



## Study the Prevalence and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of Bacteria Isolated from Blood Cultures of Children In Baghdad

**Nadheema  
Hammoood  
Hussein**

Department of Biology, College of Science, Al-Mustansiryah University.

**ButheinaMahamed  
Taha**

Department of Biology, College of Science, Al-Mustansiryah University.

**Khetam Habeeb  
Rasool**

Department of Biology, College of Science, Al-Mustansiryah University.

**JumaahDakel  
Hussein**

Fattima-AL-Zahra Hospital for Pediatric and Obstetric /Ministry of Health /Iraq.

### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to determine the prevalence of bacteria responsible for blood stream infection (BSI) among children in Fattima-AL-Zahra Hospital for Pediatric and Obstetric / Baghdad and to get an updated knowledge about their antibiotic resistance pattern during one year period of study extended from 1 January till 31 September 2014. All blood cultures were done by BacT/ALERT 3D device. Identification of pathogens and antimicrobial susceptibility testing were done by using Vitek-2 system. A total of 1012 blood cultures were received from children suspected with blood stream infections. Out of 324 positive blood cultures, the isolation rate of Gram positive and Gram negative isolates was 242 (74.69%) and 82 (25.31%), respectively. Coagulase negative Staphylococci (CoNS) was the most frequently isolated bacteria in blood cultures, 211 (87.19%) isolates (P-value < 0.05). It was shown that Escherichia coli was the most frequently isolated Gram negative bacteria in blood specimens from children patients (28.04%). The most effective antibiotics on Gram-positive isolates were Nitrofurantoin, Moxifloxacin, Tigecycline, Levofloxacin and Linezolid. In Gram negative bacteria the most effective antibiotics on these isolates were Imipenem and Meropenem.

### KEYWORDS

#### Introduction

Blood stream infection (BSI) is a serious problem that needs immediate attention and treatment. It is a cause of high mortality especially if caused by multidrug resistant bacteria (1,2). They are potentially life-threatening and require rapid identification and also antibiotic susceptibility testing of the causative agent in order to facilitate specific antimicrobial therapy (3). Bacteriological culture to isolate the offending pathogen and knowledge about sensitivity pattern of the isolates remain the main stay of definitive diagnosis and management of blood-stream infections (4,5). The results of bacteriological cultures and antibiotic susceptibility tests take 3-4 days. One key determinant in the ultimate outcome of patients with sepsis is institution of early and appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

Thus it is a common practice to institute early empirical therapy with broad-spectrum antibiotics in patients presenting with clinical features suggestive of bacteraemia (5). Blood culture is one of the most important bacteriological examinations with important clinical and therapeutic consequences. Blood cultures should be ordered in all patients with signs suggesting septicemia, endocarditis or severe infection (6,7).

In developing countries, more than 14 million deaths of children under five years of age occur during the childhood (8), with infections accounting for up to 70% of total mortality for this age group (9). This study was aimed to determine the frequency of bacterial isolates from blood cultures of children and their antimicrobial susceptibility patterns.

#### Methodes

##### Clinical specimens

A total of 1012 blood specimens were collected from children

inpatients suspected with blood stream infections.

##### Location of study

This study was carried out at Fattima-AL-Zahra Hospital for Pediatric and Obstetric in Baghdad

##### Period of Study

This study was conducted during the period extended from 1 January till 31 September, 2014.

##### Collection of blood specimens

All blood samples were collected from children inpatients suspected with blood stream infections prior to initiation of antimicrobial therapy. Blood samples were collected with duplicate blood specimens. For each blood culture, 5 mL of blood were obtained from infants and children ( $\geq 0.5$  mL for infants < 1 month of age,  $\geq 1$  mL for children between 1 month and 36 months of age, and  $\geq 4$  mL for children  $\geq 36$  months of age) (10).

##### Isolation and Identification of bacterial isolates

Blood specimens were cultured by using BacT/ALERT 3D device (Bio-Merieux, France), and the bacteria were isolated from all specimens according to standard microbiology methods (11). Then microorganisms were identified at species level by using VITEK 2 system (Bio-Merieux, France).

##### Antibiotic Susceptibility Test

Antibiotic susceptibility test towards different groups of antibiotics including: Benzylpenicillin, Oxacillin, Linezolid, Moxifloxacin, Tetracycline, Tigecycline, Ampicillin, Erythromycin, Levofloxacin, Vancomycin, Acicillin/Clavulanic acid, Aztreonam, Clindamycin, Piperacillin/Tazobactam, Cefazolin, Cef-

triaxon, Cef tazidime, Cefepime, Ciprofloxacin, Gentamicin, Imipenem, Meropenem, Nitrofurantoin, and Trimethoprim/ Sulfamethoxazole was done by Vitek-2 system (Bio-Merieux, France) using AST cards according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Statistical analysis

The analysis was done by SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 16. Categorical variables were reported using frequencies and Fisher's test was used to analyze the significance of different observations. For all analysis, statistical significance was considered at highly significant level *P*-value of <0.01, significant level *P*-value of <0.05 and insignificant level *P*-value >0.05.

Results

Study patients

Blood specimens were collected from 1012 children inpatients suspected with blood stream infections along one year of study (from 1 January till 31 September, 2014). The age of children patients ranged from 3 days to less than 12 years. Patients with age grouping less than three months were much higher than other age grouping, 657 (64.92%) vs. 355 (35.08%) out of 1012 children patients (*P*-value < 0.05).

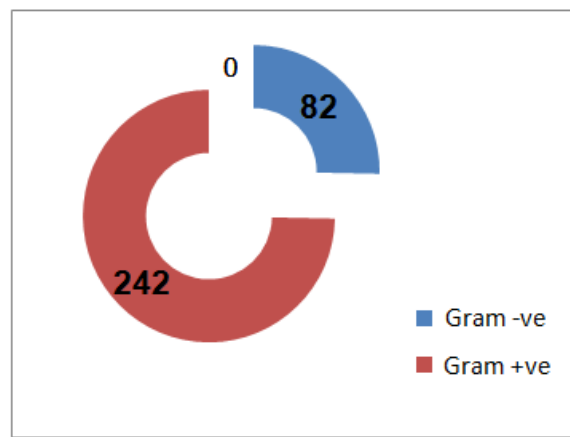
Blood culture

The frequency of positive blood culture that indicates true bacteremia in the studied patients was 324 (32.01%) cases out of 1012 blood specimens. The majority of positive blood cultures were from patients within the age group less than three months, 256 (79.01%) patients vs. 68 (20.99%) (*P*-value < 0.05).

Frequency of bacteria among blood culture

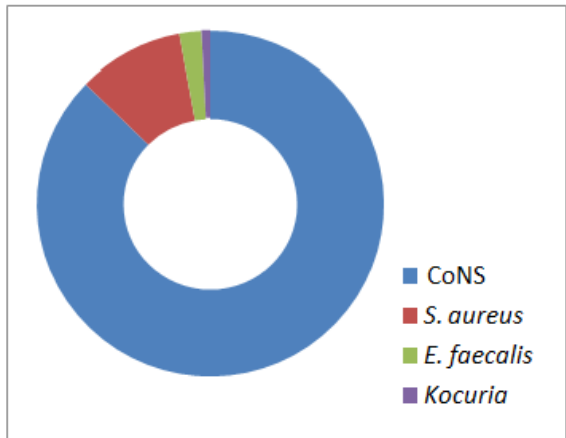
Frequency of isolated bacteria causing BSI in Fattima-AL-Zahra hospital were summarized in table-1. In which out of 324 positive blood cultures, the isolation rate of Gram positive and Gram negative isolates was 242 (74.69%) and 82 (25.31%), respectively (figure-1).

Figure-1: Numbers of Gram -Positive and Gram -Negative bacteria isolated from blood cultures.



As shown in table -1 and figure-2, coagulase negative staphylococci (CoNS) was the most frequently isolated bacteria in blood cultures, 211 (87.19%) isolates (*P*-value < 0.05) followed by *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates (9.91%).

Figure-2: Numbers of Gram positive bacteria isolated from blood cultures.



It also shown in table-1 that *Escherichia coli* 23 (28.05%) was the most frequently isolated Gram negative bacteria in blood culture of children patients followed by *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Acinetobacter baumannii* 16 (19.51%).

Table-1: Frequency and distribution of bacterial isolates from blood cultures.

Gram positive bacteria	No.	%
Coagulase negative staphylococci	211	87.19
Staphylococcus aureus	24	9.91
Enterococcus faecalis	5	2.07
Kocuria spp.	2	0.83
Total	242	100
Gram negative bacteria	No.	%
Escherichia coli	23	28.04
Klebsiella pneumoniae	16	19.51
Acinetobacter baumannii	16	19.51
Enterobacter cloacae	7	8.54
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	6	7.32
Citrobacter spp.	6	7.32
Serratia marcescens	3	3.66
Pantoea spp.	3	3.66
Aeromonas sobria	2	2.44
Total	82	100

The susceptibility rate to all antibiotics for Gram -Positive and Gram-Negative bacteria was summarized in table -2 and table-3, respectively. In Gram-Positive bacteria the most effective antibiotics were Nitrofurantoin, Moxifloxacin, Tigecycline, Levofloxacin and Linezolid which showed 100% sensitivity rate followed by vancomycin. This study also showed a highest resistance to oxacillin and benzylpenicillin. On the other hand, the bacterial isolates were revealed different degrees of resistance towards remaining antibiotics table -2.

Table-2: Susceptibility of Gram-positive isolated bacteria towards various antibiotics.

In Gram-Negative bacteria, the rate of sensitivity to ampicillin and ceftazolin was very low (0%), while the most effective antibiotics against Gram-Negative isolates were imipenem and meropenem which showed sensitivity rate 100% for all Gram-Negative bacteria except *Klebsiella pneumonia* which showed sensitivity rate 93.75% for imipenem and meropenem.

On the other hand, the Gram-Negative bacteria were revealed different degrees of sensitivity towards remaining antibiotics as shown in table -3.

Antibiotics	CoNS N=211	S. aureus N=24	E. Faecalis N=5	Kocuria spp. N=2
	S%	S%	S%	S%
Benzylopenicillin	0	0	60	0
Ciprofloxacin	46.45	87.5	60	50
Clindamycin	56.4	54.17	0	0
Erythromycin	23.22	58.33	0	0
Gentamicin	59.72	91.67	20	50
Levofloxacin	100	100	100	100
Linezolid	100	100	100	100
Moxifloxacin	100	100	100	100
Nitrofurantion	100	100	100	100
Oxacillin	9.95	8.33	20	0
Tetracycline	58.42	62.5	0	0
Tigecycline	100	100	100	100
Trimethoprim-Sulphamethoxazole	46.45	83.22	60	50
Vancomycin	92.89	91.67	80	100

Table-3: Susceptibility of Gram-Negativeisolated bacteria towards various antibiotics.

Antibiotics	Escherichia coli N=23	Klebsiella pneumoniae N=16	Acinetobacterbaumannii. N=16	Enterobactercloacae N=7	Pseudomonas Aeruginosa N=6	Citrobacterspp. N=6	Serratiamarcescens N=3	Pantoeaspp. N=3	Aeromonasobria N=2
	S%	S%	S%	S%	S%	S%	S%	S%	S%
Amoxicillin-Clavulanic acid	52.17	25	6.25	0	0	33.33	0	33.33	50
Ampicillin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aztreonam	13.04	12.5	0	14.29	33.33	33.33	66.66	33.33	50
Cefazolin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cefepime	4.35	6.25	25	57.14	66.66	16.67	100	33.33	50
Ceftazidime	8.7	6.25	6.25	14.29	83.33	16.67	100	33.33	50
Ceftriaxone	4.35	12.5	6.25	14.29	16.67	16.67	100	33.33	50
Ciprofloxacin	60.87	87.5	31.25	85.71	16.67	0	33.33	33.33	100
Gentamicin	56.52	18.75	25	14.29	33.33	16.67	33.33	0	100
Imipenem	100	93.75	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Levofloxacin	65.22	87.5	37.5	85.71	33.33	16.67	33.33	33.33	100
Meropenem	100	93.75	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nitrofurantion	86.96	37.5	12.5	28.57	0	83.33	0	0	100
Piperacillin-Tazobactam	82.61	62.5	73.5	85.71	100	83.33	100	66.66	100
Tetracycline	56.52	31.25	50	42.86	33.33	16.67	66.66	33.33	50
Trimethoprim-Sulphamethoxazole	30.43	12.5	93.75	28.57	0	83.33	33.33	66.66	50

Discussion

Prompt diagnosis and effective treatment are necessary to prevent complications and to reduce mortality from BSI (12). In this study, out of 1012 blood specimens, the frequency of positive blood culture that indicated true bacteremia in the studied patients was 324 (32.01%) cases. In comparison with other studies, In an Indian study the positivity of blood culture was 42% (770/1828) (13).

In the current study, coagulase-negative staphylococci were the most common isolates as in others (8,14).The isolation rate of Gram positive and Gram negative isolates was 242 (74.69%) and 82 (25.31%), respectively. Coagulase negative *Staphylococcus* was the most frequently isolated bacteria in blood cultures, 211 (87.19%) isolates as in other study done byKalantaret al. (8). In 2005, Mamishi et al. (15) reported a predominance of gram-positive isolates 72% from children in a Children’s Medical Center, Tehran: the most common of which was Coagulase-negative staphylococci which accounted for 48.4%.

Amongst the gram-negativebacteria the most common organism was *Escherichia coli* and this is similar to (16), while another study (12) found that *Klebsiella Spp.*were the most common gram-negativeisolates.

In our study, the Gram positive isolated bacteria, showed the greatest susceptibility to Nitrofurantoin,Moxifloxacin,Tigecycline, Levofloxacin andLinezolid. In other handthe Gram negative isolated bacteria, showed the greatest susceptibility toImipenem and Meropenem and Maximum resistance was seen againstAmpicillin and this agreement with the study done by Arora and Devi (17).

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