

Original Research Article

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Bacterial Pathogens from Bile and their Antimicrobial Sensitivity Pattern in a Tertiary Care Hospital

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ABSTRACT

The bile is a lipid-rich sterile solution produced in the liver. Infection of biliary tract may occur in many conditions due to breakdown of human defence mechanisms and it is associated with post-operative complication that may prolong hospital stay hence present study was undertaken to detect the bacterial pathogens from bile and their antimicrobial sensitivity pattern. To study antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of organisms isolated from bile specimen and to know common pathogens isolated from bile during study period. To establish empirical therapy for biliary tract infection in our hospital, all the bile specimen received in Microbiology Department for culture and sensitivity were included in study. These specimens were processed as per standard protocol. Relevant patient data was collected. Prospective observational study six months, in this study period total 57 samples were studied Out of which 7 were sterile, in 34 samples single bacterial pathogen was grown and in 16 samples more than one bacterial pathogen was grown. Most common organisms isolated were *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Keywords

Bile, Antimicrobial sensitivity pattern.

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Introduction

The bile is a lipid rich sterile solution produced in the liver.¹Infections of biliary tract may occur in many conditions due to break down of human defence mechanism during surgery or endoscopy.

The presence of bacteria may be associated with the presence of any foreign body inserted in the biliary system such as a biliary catheter. The bacteria may come through haematogenic path.^{2,3,4} Obstruction to the biliary duct due to any reason leads to increase in the pressure in the biliary duct and which will lead to cholangitis.^{2,3,4,5} The presence of these bacteria in the gallbladder may lead to malignant epithelial transformation.^{6,7,8}

Bactibilia is associated with higher postoperative infectious complications due to which there is prolonged hospital stay, need for antibiotics based therapy and higher cost.^{9,10,11}

Widespread and indiscriminate use of antibiotics over the years has altered the sensitivity pattern of microorganisms which necessitates a change in empiric antibiotic policy.^{12,13,14}

In our area scanty information is available on bactibilia, hence the present study was undertaken to detect the bacterial pathogen from bile and their AST pattern.

The main aim of this study an antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of organisms isolated from bile specimen. And also to know common pathogens isolated from bile during study period. Also to formulate empirical therapy for biliary tract infection in our hospital.

Design

Prospective observational study.

Study period

Six months

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in a tertiary care hospital. After approval from ethical committee the study was started.

Inclusion criteria: All the bile samples received in the department of Microbiology for culture and sensitivity were included in the study.

Exclusion criteria: Repeat isolate from the same patient were excluded.

These samples were from the patients with various biliary diseases. Out of which the most common is choledocholithiasis. These specimens were processed as per standard protocol.¹⁵ Samples were inoculated on blood agar and MacConkey agar plates and incubated at 37°C for 24 hrs. Next day the organisms are seen for the colony morphology on blood agar and MacConkey agar plates. Organisms were identified by gram stained smears and biochemical tests. Suitable Vitek card was selected and the growth was processed in the Vitek 2 compact system for identification and AST pattern.

In this study total 57 samples were processed and data was analysed.

If there is growth of single organism, it is called monomicrobial and if there is growth of two or more than two, it is called as polymicrobial sample.

For gram negative organisms, the bacteria resistant to two or more classes of antibiotics, including the beta-lactam antibiotics during the microbiological examination and antibiogram were considered to be a multidrug resistant bacteria.¹⁶

Results and Discussion

Out of 57, 38 patients were from more than 50 age group (66.66%) (Table 1).

Out of these 57 samples, 50 samples showed growth.

34 samples were monomicrobial and 16 samples were polymicrobial.

Total 67 isolates are identified.

Out of 67 isolates 65 isolates were Gram negative (97.01%) and 2 were gram positive (2.98%) (Table 2).

The most common bacterial pathogen isolated were *Escherichia coli* (n=26, 38.80%) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (n=25, 37.31%), followed by two pathogen each of *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Acinetobacter junii* and *Sphingomonas paucimobilis* (Table 3).

One isolate each of *Proteus mirabilis*, *Klebsilla pneumoniae*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus species*, *Comamonas testestroni*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, *Cupravidus pauculosus*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* was isolated.

Biliary obstruction causes an increase in ductal pressure, resulting in bacterial proliferation and dissemination.

Bacterial infection is the most common type of acute cholangitis, which can range from mild to life threatening with a Gram-negative preponderance.¹⁶ Endoscopic treatment to enable biliary drainage and the use of antibiotics is the main stay of treatment for this condition.^{17,18,19}

Bactibilia is associated with higher postoperative infectious complications due which prolonged hospital stay, need for antibiotics based therapy and higher cost.^{9,10,11} Widespread and indiscriminate use of antibiotics over the years has altered the sensitivity pattern of microorganisms which

necessitates a change in empiric antibiotic policy.^{12,13,14} In our study the most common organism was *E. coli* (38.80%) which is in concordance with that of below mentioned studies by Malik *et al.*, Alves *et al.*, Manan F *et al.*, Sahu *et al.*,^{20,21,22,23} *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was the 2nd most common isolate (37.71%) which is higher than the other studies.^{20,21,22,23}

The sensitivity of *E. coli* to Amikacin, Gentamicin, Trimethoprim/Sulfametoxazole, imipenem and Ertapenem is 84%, 53.84%, 57.69%, 53.84% and 50% respectively. All *E. coli* were susceptible to Tigecycline (Table 4).

Table.1 Total 57 samples are studied. Out of which 29 were from male and 28 were from female patients

Age of patient	Male	Female
0-30yrs	5	3
30-50	6	5
Above 50	18	20
Total	29	28

Table.2 Out of the 65 Gram negative isolates 17 isolates were MDR (multidrug resistant)

Name of MDR isolate	Number
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	10
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	5
<i>Sphingomonas paucimobilis</i>	1
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	1
Total	17

Table.3 Distribution of total number of pathogens isolated

Name of pathogen	Number of isolates
<i>E. coli</i>	26
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	25
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	2
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	1
<i>Sphingomonas paucimobilis</i>	2
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	1
<i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	1
<i>Comamonas testestroni</i>	1
<i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i>	1
<i>Cupravidus pauculosus</i>	1
<i>Acinetobacter junii</i>	2
<i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i>	1
<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	1
<i>Enterococcus species</i>	1
<i>Achromobacter xylosoxidans</i>	1
Total	67

Table.4 Percentage sensitivity pattern of common isolates identified

Sr. No	Name of antibiotic	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
1	Ampicillin	3.84%	-
2	Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid	11.53%	-
3	Piperacillin/Tazobactam	19.23%	4%
4	Cefuroxime	3.84%	-
5	Ceftriaxone	7.69%	-
6	Cefoperazone/sulbactam	30.76%	24%
7	Cefepime	11.53%	68%
8	Ceftazidime	-	36%
9	Ertapenem	50%	-
10	Imipenem	53.84%	44%
11	Meropenem	42.30%	40%
12	Doripenem	-	52%
13	Amikacin	84%	80%
14	Gentamicin	53.84%	40%
15	Ciprofloxacin	7.69%	12%
16	Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	57.69%	-
17	Levofloxacin	-	8%
18	Tigecycline	100%	20%

The sensitivity of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to Amikacin, Doripenem and Cefepime is 80%, 52% and 68% respectively.

In a study by Jose Roberto *et al.*, in 2016, mean age of patients was 57 yrs with female preponderance. Most common isolates were *E. coli* (5/18) and *Klebsilla sp* (3/18). 3 out of 12 bile samples showed multidrug resistant bacteria. They have also stated that bactibilia was related to post-operative complications. Gallstones and bactibilia were more in female due to estrogenic activity.²¹

In a study by Fazal Manan *et al.*, in 2014 mean age of patients was 46.13yrs with female preponderance. Sensitivity to cefuroxime, ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin seen in more than 50%. More than 50% resistance was there to amoxicillin.²²

In a study by Manoj Kumar Sahu *et al.*, in 2011, mean age was 51.3yrs, with 55.1% male patients. 88/95 samples are culture positive *E. coli* (n=57) and *Enterococci* (n=38) were predominant organisms *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* were resistant to 3rd gen cephalosporins and ciprofloxacin. High sensitivity of GNB was there Imipenem.²³

In a study by Zafar Iqbal Malik *et al.*, in 2009, age group 40 to 60 (64%) with female preponderance was there. Most common organism isolated was *E. coli* followed by *Proteus* and *Pseudomonas*. Most of the isolates were highly sensitive to 3rd gen cephalosporins.²⁰

In a study by Malini R. Capoor in 2008 Median age is 41yrs, male female ratio is 0.48. 37/104 samples were culture positive. Most common organism isolated was *E. coli* (29.7%), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (27%), *Salmonella enterica serovar typhi* (8.1%), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (5.4%). The majority of Enterobacteriaceae isolates were

susceptible to piperacillin –tazobactam and meropenem. Multidrug resistant GI organisms such as *P. aeruginosa*, *Acinetobacter spp.*, *S. aureus* were more frequently observed in patients with acute cholecystitis with gastrointestinal ailments.²⁴

In a study by Christian Rupp *et al.*, in 2016, *Enterococcus species* was predominant (494/1150) followed by *E. coli* and *Klebsilla spp* (179/1150). GNB were sensitive to 2nd generation cephalosporins, carbapenems. The combination of carbapenems and vancomycin was effective in seriously ill patients. MDR strains found in 11.3% of all samples.²⁵

In an enteric fever endemic country like India, *Salmonella enterica* serovar *typhi* and *S. paratyphi* A are among the major biliary pathogens. Enteric fever persists for many years after convalescence and increases the risk of hepatobiliary malignancy.²⁴ But in our study there is no such incidence which may be due to lesser sample size.

The high resistance of micro-organisms to susceptible antibiotics of the past may be due to widespread and indiscriminate use of antibiotics. In our institute, empiric therapy for biliary tract infection should be targeted against *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas* species. Tigecycline should be reserved for MDR isolates.

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