Kaur *et al.*, 2012). Notably, Mehta *et al.*, (2007) reported an overall hospital associated infection (HAI) rate of 4.4% and 9.1% per 1000 ICU-days and a CLABSI rate of 7.9 per 1000 catheter-days from a prospective surveillance carried out between July 2004 and March 2007 in 12 ICUs of the seven hospital members of the INICC in seven Indian cities. Recently Kaur

et al., (2012) and Patil *et al.*, (2011) from hospitals in India reported CLABSI rate of 2.8 per 1000 catheter days and 18.5%, respectively. *Staphylococcus aureus* (27.7%) was the most common pathogen of CVC-BSI in the present study. Kaur *et al.*, (2015) at Chandigarh India also reported *Staphylococcus aureus* as the most common pathogen in their study. The isolation of *S. aureus* from CVC-BSI cases probably suggests the hub colonisation by skin flora of the patient or medical personnel as the origin of infection. The isolation of *S. aureus* in large number points towards the lapse in catheter care. The other CVC-BSI associated pathogens were *Acinetobacter baumannii* 9(25%), *P. aeruginosa* 8(22%), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 6(16.66%) and the same scenario was cited by Latif *et al.*, (2009) who found that non fermenters like *P. aeruginosa* and *Acinetobacter* spp are the second most common bacterial agents in ICU settings after Gram positive cocci to be responsible for causing septicaemia.

Femoral venous site is most commonly associated with infectious complications followed by jugular and subclavian veins. Multi lumen catheters have been found to be increasingly implicated in CVC-BSI than single lumen catheters.

Antimicrobial resistance represents a major problem in the management of hospital acquired infection. Organisms isolated from patients in intensive care units are more likely to be resistant to antibiotics than those isolated from general ward patients or outpatients. Among Gram negative bacilli 19(73.07%) were ESBL producers, 15(57.69%) Amp C producers, 09(34.61%) were ESBL and AmpC Co-producers. Among *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* 03(21.42%) MBL producers. None of the *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates were KPC producers.

Table.1 Isolated organisms from CVCBSI patients

Sr no	Category	Number (%)	Organism	Number (%)
1	GNB	26 (72.22%)	<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	9 (25%)
			<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	8 (22%)
			<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	6 (16.66%)
			<i>Citobacter koseri</i>	2 (5.55%)
			<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1 (2.77%)
2	GPC	10 (27.77%)	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	6 (16.66%)
			Coagulase negative Staphylococci	4 (11.11%)

Table.2 ESBL, AmpC and Co-producers

Specimen	Total number of specimen	Total no of GNB (%)	ESBL positive no (%)	AmpC positive no (%)	ESBL + AmpC positive no (%)
Central venous catheter	36	26 (72.22%)	19 (73.07%)	15 (57.69%)	9 (34.61%)

Table.3 MBL producing isolates obtained from CVCBSI urine samples

Specimen	Total no of <i>Pseudomonas</i> and <i>Klebsiella</i>	MBL positive (%)
Central venous catheter	14	3 (21.42 %)

Table.4 Methicillin resistance detected in *Staphylococci* isolated from CVCBSI samples

Specimen	<i>S.aureus</i>	CoNS
CVC	6	4
MRSA	4 (66.66%)	-
MRCoNS (%)	-	2 (50%)

Table.5 Multidrug resistance pattern of the CVCBSI isolates

Resistance pattern (%)	Organism						
	<i>Acinetobacter</i>	<i>P.aeruginosa</i>	<i>Klebsiella</i>	<i>C.koseri</i>	<i>E.coli</i>	<i>Staphylococcus</i>	
Ak	100	63	67	50	00	60	
Amp	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Amc	100	100	84	100	00	60	
Cz	100	100	100	100	100	-	
Cpm	100	100	100	100	100	-	
Cx	100	100	84	100	00	60	
Ctx	100	100	84	100	00	-	
Caz	100	100	84	100	00	-	
Ctr	100	100	84	100	00	-	
Cip	100	100	100	50	100	100	
Cot	100	100	100	100	100	-	
Gen	100	63	67	50	00	60	
Imp	00	37	34	00	00	-	
Te	-	-	-	-	-	50	
Az	-	-	-	-	-	00	
Cd	-	-	-	-	-	60	
Cot	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E	-	-	-	-	-	00	
Lz	-	-	-	-	-	00	
Va	-	-	-	-	-	00	

A study conducted by Mehta *et al.*, (2007) in ICU of seven Indian cities found that 46.4% of all HCAI were caused by Enterobacteriaceae, of which 74.1% were ESBL producers. 27.3% of HCAI were caused by Pseudomonas spp, of which 42.0% were MBL producers. Among Staphylococci 66.66% were identified as MRSA and 50% were MR CONS by cefoxitin disc diffusion test. Some of the studies have reported very high rate of MRSA 84%. Mehta *et al.*, (2006) found that overall 87.5% of all Staphylococcus aureus HCAs were caused by methicillin-resistant strains in their study. Imipenem, followed by Amikacin were the most effective antibiotics for the multi drug resistant Gram negative isolates. Whereas the Gram positive isolates from the CVC blood stream infections were sensitive to Linezolid,

vancomycin and azithromycin.

The present study showed much higher incidence of CVCBSI due to Gram negative bacilli than those due to Staphylococcal BSI. This proves the importance of prevention of infusate contaminate and aseptic handling by healthcare personnel, the absence of which is associated with Gram negative bacterial blood stream infections.

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