

## Original Research Article

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## Antibiotic Susceptibility of Uropathogenic *E.coli* Isolates from Hospitalized Patients in Warangal City

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Urinary tract infection (UTI) is increasingly rising due to the development of drug resistance of causative pathogens against commonly prescribed antibiotics. *Escherichia coli* is the leading pathogen causing urinary tract infections. In the present study we attempted to examine the prevalence of uropathogens and antibiogram profiles of *E. coli* isolates. A total of 89 urine samples were processed for culture sensitivity testing. Isolation of the organisms was done by inoculation of sample on Nutrient and MacConkeyagar. Out of 89 samples were processed, 70 organisms were isolated from urine which includes *Escherichia coli* (45), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (13), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (08), and *Enterococcus spp.* (04). Antibiotic sensitivity was carried out using Muller Hinton agar medium by disc diffusion Method. *E.coli* is most common organism (64.3 %). High resistance levels were detected against gentamicin (91.11%) while Nitrofurantoin recorded the least resistance levels (13.33%) among the *E. coli* isolates.

### Introduction

Urinary tract infection (UTI) which is defined as presence and active multiplication of microorganisms within the urinary tract is one of the commonest bacterial infections seeking treatment in clinical practice (Magoha, 1997). *Escherichia coli* is the leading pathogen causing urinary tract infections and is among the most common pathogens causing blood stream infections, wounds and other complications in humans (Kashef *et al.*, 2010; Gebre-Sellassie *et al.*, 2007; Khan *et al.*, 2010).

Microorganisms causing UTI vary in their susceptibility to antimicrobials from place to

place and time to time. The present study was designed to identify the etiological agents of UTI in males and females of different age groups and to investigate the antibiotic susceptibility profile of uropathogenic *E.coli* isolates against locally available antibiotics commonly prescribed by the physicians.

### Materials and Methods

Urine specimens were collected from 89 patients of all ages suffering from UTIs for this study at microbiology laboratory section of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital,

Warangal. For bacteriological analysis, Nutrient Agar and MacConkey agar media plates were used. With a calibrated loop of 3 mm diameter, the appropriately labelled media petriplates were streaked aseptically with 0.01 ml urine sample. The plates were then incubated at 37°C for 18hrs aerobically. Bacterial identification was done by Gram staining and standard biochemical tests. Bacterial susceptibility to eight antibiotics towards pathogenic bacteria using Agar disc diffusion assay as described previously (Bauer, 1966). At the end of incubation period, inhibition zones for individual antimicrobial agents formed around the discs were measured in millimetre were translated into susceptible, intermediate and resistant categories (Ferraro, 2001).

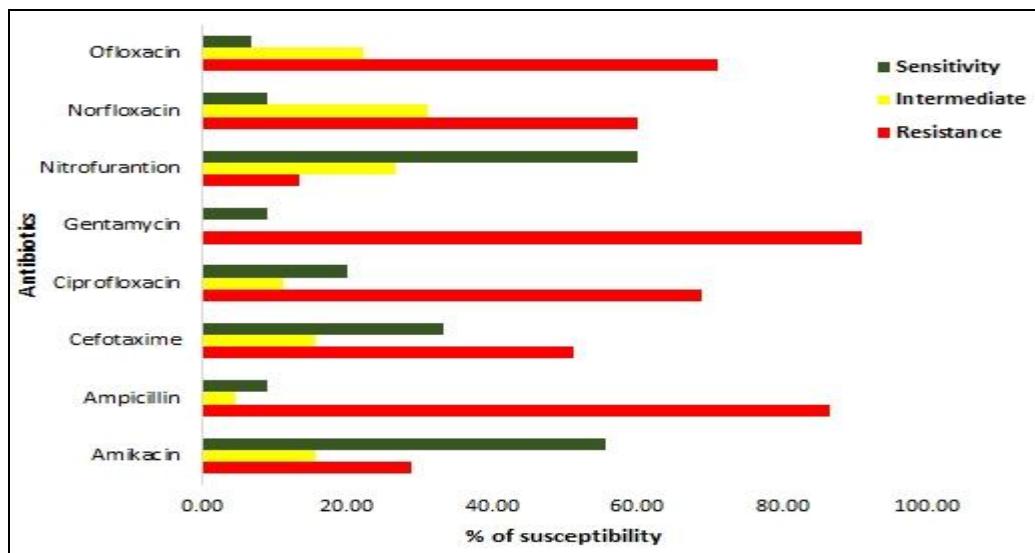
## Results and Discussion

Out of 89 urine specimens from UTI affected, 73% were female and 27% were male. Women in the age group 16 - 45 years are most likely to suffer from UTI. Among the elderly, after 45 years males became

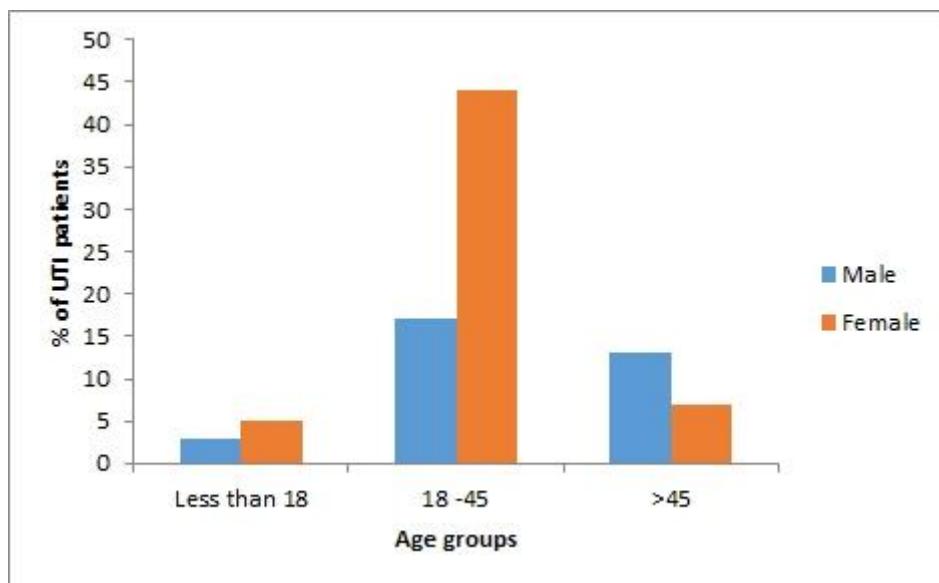
more prone to UTI (Fig. 1). The drug resistance and sensitivity profile of the organism showed that all the bacterial isolates were resistant against commonly used antibiotics, e.g. Gentamycin, Ampicillin, Ofloxacin and Ciprofloxacin (Fig. 2).

Moreover, more than 60% of the organisms showed resistance against Gentamycin, Ampicillin, Ofloxacin, and Ciprofloxacin. All antibiotics used in this study with the exception of Nitrofurantoin and Amikacin showed increasing resistance rates against the *E.coli*. The increased accessibility of antibiotics in shops and open markets is probably an important factor in antibiotic resistance worthy of consideration. Discontinuation of treatment due to negligence of patient or unavailability of drugs also develops antibiotic resistance (Laxminarayan *et al.*, 2006). The results of this study therefore support the use of either Nitrofurantoin or Amikacin as a reasonable choice for empiric therapy in uncomplicated UTI, particularly in the hospitalized setting.

**Table.1** Drug sensitivity profile of *E.coli* isolates against commonly used antibiotics



**Fig.1** Age-wise distribution



The majority of the pathogenic microorganisms isolated in this study belonged to the Enterobacteriaceae family. *E. coli* was identified as the most common causative agent of UTIs in both male and female patients. Since *E. coli* caused the majority of UTI, the emergence of antibiotic resistant *E. coli* thus presents a challenge for urinary tract health management. In this study, *E. coli* also showed high resistance against Gentamycin (91.11%) and Ampicillin (86.67%). Therefore, these drugs should no longer be prescribed as initial empirical therapy in this region.

In conclusion, the results of this study show high rates of antimicrobial resistance to Gentamycin, Ampicillin, Ofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin and Norfloxacin. Nitrofurantoin, Amikacin and Cefotaxime are considered appropriate for empirical treatment of *E. coli* in the study area. Periodic monitoring of antimicrobial susceptibility in the hospital settings is recommended.

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