

Original Research Article

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The Profile of Uropathogens and their Antibiotic Susceptibility in IPD Adults in a Tertiary Care Hospital in North India

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ABSTRACT

Urinary tract infections (UTI) are one of the most common infections that lead to morbidity in humans with *Escherichia coli* being the most common bacteria. Injudicious use of antibiotics has led to increased resistance of urinary pathogens to otherwise sensitive antibiotics hence; Knowledge of local bacteriological trend the antibiotic susceptibility pattern is a must to initiate a judicious antibiotic treatment. The study was a retrospective analysis of urine samples of IPD patients done over a period of 7 months from June 2017 to Dec 2017. This was done to analyze bacteriological profile and their antibiotic susceptibility. 210 samples showed growth; 111 and 99 being females and males respectively. Gram negative bacteria were the most common isolates with *E.coli* being the most common bacteria followed by *Klebsiella* spp., *Enterococcus fecalis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* comprising the majority of isolates. High sensitivity was observed towards nitrofurantoin while organisms were resistant to fluoroquinolones. Cefoperazone-sulbactam and fosfomycin are also effective drug for *E.coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. UTIs were most common in females. Gram negative bacteria were the major uropathogens in our admitted patients; *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella* being the most common. An increased resistance was observed towards fluoroquinolones, cotrimoxazole and cephalosporins. An antibiogram specific for healthcare setting is must that shall be based on bacteriological profile and organism's sensitivity pattern.

Keywords

Uropathogens, MDR, *E.coli*, antibiotic susceptibility

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Introduction

Urinary tract infections (UTI) are the most common bacterial infections seen in tertiary care hospitals (Hooton, 2012). UTI in human are showing increasing trends in spite of use of antibiotics, in all age groups and both gender (Orhue, 2014; Shah *et al.*, 2015). UTI is the most common type of nosocomial

infection; 50% of patients with indwelling catheters have UTI with multidrug resistant (MDR) bacteria (Preethishree *et al.*, 2016). Nosocomial UTI is major cause of morbidity and sepsis. It accounts for almost 40% of all nosocomial infections (Singhal *et al.*, 2014). Bacteria are the major causative organisms; 95% of UTI cases (Singhal *et al.*, 2014). Most common etiologic bacteria are *E.coli*,

Klebsiella pneumoniae, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus* especially *E.fecalis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* (Orhue, 2014).

Generally the treatment for UTI is empirical, before the culture reports are available. This, unfortunately has led to emergence of MDR uropathogens. In addition, the extensive use of antibiotics, for infections outside the urinary tract, would alter the antibiotic susceptibility pattern of the intestinal bacteria that are generally implicated as uropathogens (Uwaezuoke and Ogbulie, 2006) It is very important to be aware of trend of most common bacteria causing UTI and also their antibiotic susceptibility pattern (Bency *et al.*, 2017). Hence, this antibiogram shall be of great help to the clinicians and they shall ideally prescribe empirical antibiotics as per the updated trend in their city or hospital.

Materials and Methods

The study was a retrospective descriptive study conducted in admitted patients of a tertiary care hospital over a period of seven months from June 2017 to Dec 2017. The analysis of the reports was done at the microbiology department. All positive urine culture and sensitivity reports of admitted patients were included in the study. Patients were selected regardless of age and sex. The samples were plated on Blood Agar (Himedia) and MacConkey Agar media (Himedia) by the semi-quantitative plating method using the calibrated loop technique (0.001 mL). Plates were incubated aerobically overnight at 37°C. The antibiotics were used as per the strips suitable for the kind of growth.

A total of 210 positive urine culture reports were reported when cultured using standard microbiological techniques [Collee and Marr, 1996]. Pure growth of an isolate in a count of $\geq 10^5$ colony forming units (CFU) per milliliter of urine was considered as significant

bacteriuria (Bency *et al.*, 2017). Organisms were identified by automated system ATB reader and their antibiotic susceptibility was done as per latest CLSI guidelines 2017 (Clinical and laboratory standards institute, 2017). Exclusion criteria were the isolates identified as contaminant or same isolates from repeat culture of patient those organisms which showed resistance to at least three or more antibiotics of different structural classes were considered MDR as described elsewhere [Pankaj Baral *et al.*, 2012].

Results and Discussion

A total of 210 positive urine samples were obtained during our study period, in adult age group. Out of 210, 193 were bacteria while 17 isolates were *Candida* spp. Gender wise, 111 were female while 99 were males accounting for 52.5% and 47.5% respectively. Male to female ratio was 1:1.1. In our study, we isolated 193 bacteria and 17 *Candida* spp.

Among the bacterial profile of UTI, *Escherichia coli* was the most common bacteria accounting for 50.25% followed by *Klebsiella* spp. (24.35%), *Enterococcus* spp.(9.85%) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (7.25%); *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus mirabilis* and *Acinetobacter baumannii* comprised the rest of bacteria.

Out of 111 females, *E.coli* was isolated from 46% and *Klebsiella* 24.3% while out of 99 males, *E.coli* was isolated from 46.5% while *Klebsiella* from 20.2%.

Table 5 shows the antibiotic sensitivity pattern of gram negative bacteria and gram positive cocci respectively. Most of *E.coli* isolates were sensitive strains with maximum susceptibility to Carbapenems (85%), fosfomycin (85%) and nitrofurantoin (76%) with reasonable sensitivity towards amikacin 68%, and piperacillin tazobactam (66%). Less

susceptibility was observed for cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones. *Proteus* isolates were also sensitive to higher cephalosporins, carbapenems and fluoroquinolones. On the other hand *Klebsiella* isolates and *Acinetobacter* spp. were resistant to lower antibiotics namely cephalosporins, aminoglycosides, Fluoroquinolones and cotrimoxazole. While some *K.pneumoniae* isolates showed susceptibility to carbapenems, *A.baumannii* was only sensitive to colistin other than just 15% susceptibility to imipenem and meropenem.

Amongst GPC, 100 % sensitivity was observed towards higher antibiotics; linezolid, vancomycin and teicoplanin, moderate susceptibility towards amikacin and nitrofurantoin while most of the isolates were resistant to beta lactams and fluoroquinolones.

Urinary tract infection is a common bacterial disease, often contributes to a frequent cause of morbidity in out-patients as well as hospitalized-patients (Wagenlehner and Naber, 2006). Clinical experience has indicated the presence of numerous cases of antibiotic resistance to common antibiotics by uropathogens in both developed and developing countries (Gupta, 2002). Continuous surveillance of antibiotic surveillance patterns of uropathogens at local level is crucial in dealing with emerging problems of antibiotic resistance and provides assistance in managing effective initial therapy (Bano *et al.*, 2014).

A total of 210 positive IPD urine culture samples were reported during our 7 month study. Our finding of female preponderance is consistent with several other studies done by Sharma *et al.*, (2011), Orhue (2014), Shah *et al.*, (2015), Preetishree *et al.*, (2016) and Jubina *et al.*, (2017). All the studies noticed the UTI to be common in females; this finding can be due to short urethra in females.

(Preethishree *et al.*, 2016) Gender wise, the isolation rate of *E.coli* in males and females was 46.5 and 46% which was almost comparable while *klebsiella* isolates were more common in females (24.3%) as compared to males (20.2). Bency *et al.*, (2017) reported bigger number of *E.coli* isolates in females; being 79.7% as compared to 64.9% in males.

In our study, *E.coli* was the most predominant bacteria (50.25%) followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (24.35%). The preponderance of *E.coli* has been reported in studies done by Eshwarappa *et al.*, (2011) (66.9%), Hussein (2014) (39%), Shah *et al.*, (2015) (61.02%), Preetishree *et al.*, (2016) (57.14%). Various studies have reported varying range of *E.coli* isolation; while Bency *et al.*, (2017) reported 74.3% of isolation, Razak and Gurushantappa (2012) reported the percentage to be 37.95%.

The second most common isolate was *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (24.35%). Several other studies also had same trend. While Razak and Gurushantappa (2012) and Patel and Garala (2014) reported percentage of isolation 21.41% and 23.89% respectively, studies done by Shah *et al.*, (2015), Eshwarappa *et al.*, (2011), Preetishree *et al.*, (2016) and Singhal *et al.*, (2014) reported low percentages of 13.56%, 15.5%, 17.62% and 11% respectively.

While our all *Staphylococcus* isolates were *S.aureus*, Preetishree *et al.*, (2016) study had isolated 19 of *S.aureus* of all *Staphylococcus* species and 6 isolates were coagulase negative staphylococcus (CONS), and in Singhal *et al.*, (2014) study, CONS were the second most common isolates (16.8%) in IPD patients while *Klebsiella* spp was the third most common. 100% *S.aureus* isolates in our study could be attributed to presence of urinary catheter in those patients.

Table.1 Sex wise distribution of UTI

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	99	47.5
female	111	52.5

Table.2 Distribution of urinary isolates

Distribution of Urinary Isolates (n=210)		
Isolate	Numbers	%
Bacteria	193	91.90
Candida	17	8.10

Table.3 Bacterial profile of UTI

Bacterial Profile of UTI (n=193)		
	Number	Percentage %
<i>E.coli</i>	97	50.26
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	47	24.35
<i>Enterococci fecalis</i>	19	9.84
<i>P.aeruginosa</i>	14	7.25
<i>S.aureus</i>	7	3.63
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	7	3.63
<i>A.baumannii</i>	2	1.04
Grand Total	193	100

Table.4 Sex wise uropathogen distribution

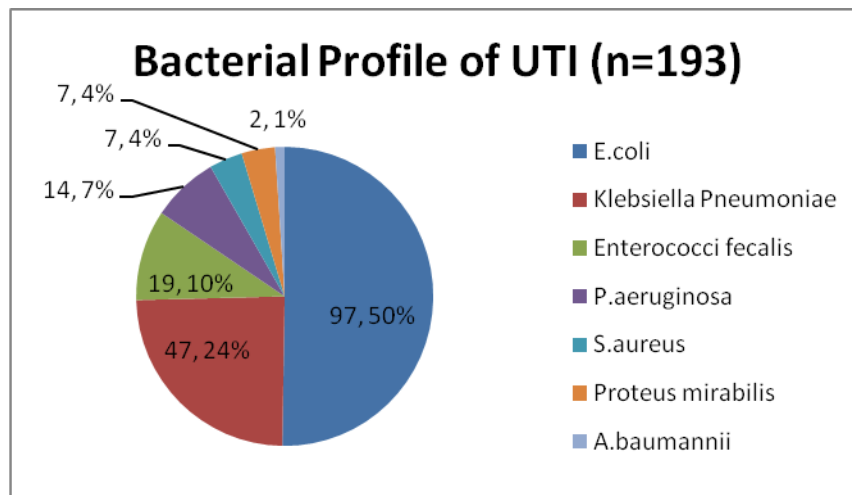
Organism	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total
<i>E.coli</i>	46(46.5%)	51(46%)	97
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	20(20.2%)	27(24.3%)	47
<i>E.fecalis</i>	9(9.09%)	10 (9.0%)	19
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	8(8.08%)	6 (5.4%)	14
<i>S.aureus</i>	4(4.04%)	3(2.7%)	7
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	3(3.03%)	4(3.6%)	7
<i>A.baumannii</i>	2(2.02%)	0	2
<i>Candida spp.</i>	7(7.07%)	10(9.0%)	17
Total	99	111	210

Table.5 Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of gram positive and gram negative isolates

	Pathogens	No. of isolates	% of isolates	Sensitive	Resistant
1.	<i>E.coli</i>	97	50.25	Fosfo(85%), Cfs(72%), I,Mr (85%), Nf (76%) PTz (68), Ak (68%)	Penicillins, FQ, G,
2.	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	47	24.35	Col(100%), Fosfo(75), I, Mr(62%), Cfs(62),	Cephalosporins,FQ,,CoT, Aminoglycosides
3.	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	19	9.85	Va, Lz, Tei(100%),Nf(68%), Tetra(62%),	P, FQ, CoT
4.	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	14	7.25	Col(100), I,Mr(80), Ak(52),	Cephalosporins, G, FQ
5.	<i>S.aureus</i>	7	3.6	Va, Lz, Tei(100%),, Tetra(65%), Nf(56%), CoT(45)	Cz, E, Cip, Penicillins
6.	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	7	3.6	I, Mr(100), , Caz, Cpm(84), G(70), Cip(52)	CoT, Nf
7	<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	2	1.03	Col(100%)	Carbapenems, FQ, Aminoglycosides, cephalosporins

Ak=Amikacin, G=Gentamycin, Cip=Ciprofloxacin, I=Imipenem, AmC=Amox-co-Clavulanate, CoT=Co-trimoxazole, Col-colistin, , Mr- Meropenem, FQ- fluoroquinolones (cip,Of), PTz(Piperacillin-tazobactam), Va- vancomycin, Lz (linezolid), Tei- teicoplanin, tetra- tetracycline, Fosfo= fosfomycin, Cpm- cefepime, Cfs- cefoperazone sulbactam, Nf- nitrofurantoin, P- penicillin

Fig.1 Bacterial profile of UTI



17 out of 210 isolates were *Candida* spp. accounting for 8% of all uropathogens. Singhal *et al.*, (2014) have reported 13.3% of *Candida* spp. in their IPD isolates.

The significant percentage could be due to the presence of factors predisposing for fungal infections in IPD patients, like long-term antibiotic treatment, steroids, chronic illness,

cancer patients or other immunocompromised conditions [Kamat *et al.*, 2009]. These factors could not be correlated, since our study was retrospective.

Our *E.coli* isolates were highly sensitive to nitrofurantoin (76%) while mostly resistant to Ciprofloxacin and norfloxacin (24.2%); similar findings were observed in Singhal *et*

al., study where *E.coli* was 90.6% susceptible to Nitrofurantoin while only 16.3% sensitive to ciprofloxacin. Preetishree *et al.*, also reported similar kind of pattern; 28.3% and 85.8% sensitivity to ciprofloxacin and nitrofurantoin respectively. This finding is in contrast with a south India study where Arjunan *et al.*, (2010), have reported the low susceptibility to nitrofurantoin (38.8%) and relatively high susceptibility to norfloxacin (94.4%) and ciprofloxacin (77.7%).

In studies done by Bency *et al.*, and Preetishree *et al.*, *Klebsiella* isolates were quite sensitive to Amikacin, Piperacillin tazobactam, gentamicin while our *Klebsiella* isolates were mostly resistant to all these drugs. Most of our *Klebsiella* isolates were multi drug resistant; they showed sensitivity to carbapenems (60-65%), fosfomicin (75%) and 100% sensitivity to polymyxins. This wide geographic variation reemphasises the requirement of knowledge of uropathogens and their sensitivity pattern.

Amongst GPC isolates, 100% sensitivity was observed towards vancomycin and Linezolid; finding similar to most of the studies (Preetishree *et al.*, 2016; Singhal *et al.*, 2014; Bency *et al.*, 2017). *S.aureus* also showed moderate sensitivity to Cotrimoxazole (45%), Gentamicin (50%), nitrofurantoin (56%) and tetracycline (65%). Least sensitivity was for ciprofloxacin (28%). These findings are similar to Preetishree *et al.*, (2016), Singhal *et al.*, (2014).

Enterobacteriaceae showed a high sensitivity to fosfomicin and cefoperazone sulbactam. Out of all the isolates only *E.coli* and *S.aureus* were sensitive to Cotrimoxazole (35-45%) while rests were resistant.

Overall, sensitivity of all isolates was less to fluoroquinolones and also cephalosporins except *Proteus* spp. Because a very high percentage of isolates in this study were

sensitive to nitrofurantoin, this drug would be a better choice for the empiric treatment of UTI [Hooton, 2012; Singhal *et al.*, 2014].

In our study *Klebsiella* and *Acinetobacter* spp. were MDR while rest of the isolates was quite sensitive except to the beta lactam antibiotics, fluoroquinolones.

Gram negative bacteria as the most common uropathogens and resistance of gram negative bacteria to fluoroquinolones has been reported in lot of studies but the multidrug resistant property of *klebsiella* isolates is alarming.

The limitation of the study is that the study was of short duration and a retrospective one. The results are not applicable to generalized healthcare settings since the findings are from a single tertiary care hospital. Also, samples from all the areas were included in the study; the population included both the catheterized and non-catheterized patients.

The high prevalence of UTI was observed in females. Gram negative bacteria form the predominant uropathogen isolates in our set up with *E.coli* being the commonest; the worrisome being *Klebsiella* isolates which were resistant to most of the available antibiotics. Again, an increasing rate of resistance has been observed towards cotrimoxazole and fluoroquinolones. Clinicians shall be aware of local bacteriological profiles and their antibiotic sensitivity pattern since that helps them in initiation of an appropriate antibiotic therapy. Thus an updated antibiogram for a hospital and timely urine culture are the keys to reduce emergence of resistant microbes in patients with suspected UTI.

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