

## Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.704.126>

## Microbial Profile and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of Pus Culture Isolates from a Teaching Tertiary Care Hospital, South India

M. Subha<sup>1\*</sup> and Meerah Srinivasagam<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Microbiology, Madras Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology, Chengalpattu Govt. Medical College,  
Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, India

\*Corresponding author

### A B S T R A C T

Pyogenic infections are one of the most common clinical complications following surgery and trauma. Prompt antimicrobial therapy is needed to reduce the morbidity of these infections. Rationale use of antibiotics is the need of the hour to curb the rising antimicrobial resistance. A retrospective study was undertaken to identify the microbial profile with their antibiogram among the pus culture isolates in a teaching tertiary care hospital from January 2017 to June 2017. 504 pus culture samples processed at the microbiology lab were analyzed. The isolates from positive pus culture were identified by standard protocols and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns were identified by CLSI guidelines. Positive pus cultures were obtained in 59.92% (302/504). Gram positive bacteria accounted for 31.9 % (97), Gram negative bacteria 67.12% (204) and *Candida* spp 0.99% (3) with predominance of *S. aureus* 26.32% (80) followed by *E. coli* 13.82% (42) and *K. pneumoniae* 13.49% (41). 17.5% of *S. aureus* was MRSA and 100% sensitive to vancomycin. 23.61% of *E. coli* and 25% of *K. pneumoniae* were ESBL producers. Majority of Gram negative isolates were sensitive to imipenem and meropenem. The present study provides useful information on the microbial profile and their antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of the pus culture isolates that may help in the formulation of antibiotic policy for pyogenic infections.

### Keywords

Pyogenic infections,  
Antimicrobial  
susceptibility  
pattern, Pus samples

### Article Info

Accepted:  
10 March 2018

Available Online:  
10 April 2018

### Introduction

Pyogenic infections are a significant group of infections encountered by clinicians worldwide. These infections are caused by pathogens, exogenously or endogenously, during or after trauma, burns and surgical procedures (Dryden *et al.*, 2010). Since these infections are associated with high morbidity prompt antibiotic therapy is mandatory. An increase incidence of multidrug resistant Gram

negative bacteria and Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is frequently isolated from pyogenic infections under hospital settings (Muluye *et al.*, 2014; Trojan *et al.*, 2016). The emergence of antibiotic resistant pathogens poses a grave threat to the health care system. The evidence based knowledge of the microbial spectrum of pyogenic infections and their antibiogram plays a crucial role in treatment and infection control practices. Henceforth this study was designed

to analyze the pattern of pathogens and their antimicrobial susceptibility from pus culture reports in a tertiary care hospital.

## Materials and Methods

A retrospective study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital in South India for a period of 6 months from January 2017 to June 2017. A total of 504 pus culture samples collected by sterile swabs and sterile syringe aspiration from clinically suspected cases of pyogenic infections were processed by standard microbiological method and antimicrobial susceptibility testing by Kirby-Bauer disc diffusion method as per CLSI guidelines.

A data on sociodemographic variables such gender, wards, pus culture results and their antimicrobial susceptibility pattern were collected manually from laboratory register and analyzed by counts and percentage using MS Excel,2007 version.

## Results and Discussion

Out of 504 pus culture samples, 302 (59.92%) gave positive result. From 302 culture positive samples, 171 (56.62%) were males and 131 (43.38%) were females yielding a male: female ratio of 1.30. Among the department wise distribution of positive pus culture isolates, Surgery showed maximum culture positivity 173 (57.28%) followed by Orthopaedics 31 (10.26%) and Plastic Surgery ward 29 (9.60%) (Table 1). Of the 302 positive pus culture isolates, 297 yielded monomicrobial bacterial isolates, 2 yielded polymicrobial bacterial isolates and 3 yielded fungal isolates. So a total of 304 organisms were isolated. Among 301 bacterial isolates, Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria constituted 97 (31.91%) and 204 (67.12%) respectively.

The predominant bacterial isolate was *S. aureus* 80 (26.32%), followed by *E. coli* 42 (13.82%), *K. pneumonia* 41 (13.49%), *K. oxytoca* 38 (12.5%), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* 31 (10.20%), *Proteus vulgaris* 26 (8.55%), *Citrobacter* spp 14 (4.61%), *Proteus mirabilis* 10 (3.29%), *CONS* 10 (3.29%), *Enterococcus* spp 7 (2.30%) and *Acinetobacter* spp 2 (0.66%). The 3 fungal isolates were *Candida non albicans* spp (0.99%) (Fig. 1).

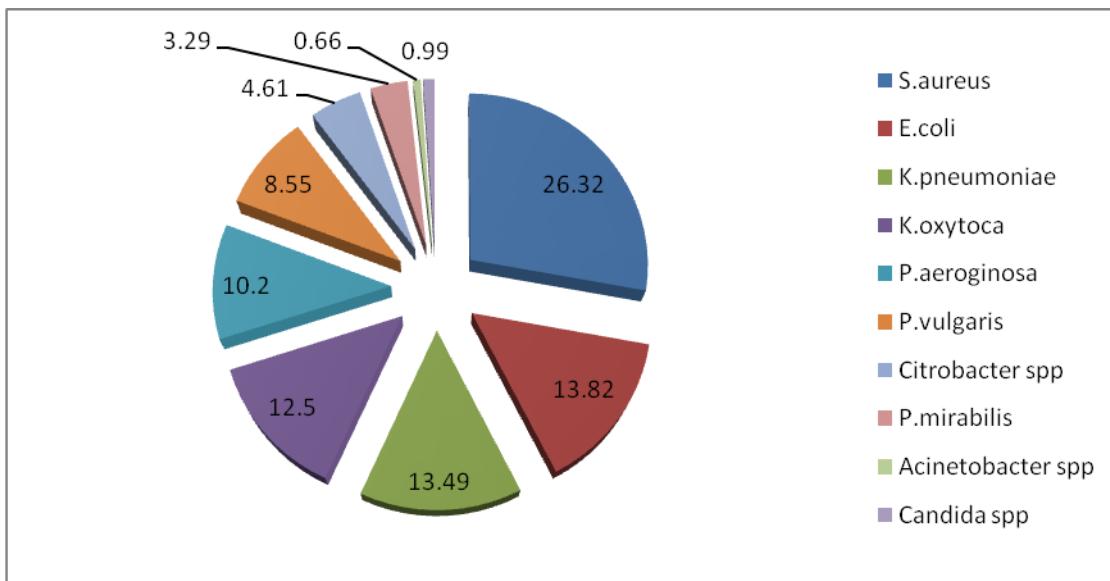
All Gram positive isolates showed 100% sensitivity to vancomycin. MRSA was found in 14 (17.5%) and MR CONS in 2 (20%). *S. aureus* showed a high resistance to penicillin (56.25%), ciprofloxacin (36.25%) and erythromycin (31.25%) (Table 2).

All Gram negative isolates were highly sensitive to imipenem and meropenem. Only 61(35.26%) of Gram negative isolates showed ampicillin sensitivity. Among Enterobacteriaceae (171/301), 88 (51.46%) isolates were resistant to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation cephalosporins. ESBL production in *E. coli* was 17 (23.61%), *K. pneumoniae* 18 (25%) and *K. oxytoca* 17 (23.61%).

Enterobacteriaceae isolates showed a sensitivity pattern of 132 (71.2%) to amikacin, 75 (43.86%) to gentamycin, 68 (39.77%) to ciprofloxacin and 40(23.4%) to doxycycline (Table 3). Among nonfermenters, *P. aeruginosa* showed moderate sensitivity to ceftazidime (67.74%), amikacin (58.06%), ciprofloxacin (51.61%) and gentamycin (48.39%).

In this study, the pus culture positivity rate in clinically suspected cases was 59.92% which is comparable to the previous reports of Rai *et al.*, (2017) (59%) and Trojan *et al.*, (2016) (60.1%). The male: female distribution of pus isolates was found to be 1.30:1 while the study of Rao *et al.*, 2014 showed 1.43:1 ratio.

**Fig.1** Distribution of microbial isolates among the positive pus culture (n=304)



**Table.1** Ward wise distribution of pus culture isolates (n=302)

S. No	Ward	Number
1.	Surgery	173 (57.28%)
2.	Orthopaedics	31 (10.26%)
3.	Plastic Surgery	29 (9.60%)
4.	Medicine	26 (8.61%)
5.	OG	22 (7.28%)
6.	Skin	21 (6.95%)
	Total	302 (100%)

**Table.2** Antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of the Gram positive isolates in pus culture (n=97)

Antibiotic	<i>S.aureus</i> (n=80)	CONS (n=10)	<i>Enterococcus</i> spp (n=7)
Penicillin (10 units)	35 (43.75%)	6 (60%)	1(14.29%)
Erythromycin (15 µg)	55 (68.75%)	9(90%)	1(14.29%)
Cefoxitin (30 µg)	66 (82.5%)	8 (80%)	NT
Ciprofloxacin (5 µg)	51 (63.75%)	8 (80%)	3 (42.86%)
Gentamycin (10 µg)	60 (75%)	9 (90%)	NT
Gentamycin (120 µg)	NT	NT	5 (71.43%)
Vancomycin (30 µg)	80 (100%)	10 (100%)	7 (100%)

NT- not tested

The department wise distribution revealed the dominance of Surgical department (57.28%) which correlates well with the study conducted by Bhaskar Das *et al.*, (2018). Majority of the pus samples yielded monomicrobial growth similar to Basista *et al.*, (2017). Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria constituted 31.91% and 67.12% respectively. It conforms to the findings of Mantravadi *et al.*, (2015).

In the present study *S. aureus* (26.32%) was the most frequently isolated bacteria followed by *E. coli* (13.82%) and *K. pneumoniae* (13.49%) which is in agreement with the study of Mantravadi *et al.*, (2015) that reported *S. aureus* (37.2%), *E. coli* (21.7%) and *Klebsiella* spp (16.8%).

Other studies showed different distribution of bacterial isolates which may be attributed to the differences in study design, geographical location and climate conditions.

In the present study 14 (17.5%) of *S. aureus* was MRSA similar to Chauhan *et al.*, (2015). All the isolates of *S. aureus* were sensitive to vancomycin as comparable with Sujatha *et al.*, (2016). The ESBL producing Enterobacteriaceae in our study was 42.10% of which *E. coli* was 23.61% and *K. pneumoniae* 25% in contrast to the study by Shrestha *et al.*, (2011) where the prevalence of ESBL was 18% of which *E. coli* was 53.7% and *K. pneumoniae* 14.8%.

This increase of ESBL producing Enterobacteriaceae in our study is a matter of concern. The Gram negative isolates also showed an increasing resistance to ampicillin, gentamycin, fluoroquinolones and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation cephalosporins similar to that of the findings of Javeed *et al.*, (2011). Similarly high sensitivity to carbapenems of Gram negative isolates corroborates with the findings of Vijeta *et al.*, (2015).

In the clinical care pyogenic infections are still a leading cause of morbidity following surgery and trauma. Emergence of multidrug resistant pathogens poses a challenge in treating these infections as there is limited availability of newer antimicrobial agents in the pipeline. Since the microbial profile and antimicrobial susceptibility pattern may change from time to time and place to place, this study will guide the clinicians in proper selection of antibiotics for successful treatment and also for formulating hospital antibiotic policy.

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**How to cite this article:**

Subha, M. and Meerah Srinivasagam. 2018. Microbial Profile and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of Pus Culture Isolates from a Teaching Tertiary Care Hospital, South India. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 7(04): 1149-1153. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.704.126>