THE FREQUENCY OF ebpS AND V8 GENES IN STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ISOLATES FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES IN THIQAR PROVINCE-IRAQ

Saad Abdul Azeed Atiyah1, Zainab Dakhil Degaimand1, Abdul-Kareem Salmon Al-yassari2 and Noor R. Abady2

1Microbiology department, College of Medicine, University of Thi-Qar, Iraq.
2Microbiology department, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Al-Qasim Green, Iraq.

Abstract

The current study was screened the profile of distribution of two virulence genes (ebpS and V8) in clinical isolates of S. aureus which isolated from three sources and comparison among them. Total isolates of S. aureus (n =63) recovered from 200 vaginal swabs from women with bacterial vaginal infections, 113 swabs from and tonsillitis infections and from 80 nasal swabs of healthy students in the college of Medicine, Thi-qar University through the period from February to November, 2017, the frequency of ebpS and V8 genes was determine by PCR. The results showed that (100%) of S. aureus isolates from tonsillitis were carried ebpS gene with high significant differences (p<0.001) when compared with those that isolated from nose and vagina with carriage percent 40% and 50%, respectively. While, there were no significant differences between isolates of S. aureus which isolated from vagina and nose at (P=0.061). A S. aureus isolates from vagina and nose were not harbored V8 gene (0.0%), while this gene founded in 35.29% of tonsil isolates with significant differences under (P<0.001).The recent results recorded a high prevalence of ebpS gene among S. aureus isolates from different sources than V8 gene and isolates differ in their harboring of the virulence genes according to the source of the infection which effect on the bacterial colonization and increased the pathogenicity.

Keywords: Staphylococcus aureus, virulence factor

Introduction

A Staphylococcus aureus was an imperative human bacteria responsible for both nosocomial and community-acquired infections, like wise this bacterium found as commensal flora in healthy persons mostly colonized in nose (Peacock et al., 2001). The most transiently or persistently carriers with S. aureus, had a higher perils for developing clinical infections and those infections were more difficult to treatment (Saffdar and Bradley, 2008). S. aureus strains caused severe skin and soft tissue infections, necrotizing pneumonia, and sepsis in else healthy kids, adolescents, and in neonates (Huang et al., 2009). Some studies documented that (5%) of women were harbor this bacteria in the vaginal tract and the postnatal women had high rates of colonization with S. aureus; moreover, genital-rectal carriage of S. aureus founded allied with development of postpartum fever (Chen et al., 2007).The frequency of community methicillin resistant infections diverged amongst unlike populations, publics and the pregnant women had threat factors and more susceptible to evolving those infections (Stumpf et al., 2008).

The pathogenicity of S. aureus was involved a miscellaneous array of virulence factors which expressed during various stages of infection by a net of virulence regulators (Cotar et al., 2010). So, the most persistent and chronic staphylococcal infections related to the expression of different virulence factors that mediate the bacterial adhesion and the formation of biofilms (Traber et al., 2008), and it contributed to a extensive variability of microbial infections like urinary tract infections, and infections of permanent indwelling devices (Goerke et al., 2000).

Wide-ranging experimental evidences pointed on the standing of an entire group of secretory proteases in virulent S. aureus (Dubin, 2002). S. aureus isolates secreted two cysteine proteases, staphopain A and staphopain B', and numerous serine proteases, including V8 protease (SspA), and amount of serine protease-like proteins (Spl) (Sabat et al., 2008).

The serine protease of S. aureus isolates V8 was one of the important secreted enzymes by this microorganism (Drapeau et al., 1972), and also it contributed in the existence and growth of S. aureus (Houmard, and Drapeau, 1972).

The other virulence factors of cell wall-associated adhesion proteins was elastin-binding protein (ebpS) (Ghasemian et al., 2015) help the bacteria in colonization and increased the pathogenicity of this bacteria (Goudarzi et al., 2016). The objective of the present study was to detect the distribution of two virulence genes (ebpS, V8) in S. aureus isolates which isolated from different sources.

Material and Methods

Laboratory Methods

A total of 63 S. aureus isolates were collected from patients in two hospital wards Al-Habobi teaching hospital/Thi-Qar province-Iraq and from healthy students in the college of Medicine/Thi-qar University through the period from February to November, 2017.

All isolates were collected from different sources, including: 20 S. aureus isolates from 80 nasal swabs of students, 26 isolates from 200 vaginal swabs from women suffering of bacterial vaginal infections, and 17 isolates from 113 pharyngitis and tonsillitis patients. The isolates were identified depending on cultural properties including colony morphology and hemolysis (LAB/ United Kingdom), followed by biochemical tests including the growth on mannitol salt agar, coagulase test and DNase test (Baird, 1996; Brooks et al., 2007). The diagnosis was confirmed by using API Staph. system (BioMerieux/France).
Preparation of bacterial DNA

The Bacterial DNA was extracted using Genomic DNA Extraction kit (Geneaid/Korea) from entirely S. aureus isolates.

PCR diagnosis of ebpS and V8 genes

The specific primer pairs of ebpS with the following sequences were used: forward: 5'-CAATCGATAGACACAAATTC-3 and reverse: 5'-CAGTTACATCATCATGTGTTA-3. While, for V8 gene: forward: 5'-TTGTTCTTCCGAAACTT-3 and reverse: 5'-GGCTTTGGCTTTATTTG-3 (Boden and Flock, 1992).

Amplification of the ebpS and V8 genes was done using primers described at above. The final volume of reaction tubes was 20µl, consist of 5µl Master Mix (Bioneer-Korea), 1µl from each forward and reverse primers, 5µl of DNA template and the volume was completed by adding nuclease free water. The PCR cycling conditions of ebpS gene involved: initial denaturation at 94°C for 5 min, followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 1 min, annealing at 50°C for 1 min, extension at 72°C for 1 min and final extension for 2 min (Boden and Flock, 1994). Whereas for V8 gene: initial denaturation at 94°C for 10 min, followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 1 min, annealing at 45°C for 1 min, extension at 72°C for 2 min and final extension for 10 min after the last cycle (Boden and Flock, 1992). Electrophoresis of PCR product was carried out in 1.4% agarose gel and the presence of a 526 bp and 1550 bp band indicate a positive result for ebpS and V8 genes, respectively.

Statistical Analysis

The results of the present study were statistically analyzed by using SPSS program Version 22. P values below to 0.05 were considered statically significant by Chi square.

Results and Discussion

A S. aureus isolates from vagina and nose were not harbored V8 gene (0.0%), while this gene found in 35.29% of tonsil isolates with significant differences under (P<0.01) as shown in table 2; and the size of the V8 gene showed in figure (2).

The protease enzymes had importance in virulence of S. aureus (Dubin, 2002). The staphyloccocal proteases had different functions such as virulence factors by a diversity mechanisms, including inactivation of antimicrobidal peptides, cleavage of human immunoglobulin (Ig) molecules and permitting dissemination of tissue destruction (Selsted et al., 1996). V8 protease might cleave and inactivate the heavy chains of Ig classes (Arvidson et al., 2000) and alter the fibronectin-binding phenotype of S. aureus isolates; this enzyme played a vital role for modifying the host proteins that assist of the microbes and might play chief role in the posttranslational regulation the activity S. aureus exo-protein (McGavin et al., 1997). There were different influence of SspA concluded on the advance of tissue abscess infectivity model, it essential for maturation of SspB, controlled of autolytic activities (Rice et al., 2001).

The geographic areas may be effects the distributions of different virulence genes of S. aureus isolates (Campbell et al., 2008) and also whom recorded the prevalence of V8 and ebpS genes in isolates of S. aureus was 51/56 (91%) and 56/56 (100%), respectively.

The importance of presence V8 proteases might be modulates the virulent and pathogenicity of S. aureus, also Dubin, (2002) suggested that proteases enzyme contributed in high pathogenicity of S. aureus.

The V8 gene was one of genes present in virulent S. aureus strains. So, this gene used as a marker to identify a S. aureus that founded in most strains of S. aureus (Campbell et al., 2008).

The current results showed lower percentage of V8 gene; these results were disagreed with results of Zdzalik et al. (2012) which revealed a high abundance of the gene encoding V8 protease.

The results of current study showed that S. aureus isolates recovered from tonsil carried ebpS gene in complete percent (100%), when compared with those that recovered from nose and vagina with percent 40% and 50%, respectively. The results significantly was high under (P<0.01) as shown in table 1. While there was no significant differences between isolates of S. aureus which isolated from vagina and nose at (P=0.061). There was a significant correlation shown between S. aureus isolates from tonsil and nose (P=0.05), with no correlation present with vaginal isolates, and the PCR products of the goal gene showed in figure (2).

The importance of ebpS gene in activity of virulent S. aureus isolates was documented in several studies, the ebpS gene had related with biofilm formation which mentioned by Ghasemian et al. (2015) that determined a relationship between S. aureus isolates and formation of biofilm and whom recorded the prevalence of ebpS gene was 7% which disagree with our results about the frequency of the gene.

The frequency of ebpS gene as one of Microbial Surface Components Recognizing Adhesive Matrix Molecules (MSCRAMM) genes was 82 (65%) in S. aureus isolates (Kužma et al., 2006).

The current data revealed a complete isolates of S. aureus that recovered from tonsils had ebpS gene. Likewise, Nemati et al. (2009) showed all MRSA isolates had ebpS gene and other genes like icaD, can and clfB that related with biofilm formation and all genes identified as MSCRAMM gene, there were good genetic capacity for adherence. Furthermore, Voss et al. (2005) described that the MRSA isolates which carry these genes were easily transferred from animals such as pigs to humans. The differences in the harboring of virulence genes under this study among the S. aureus isolate from different sources indicate the fact that the site of infection affects the selection of bacterial isolate that cause the infection, where the site with more harsh environment colonize and infected by more virulent isolates.

In the study performed by Paniagua and coworkers, (2014) documented that ebpS gene was one of the most prevalent virulence genes (65.6 %) in S. aureus isolates related catheter.

Table 1: The frequency of ebpS gene among S. aureus isolated from different sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonsil</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagina</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The frequency of ebpS and V8 genes in Staphylococcus aureus isolates from different sources in Thiqar province-Iraq


---

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonsil</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35.29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>64.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagina</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

The recent study showed a high prevalence of ebpS gene among S. aureus isolates from different sources than V8 gene and the isolates differs in their harboring of the virulence genes according to the source of the infection which effect on the bacterial colonization and increased the pathogenicity.

**References**


