

Antimicrobial resistance patterns of *Acinetobacter baumannii* colonization patient's skin.

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Abstract:

Background: *Acinetobacter baumannii* is a significant opportunistic pathogen and it is generally associated with benign colonization of hospitalized patients.

Objective: To investigate skin colonization with *Acinetobacter baumannii* in hospitalized patients and healthy volunteers. Antimicrobial resistance patterns of *Acinetobacter baumannii* was assessed by determining the minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of thirteen different antimicrobial agents.

Patients and Methods: The study performed on hospitalized patients at Rizgary and Hawler teaching hospitals and healthy volunteers who attended to supermarkets in Erbil, Iraq. A single sample was obtained once from each of the forehead, one ear pinna, one armpit, finger webs of one hand and toe webs of one foot to isolated *Acinetobacter baumannii*, then identified using phenotypic and genotypic properties. All isolates examined for their antimicrobial susceptibility by the agar dilution method.

Results: Among 600 hospitalized patients, 79 (13.17%) colonized with *Acinetobacter baumannii*, yielding 155 isolates that are resistant to 57.42% ceftriaxone, 56.77% cefotaxime, 45.81% ceftazidime and 40.65% ciprofloxacin. While the most effective antimicrobial agents with MIC_{50/90} values (minimum inhibitory concentrations required to inhibit 50% and 90% of the isolates, respectively) were as follows: imipenem, 80.65%, 0.25/16 mg/L; doxycycline, 80.65%, 1/16 mg/L; amikacin, 79.35%, 2/64 mg/L. However, 53 *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolated from healthy volunteers that showed resistance to 50.94% ceftriaxone (MIC_{50/90}, 64/128 mg/L), 45.28% ceftazidime, 43.40% cefotaxime, and 35.85% ciprofloxacin. Fortunately, all 208 *Acinetobacter baumannii* were sensitive to polymyxin B (MIC₅₀=0.25mg/L).

Conclusion: The rates of *Acinetobacter baumannii* colonized patients higher than healthy volunteers, whereas an antimicrobial minimum inhibitory concentrations value of cefepime, cefotaxime, imipenem, amikacin, ciprofloxacin, and levofloxacin were significantly higher in patients than healthy volunteers. Polymyxin B had activity against all *Acinetobacter baumannii* strains.

Keywords: Antibiotic resistance; Colonization; Multidrug resistance; MIC values.

Introduction:

Acinetobacter baumannii (*A. baumannii*) is a Gram-negative, non-fermenting coccobacilli bacteria and it is an important opportunistic pathogen involved in several types of infection with high mortality and morbidity(1). *A. baumannii* can form part of the endogenous bacterial skin flora and the humidity is a common environmental factor associated with skin colonization (2). *A. baumannii* has a reservoir in the non-hospitalized individuals, from which the bacteria can be introduced into a hospital (3). Indications that the skin colonized is an important source of infections in hospitalized patients, thereby contributing to the involved in the nosocomial infections and hospital outbreaks (4). As well, a high colonization rate of body sites has been documented in outbreaks (5), when the patient admitted to the same hospital ward, these bacteria may be transmitted and new patients colonized and acquiring *A. baumannii* (6). The incidence of *A. baumannii* infections varies widely, from less than 1% to 32% (7, 8).

Besides, it's easily acquired resistance to different and multiple classes of antimicrobial and their ability to become resistant to almost all antimicrobial agents, lead to rapid developing multidrug-resistant *A. baumannii* (9). This can effect on any antimicrobial drugs used in clinical practice. Hence, in *A. baumannii* infections , several drugs and drug classes were definitively eliminated from treatment strategy (10). The ability of *A. baumannii* to colonize patients and its resistance phenotype makes prevention and control of outbreaks caused by this bacteria difficult (11), which reported that the prevalence of *A. baumannii* infections and resistance to antimicrobial agents have been increased steadily (12). Besides that, the emergence of multi-antimicrobial resistant among *A. baumannii* strains have as been described worldwide (13). Unfortunately, *A. baumannii* is one of the most bacterial resistance in the clinical practice, and making the process of therapy is a challenge (14). This prompted several microbiological studies antimicrobial resistance in *A. baumannii*. Antimicrobial resistance greatly limits the treatment options for patients who are infected with this bacteria, especially if isolates are multidrug-resistant

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(15). However, slight is known about the natural reservoirs of *A. baumannii*. To further assess the natural habitats, the current study investigated the frequency and distribution of *A. baumannii* on various body sites among patients and healthy volunteers, then determined their antimicrobial susceptibility by minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

Patients and Methods:

Skin swabs were collected from hospitalized patients and healthy volunteers from July 2015 to January 2019. The patient group consisted of 600 patients who hospitalized for various diseases in a regular ward at Rizgary and Hawler teaching hospitals with 493 and 500 beds, respectively located in Erbil Governorate, Iraq. The healthy volunteer group included 900 non-hospitalized individuals who attended to Erbil supermarkets as a community population.

The exclusion criteria in both patients and healthy volunteer groups were included the following: age <18 years, refusal to participate, pregnancy, antibiotic use in the previous week, or any surgery within the prior 4 weeks. Verbal informed consent was taken from the participant before being enrolled in this study.

Sample Collection: A sterile moistened swab was rubbed vigorously, with rotation, over areas 6-12 cm² of 5 different body sites of forehead, one ear pinna, one armpit, finger webs of one hand and toe webs of one foot (16, 17), yielded 75,000 swabs of 600 hospitalized patients and 900 healthy volunteer's.

Identification of *Acinetobacter baumannii*: All swabs taken were streaked onto the Blood agar supplemented with 4 µg/ml vancomycin (Sigma-Aldrich), MacConkey agar and CHROMagar *Acinetobacter* (CHROMagar, Paris, France) plates then cultured at 35°C for 48 h(18).

The bacteria identified presumptively as *Acinetobacter* species by standard laboratory methods (19). Then the isolates consistently identified *A. baumannii* with the API 20 NE system (bioMérieux, France) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The PCR protocol was used to confirm the *A. baumannii* by amplify the gene encoding *bla*OXA-51-like. Primary PCR was run using forward primer 5'-TAA TGC TTT GAT CGG CCT TG-3' and reverse primer 5'-TGG ATT GCA CTT CAT CTT GG-3' to amplify a 353 bp fragment (20). The isolated bacteria not confirmed by PCR were excluded from the study.

The distinct body sites colonized with *A. baumannii* is shown in Table 2, so that 40.51% patients and

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing: The MIC testing of antimicrobial agents was performed by agar dilution technique according to the Clinical Laboratory Standard Institute (CLSI) guideline (21). *A. baumannii* tested against ceftazidime, cefepime, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, imipenem, meropenem, polymyxin B, gentamicin, tobramycin, amikacin, doxycycline, ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin (Sigma-Aldrich). The MICs interpreted according to CLSI criteria and its susceptibility determined based on CLSI breakpoints(22).

Statistical analysis:

Data were recorded using Microsoft Excel, and all statistical analyses performed using SPSS software 25 for Windows. Percentage, range, and mean ± standard deviation (SD) were used to describe and analyze the data. The differences between categorical variables were analyzed by the Pearson Chi-Square test. T test used to assess the statistical significance between antimicrobial MIC of *A. baumannii* colonized patients and healthy volunteers. All tests were two-sided, with a *P* value of ≤0.05 is significant.

Results:

During three years and six months of the study period, 7,500 skin swabs were collected from 600 patients and 900 healthy volunteers in order that five swabs were obtained from each individual, so that yielded 208 *A. baumannii* isolates. The isolated bacteria were recovered from 79 patients (155 isolates) and 33 healthy volunteers (53 isolates) as a result give colonized rate 13.17% in patients and 3.67% of healthy volunteers, thus the distribution of the isolates was significantly higher in the patient group than the healthy volunteers (*P*=0.022) (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of *A. baumannii* colonized patient and healthy volunteer groups

| Colonization characteristic | Patient | | Healthy volunteers | | Both groups | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | n | % | N | % | n | % |
| Skin colonized | 79 | 13.17 | 33 | 3.67 | 112 | 7.47 |
| Non-colonized | 521 | 86.83 | 867 | 96.33 | 1388 | 92.53 |
| Total no. | 600 | | 900 | | 1500 | |
| No. of <i>A. baumannii</i> | 155 | | 53 | | 208 | |

(*P*=0.022, Pearson Chi-Square).

27.27% healthy volunteers were colonized with *A. baumannii* at two different body sites. In addition, the bacteria were isolated from three different body sites in 17.72% patients and 12.12% healthy volunteers. Instead 35.44% patients and 57.58% healthy volunteers colonized one body site. Furthermore, there was a significant difference

between patients and healthy volunteer group (P=0.024).

Table 2: Numbers of *A. baumannii* isolation from each patient's and healthy volunteers.

| n of colonization in body sites | Patients group | | | Healthy volunteers' group | | | Both groups | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|
| | n of patients | % | n of <i>A.baumannii</i> | n of volunteers | % | n of <i>A. baumannii</i> | n | % | n of <i>A. baumannii</i> |
| One body site | 28 | 35.44 | 28 | 19 | 57.58 | 23 | 47 | 41.96 | 51 |
| Two body sites | 32 | 40.51 | 64 | 9 | 27.27 | 18 | 41 | 36.61 | 82 |
| Three body sites | 14 | 17.72 | 42 | 4 | 12.12 | 8 | 18 | 16.07 | 50 |
| Four body sites | 4 | 5.06 | 16 | 1 | 3.03 | 4 | 5 | 4.46 | 20 |
| Five body sites | 1 | 1.27 | 5 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 1 | 0.89 | 5 |
| Total | 79 | | 155 | 33 | | 53 | 112 | | 208 |

(P=0.024, Pearson Chi-Square).

A total of 208 *A. baumannii* colonized body sites in patients and healthy volunteers, the higher percentage were colonized webs (28.85%), followed by the armpit (24.52%), finger webs (19.71%),

ear pinna (15.38%), and the forehead (11.54%). There was no significant difference between colonization body sites of patients and healthy volunteers (Table 3).

Table 3: Rates of *A. baumannii* colonized on forehead, ear pinna, armpit, finger webs and toe webs.

| Skin colonized | Patients (n =79) | | Healthy volunteers (n.=33) | | Both groups (n =112) | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| | n of <i>A. baumannii</i> | % | n of <i>A. baumannii</i> | % | n of <i>A. baumannii</i> | % |
| Forehead | 18 | 11.61 | 6 | 11.32 | 24 | 11.54 |
| Ear pinna | 24 | 15.48 | 8 | 15.09 | 32 | 15.38 |
| Armpit | 38 | 24.52 | 13 | 24.53 | 51 | 24.52 |
| Finger webs | 31 | 20.00 | 10 | 18.87 | 41 | 19.71 |
| Toe webs | 44 | 28.39 | 16 | 30.19 | 60 | 28.85 |
| Total no. of isolates | 155 | | 53 | | 208 | |

No significant difference association between groups (P=0.998, Pearson Chi-Square).

In patient group, the most antimicrobial effects against *A. baumannii* were polymyxin B (100%), followed by imipenem (80.65%), doxycycline (80.65%), amikacin (79.35%), levofloxacin (78.71%) meropenem (78.06%) and tobramycin (74.19%). Furthermore, The MIC₉₀ value of ceftazidime, cefotaxime and ceftriaxone were 128 mg/L. Otherwise polymyxin B has the lowest MIC_{50/90} values (0.25/0.5 mg/L) with MIC range between ≤0.06 to 2 mg/L. All results of antimicrobial susceptibility test and the MIC values are summarized in the Table 4.

Among healthy volunteer group, all *A. baumannii* was sensitive to polymyxin B. Besides that, the MIC range of polymyxin B was ≤0.06-1 mg/L, and MIC_{50/90} value was 0.25/1 mg/L. Instead, the MIC value of ceftriaxone was highest (128 mg/L). The distributions of MIC values and the antimicrobial susceptibility are listed in Table 5.

The mean of antimicrobial MIC±SD values for the entire set of *A. baumannii* isolates from patients and healthy volunteers are shown in Table 6. Statistically, the MIC values of cefepime, cefotaxime, imipenem, amikacin, ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin higher in the patients than healthy volunteer group

Table 4: Distributions of MIC, MIC₅₀ and MIC₉₀ values of 155A. baumannii colonized patients.

| Antimicrobial agent | Rates of isolates with MIC, mg/L | | | | | | | | | | | | MIC, mg/L | | | Susceptibility rates | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| | ≤0.06 | 0.13 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 32 | 64 | ≥128 | MIC ₅₀ | MIC ₉₀ | Range | S | I | R |
| Ceftazidime | | | | 1.29 | 12.26 | 9.03 | 15.48 | 10.97 | 5.16 | 15.48 | 18.06 | 12.26 | 16 | 128 | 0.5- ≥128 | 49.03 | 5.16 | 45.81 |
| Cefepime | | | | 0.65 | 15.48 | 10.97 | 12.26 | 18.71 | 5.81 | 9.68 | 18.06 | 8.39 | 8 | 64 | 0.5- ≥128 | 58.06 | 5.81 | 36.13 |
| Cefotaxime | | | | 0.65 | 4.52 | 10.32 | 7.10 | 5.81 | 7.10 | 7.74 | 30.32 | 26.45 | 64 | 128 | 0.5- ≥128 | 28.39 | 14.84 | 56.77 |
| Ceftriaxone | | | | 1.29 | 4.52 | 9.68 | 7.74 | 5.16 | 5.81 | 8.39 | 40.65 | 16.77 | 64 | 128 | 0.5- ≥128 | 28.39 | 14.19 | 57.42 |
| Imipenem | 15.48 | 21.29 | 20.00 | 13.55 | 7.10 | 3.23 | 0.65 | 4.52 | 7.10 | 5.81 | 1.29 | | 0.25 | 16 | ≤0.06- 64 | 80.65 | 0.65 | 18.71 |
| Meropenem | | 5.16 | 38.06 | 23.23 | 6.45 | 5.16 | 3.87 | 12.90 | 4.52 | | 0.65 | | 0.5 | 8 | 0.13- 64 | 78.06 | 3.87 | 18.06 |
| Polymyxin B | 14.19 | 20.00 | 45.81 | 17.42 | 1.94 | 0.65 | | | | | | | 0.25 | 0.5 | ≤0.06- 2 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gentamicin | | | 1.94 | 5.16 | 35.48 | 11.61 | 3.87 | 2.58 | 17.42 | 11.61 | 10.32 | | 2 | 64 | 0.25- 64 | 58.06 | 2.58 | 39.35 |
| Tobramycin | | | 23.23 | 29.68 | 17.42 | 3.87 | 1.94 | 12.90 | 7.10 | 3.87 | | | 0.5 | 16 | 0.25- 32 | 74.19 | 1.94 | 23.87 |
| Amikacin | | 1.94 | 14.19 | 13.55 | 10.97 | 15.48 | 12.26 | 7.10 | 3.87 | 3.23 | 12.26 | 5.16 | 2 | 64 | 0.13- ≥128 | 79.35 | 3.23 | 17.42 |
| Doxycycline | 4.52 | 5.81 | 8.39 | 15.48 | 21.29 | 12.90 | 12.26 | 1.94 | 11.61 | 5.16 | 0.65 | | 1 | 16 | ≤0.06- 64 | 80.65 | 1.94 | 17.42 |
| Ciprofloxacin | 6.45 | 10.97 | 12.26 | 23.23 | 5.81 | 0.65 | 3.87 | 7.74 | 9.68 | 10.97 | 8.39 | | 0.5 | 32 | ≤0.06- 64 | 58.71 | 0.65 | 40.65 |
| Levofloxacin | | 8.39 | 7.74 | 36.77 | 14.19 | 11.61 | 1.29 | 4.52 | 5.81 | 9.03 | 0.65 | | 0.5 | 32 | 0.13- 64 | 78.71 | 1.29 | 20.00 |

I = intermediate; MIC = minimum inhibitory concentration; MIC₅₀ = MIC for 50% of the isolates; MIC₉₀ = MIC for 90% of the isolates; R = resistant; S = susceptible.

Table 5: Distributions of MIC, MIC₅₀ and MIC₉₀ values of 53 A. baumannii colonized healthy volunteers

| Antimicrobial agent | Rates of isolates with MIC, mg/L | | | | | | | | | | | | MIC, mg/L | | | Susceptibility rates | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| | ≤0.06 | 0.13 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 32 | 64 | ≥128 | MIC ₅₀ | MIC ₉₀ | Range | S | I | R |
| Ceftazidime | | | | 1.89 | 7.55 | 7.55 | 16.98 | 11.32 | 9.43 | 20.75 | 22.64 | 1.89 | 16 | 64 | 0.5-≥128 | 45.28 | 9.43 | 45.28 |
| Cefepime | | | 5.66 | 22.64 | 20.75 | 13.21 | 3.77 | 1.89 | 3.77 | 13.21 | 15.09 | | 2 | 64 | 0.25-64 | 67.92 | 3.77 | 28.30 |
| Cefotaxime | | | 1.89 | 5.66 | 9.43 | 13.21 | 7.55 | 7.55 | 5.66 | 5.66 | 33.96 | 9.43 | 16 | 64 | 0.25-≥128 | 45.28 | 11.32 | 43.40 |
| Ceftriaxone | | | | 1.89 | 9.43 | 9.43 | 7.55 | 9.43 | 11.32 | 18.87 | 32.08 | 64 | 128 | 1-≥128 | 28.30 | 20.75 | 50.94 | |
| Imipenem | | 5.66 | 35.85 | 39.62 | 5.66 | 1.89 | 1.89 | 9.43 | | | | | 0.5 | 4 | 0.13-8 | 88.68 | 1.89 | 9.43 |
| Meropenem | | 5.66 | 32.08 | 33.96 | 15.09 | 1.89 | | 11.32 | | | | | 0.5 | 8 | 0.13-8 | 88.68 | 0.00 | 11.32 |
| Polymyxin B | 13.21 | 26.42 | 33.96 | 16.98 | 9.43 | | | | | | | | 0.25 | 1 | ≤0.06-0.5 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gentamicin | | 0.13 | 0.25 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.04 | | | 2 | 32 | ≤0.06-64 | 66.04 | 1.89 | 32.08 |
| Tobramycin | | 3.77 | 28.30 | 30.19 | 13.21 | 1.89 | | 13.21 | 7.55 | 1.89 | | | 0.5 | 8 | 0.13-32 | 77.36 | 0.00 | 22.64 |
| Amikacin | | 1.89 | 5.66 | 30.19 | 28.30 | 16.98 | 7.55 | 3.77 | 1.89 | | 3.77 | | 1 | 4 | 0.13-64 | 96.23 | 0.00 | 3.77 |
| Doxycycline | 1.89 | 5.66 | 26.42 | 32.08 | 11.32 | 5.66 | 1.89 | 3.77 | 5.66 | 3.77 | 1.89 | | 0.5 | 16 | ≤0.06-64 | 84.91 | 3.77 | 11.32 |
| Ciprofloxacin | | 1.89 | 28.30 | 24.53 | 7.55 | 1.89 | 13.21 | 15.09 | 3.77 | 1.89 | 1.89 | | 0.5 | 8 | 0.13-64 | 62.26 | 1.89 | 35.85 |
| Levofloxacin | | 1.89 | 26.42 | 39.62 | 13.21 | 5.66 | | 9.43 | 3.77 | | | | 0.5 | 8 | 0.13-16 | 86.79 | 0.00 | 13.21 |

I = intermediate; MIC = minimum inhibitory concentration; MIC₅₀ = MIC for 50% of the isolates; MIC₉₀ = MIC for 90% of the isolates; R = resistant; S = susceptible.

Table 6: Compared antimicrobial MICs values of *A. baumannii* colonized patients with healthy volunteers

| Antimicrobial agent | Mean±SD of MIC, mg/L | | | P value |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| | Patients | Healthy volunteers | Both groups | |
| Ceftazidime | 34.84±41.56 | 26.88±27.85 | 32.81±38.63 | 0.196 |
| Cefepime | 28.69±37.80 | 15.39±23.22 | 25.30±35.10 | 0.017 |
| Cefotaxime | 57.88±48.41 | 37.83±40.19 | 52.77±47.18 | 0.007 |
| Ceftriaxone | 52.06±42.66 | 59.45±51.88 | 53.95±45.17 | 0.305 |
| Imipenem | 4.50±10.69 | 1.22±2.28 | 3.66±9.40 | 0.028 |
| Meropenem | 2.71±6.34 | 1.35±2.42 | 2.36±5.63 | 0.130 |
| Polymyxin B | 0.27±0.22 | 0.31±0.27 | 0.28±0.23 | 0.308 |
| Gentamicin | 14.09±19.84 | 10.23±15.67 | 13.11±18.90 | 0.200 |
| Tobramycin | 3.94±7.18 | 3.26±6.12 | 3.77±6.92 | 0.540 |
| Amikacin | 17.69±33.05 | 4.11±12.25 | 14.23±29.76 | 0.004 |
| Doxycycline | 5.15±9.33 | 4.16±10.89 | 4.90±9.73 | 0.525 |
| Ciprofloxacin | 11.44±18.92 | 4.46±10.01 | 9.66±17.34 | 0.011 |
| Levofloxacin | 5.23±10.53 | 1.87±3.59 | 4.38±9.38 | 0.024 |

Discussion:

The study investigated the distribution and prevalence of *A. baumannii* colonized the hospitalized patient and healthy volunteers. Although it is largely accepted that the *A. baumannii* is colonize the human skin (23). A few studies have specifically addressed the colonization of human skin with *A. baumannii*. The present study focused on antimicrobial resistance, which is one of the most problematic worldwide by determining antimicrobial susceptibilities of *A. baumannii* recovered from patients and healthy volunteers. Interestingly, in the current study, the rate of colonized with *A. baumannii* was 3.59 times greater in patients than healthy volunteer groups. This probably due to the warm, moist atmosphere in the patient beds and most patients may be shower and bathe less frequently than healthy volunteers (24). Suggesting that a hospital environment becomes endemic colonization by *A. baumannii*. Furthermore the most important cause of this intermittent outbreak was an admission of colonized patients to the hospital and consequently spread of *A. baumannii* to other patients (25), which is supported that the skin colonization with *A. baumannii* might serves as a source of the infections. In another study, a high percentage of patients(60%) were colonized with *A. baumannii* (26) in comparison with the present study. In the former study, *A. baumannii*- *A. calcoaceticus* colonized 17% healthy soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq (27). This proportion may be due to the endemic outbreak. Two attributes were involved in the significant of *A. baumannii* as a human pathogen; First, its capability to colonize and survive for a long time with a risk of an endemic spread (28). Patients who are colonize multiple body sites, and its ease of spread between patients have led to an important role the infections (29, 30). In order that the patients

colonized at different body sites is assumed to have the same strain at each site. Second, its resistance to several antimicrobial agents that complicates the treatment of the infections (31). A requirement for the improvement of new drugs against *A. baumannii* because an outbreaks of multidrug resistant *A. baumannii* have been reported in worldwide (32). The SENTRY antimicrobial surveillance program reported that the incidence of polymyxin B resistance ranging from 1.7% in Latin North America to 1.9% in the Asia-Pacific region, 2.7% in Europe (33), and 18.1% in Korea (34). Fortunately, all *A. baumannii* isolates in current study remain sensitive to polymyxin B as for MIC₅₀ and MIC₉₀ are lower than other studies (33, 34). Therefore, polymyxin B used as the last line therapy (35). In a study of New York City hospitals, 69% of *A. baumannii* were resistant to meropenem (36), which is highly resistance than this study, but lower resistance (8.3%) in Korea (34). The resistance rate to imipenem in this study was lower than that conducted in Lebanon, showing that the resistance to imipenem was 78% (37) and 11.7% in Korea (34). The present study reported that doxycycline has activity against *A. baumannii*, its slightly similar to other studies in the USA, up to 90% of the bacteria were reported as susceptible to doxycycline compared with only 32% in Spain (38). The differences in antimicrobial resistance have been observed between countries, between infection and colonization, as well as between hospitalized patients and healthy volunteers as in the current study. These differences may reflect differential epidemiological situations and difference of antibiotic use between countries (30). Colonization individuals have been contributed factor to the increase and spread of the antimicrobial resistant to the environment (39). Moreover, the differences in resistance patterns among isolates underline the significance of

surveillance in determining the most sufficient therapy for *A. baumannii* infections (40).

Conclusions:

The colonization rates of *A. baumannii* strains in patients were nearly four times higher than healthy volunteers, and the antimicrobial MIC values of the most isolates were higher in patients than in healthy volunteers. The resistant strains are quite an alarming public health problem. But, polymyxin B has been the most effective antimicrobial agent against all *A. baumannii* strains.

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أنماط مقاومة *Acinetobacter baumannii* للمضادات الحيوية المستعمرة لبشرة المريض

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الخلاصة

الخلفية: *Acinetobacter baumannii* هو ممرض انتهازى هام يرتبط بشكل عام على استعمار المرضى في المستشفيات.

الهدف: الاستقصاء عن استعمار *Acinetobacter baumannii* للجلد في مرضى المستشفيات والمتطوعين الأصحاء ثم تقييم أنماط مقاومتها للمضادات الحيوية من خلال تحديد قيم التركيز المثبط/الأدنى (MICs) لثلاثة عشر مضاد حيوي.

طريقة البحث: أجريت الدراسة على المرضى في المستشفيات رزكاري و هولير التعليمية وكذلك على المتطوعين الأصحاء الذين حضروا إلى محلات السوبر ماركت في أربيل، العراق. أخذ عينة واحدة من الجبهة، صغار أذن، إبط، أصابع يد و أصابع قدم لعزل *Acinetobacter baumannii*، ثم تم تشخيصها باستخدام الخصائص المظهرية والأنماط الوراثية. تم تقييم جميع العزلات لمدى لحساسيتها للمضادات الحيوية بطريقة تخفيف الأجار.

النتائج: من بين 600 مريض في المستشفى، 79 (13.17%) من مريضى كانت مستعمرة والتي عزلة منها 155 عزلة من *Acinetobacter baumannii* وكانت مقاومة لـ 57.42% ceftriaxone، 56.77% cefotaxime، 45.81% ceftazidime و 40.65% ciprofloxacin. في حين أن أكثر المضادة الحيوية فعالية مع حساب قيم $MIC_{50/90}$ (التركيز المثبط/الأدنى المطلوبة لتثبيط 50% و 90% من العزلات على التوالي) كانت على النحو التالي: imipenem، 80.65%، 16/0.25 ملغم/ لتر؛ doxycycline، 80.65%، 16/1 ملغم/ لتر؛ amikacin، 79.35%، 64/2 ملغم/ لتر. علاوة على ذلك، تم عزل 53 *Acinetobacter baumannii* من المتطوعين الأصحاء الذين أظهروا مقاومتها لـ 50.94% ceftriaxone ($MIC_{50/90}$ ، 128/64 ملغم/ لتر)، 45.28% ceftazidime، 43.40% cefotaxime و 35.85% ciprofloxacin. لحسن الحظ جميع *Acinetobacter baumannii* والتي عددها 208 حساسة لـ polymyxin B (MIC_{50} = 0.25 ملغم/ لتر).

الاستنتاجات: كانت معدلات تواجد *Acinetobacter baumannii* المستعمرة للمرضى أعلى من المتطوعين الأصحاء، في حين أن التركيز المثبط/الأدنى للمضادات الحيوية لـ cefepime، cefotaxime، imipenem، amikacin، ciprofloxacin و levofloxacin أعلى بكثير في المرضى من المتطوعين الأصحاء و كان polymyxin B فعالة ضد جميع سلالات *Acinetobacter baumannii*.

الكلمات الدالة: مقاومة المضادات الحيوية، الاستعمار، مقاومة الأدوية المتعددة، قيم التركيز المثبط/الأدنى.