

# A Systematic Review on Drug Resistant Urinary Tract Infection Among Pregnant Women in Developing Countries in Africa and Asia; 2005–2016

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**Background:** Urinary tract infection is one of the most common health problems during pregnancy. It is most commonly reported among pregnant women and is a known reason of morbidity during pregnancy worldwide, predominantly in developing countries. The etiological agents include *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella species*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *coagulase negative Staphylococci*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Enterococcus species*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Enterobacter species*, *non-hemolytic streptococci*, *Citrobacter species* and others. Different risk factors expose pregnant women to urinary tract infection. Drug resistance by uropathogenic bacteria is a current problem of the world. This study was aimed at reviewing the prevalence of bacterial uropathogens and their antimicrobial resistance patterns among pregnant women in developing countries in Asia and Africa, during the past decade.

**Methods:** A systematic literature search was accomplished to identify published studies between January 2005 and November 2016. The literature search strategy in this paper included searching PubMed, PMC, Science Direct, Springer open, Google scholar and BioMed Central databases.

**Results:** The overall prevalence of UTI among pregnant women was 13.5%. Both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria were isolated from all eligible studies. Gram-negative bacteria (83.7%) accounted for majority of infections while Gram positives accounted for 15.9%. Among the isolated bacteria, *Escherichia coli* was the most predominant uropathogen; it was shown to be present in all 26 eligible studies that were included in this review. Four studies from Africa and four from Asia were reviewed for antimicrobial resistance patterns of uropathogenic bacteria. In most of the regions, almost all the bacterial uropathogens had high resistance to ampicillin (67.2%) whereas all the strains showed relative sensitivity to ciprofloxacin (71.2%), nitrofurantoin (65%) and ceftriaxone (74.1%).

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of UTI in the selected regions of the two continents is different. A significant prevalence of UTI among pregnant women is mainly observed in Africa and Asia. Uropathogenic bacteria showed resistance to antimicrobial drugs that are regularly used in developing countries. This may show the need to incorporate culture and drug susceptibility tests into the routine antenatal care for pregnant women and drug resistance should be monitored.

**Keywords:** urinary tract infection, bacterial profile, pregnant women, antimicrobial resistance, developing countries

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## Background

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) is the invasion and subsequent multiplication of microorganisms anywhere in the urinary tract.<sup>1</sup> The urinary tract consists of the

organs involved in collecting and storing urine and releases it from the body including, urethra, urinary bladder, ureters, kidneys and other auxiliary parts. Anatomically, UTI is categorized into upper UTI involving the kidney, pelvis and ureter and lower UTI comprising the bladder and urethra.<sup>1</sup> Urinary tract infection is ascending in nature, with infecting organisms moving from the perineal region and vagina in females. Females are three times more likely to get UTI than males, due to women's shorter urethra which opens nearer to the anus, nature of sexual activity, pregnancy, easy contamination of the urinary tract with faecal flora and hormonal changes that occur very quickly.<sup>2</sup> The ratio of urinary tract infection between female and males stands at 8:1. Worldwide, about one-third of adult women have experienced symptomatic cystitis disease at least once in their life and one half have experienced recurring UTI as a result of previous UTI infection. It is commonly caused by bacteria from digestive tract which are capable of ascending to the urethral opening and cause infection.<sup>3</sup> *E. coli* is the most common etiologic agent of UTI and it causes 68–77% of recurrent UTI infections.<sup>3</sup>

Urinary tract infection is one of the most common infectious diseases causing over 150 million cases per year worldwide costing the world economy over 6 billion US dollars in treatment and is affecting all age groups.<sup>4</sup> Urinary tract infections are common in pregnant women and pose a great therapeutic challenge, as the risk of serious complications is very high to both the mother and her child. Pregnant women are more susceptible to developing UTI and according to WHO one in five women will encounter the UTI.<sup>5</sup> Also, pregnant women have 4 times higher rate of developing UTI while compared with non-pregnant women.<sup>5</sup>

UTI is among the most commonly studied health problems in pregnancy; it has shown a prevalence ranging from 3 to 35% in different parts of the world in which increased prevalence is predominantly seen in developing countries including Africa and Asia.<sup>6</sup> The risk of developing UTI usually commences at 6<sup>th</sup> week and then will reach its peak during the 22–24<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy as a result of various causes including increased bladder volume, urethral dilatation and decreased urethral tone which results in high urinary stasis and vesicoureteral reflux.<sup>7</sup> In addition, 70% of pregnant women develop glycosuria during pregnancy; these factors collectively facilitate urinary bacterial growth.<sup>7</sup>

Untreated UTI in pregnancy either symptomatic or asymptomatic is associated with a 50% increase in the risk of maternal complications of pregnancy including

pyelonephritis, hypertension, preeclampsia, anaemia, endometritis, renal scarring, renal failure and raise extent of preterm labour and delivery which consequently cause prematurity and low birth weight with high perinatal morbidity and mortality.<sup>8,9</sup> Furthermore, pregnant patients with untreated UTI may suffer from maternal-fetal complications, including septicemia, intra-amniotic infection, premature rupture of membranes, intrauterine growth restriction and perinatal death.<sup>6</sup> Adequate and early treatment reduces the incidence of these complications.<sup>10</sup>

There is growing concern regarding antimicrobial resistance worldwide among causative agents of UTI in pregnant women.<sup>11</sup> A rise in multidrug resistance to UTI is mainly attributed to an extensive unrestrained antibiotics usage habit in developing countries mainly due to the habitual trend of empirical antimicrobial treatment which is commonly started without obtaining the laboratory results of urine culture. Such practice results in the emergence of drug resistance and may lead to the spread of antimicrobial-resistant bacterial strains. As a result, antimicrobial resistance is one of the major causes of treatment failure for UTI.<sup>12</sup>

Different risk factors expose pregnant women to UTI including increasing parity status, increasing age, frequent sexual intercourse, diabetes, sickle cell disease and previous history of UTI. Others include gestational age, level of education, previous history of catheterization, poor personal hygiene, use of contraceptive and previous use of third-generation cephalosporins.<sup>13,14</sup> Most importantly UTI in pregnancy is mainly related to poor hygiene and low socio-economic status of developing countries.<sup>13</sup> There are several studies conducted by numerous researchers regarding the bacterial profile and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of UTI in developing countries; hence, the aim of this study was to look at the global burden of UTI in low-income countries and to understand the antimicrobial resistance patterns and associated predisposing risk factors of bacterial uropathogens in pregnant women during the past decade (2005–2016).

## Methods

### Search Strategy and Selection Criteria

A systematic literature search was implemented to get published studies between January 2005 and November 2016. The literature search strategy in this paper included searching PubMed, PMC, Science Direct, Springer open, Google scholar and BioMed Central databases.

Initial screening of all published studies was performed for eligibility based on the title relevancy. Then screening of full manuscript was done based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Keywords used for the search of publications from the search engines include, prevalence, isolation, profile, epidemiology, burden, magnitude, distribution, risk factors, multidrug resistance, and antimicrobial resistance patterns of urinary tract infection among pregnant women. Each term was searched separately with the text string “Asia” and “Africa” and then with the name of all the specific countries in Asia and Africa regions. The WHO infectious diseases websites were also reviewed for relevant publications. Lastly, the bibliographies of each article were carefully reviewed and relevant articles were also retrieved. Studies conducted before 2005 and studies that only reported the overall prevalence of urinary tract infection without stating information on bacterial profile were excluded.

## Data Extraction

Name of first author, publication year, country, setting, sample size, sample source, prevalence, bacterial profile and multidrug resistant pattern of UTI were extracted from the eligible studies. Amoxicillin, ampicillin, ciprofloxacin, nalidixic acid, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, gentamicin, norfloxacin, nitrofurantoin and ceftriaxone resistance patterns of UTI causing bacteria were extracted from the respective eligible studies.

Studies were included in the review if they fulfilled the following criteria:

- Isolation and identification of UTI-causing bacterial uropathogens from urine specimen need to be based upon standard bacteriological methods and antimicrobial susceptibility testing need to be following Clinical Standards Laboratory Institute (CSLI) guidelines using disc diffusion methods.
- Full-text articles studied in Asia and Africa; and published in English any place in the world were included.

## Results

One hundred sixty-eight articles were retrieved during the search process; out of which, 110 were excluded based on the abstract and relevance to our selected topic. The full text of the 58 remaining articles was further evaluated, but 32 of them were excluded as they did not fulfill the inclusion criteria. Finally, a total of 26 studies, 11 from Asia

and 15 from African countries met the criteria and were included in this review.

Almost all of the reviewed studies were hospital-based studies; only a few studies were conducted in health center and clinics. All of the study participants were pregnant women without any age boundary. From all the eligible studies, mid-stream urine sample was the source of specimen. A total of 24,248 urine specimens' data were collected from all the illegible studies. Among the eligible studies, Six (22%) were published before 2010 while the rest twenty-one (78%) were published from 2010 to 2016 (Table 1).

## Prevalence and Antimicrobial Resistance

Out of 24,248 urine specimens' data, the overall prevalence of UTI among pregnant women was 3271 (13.5%). Both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria were isolated from all eligible studies. Gram-negative bacteria were mentioned majorly in most of the studies and constituted 79.9% (2613) whereas Gram-positive bacteria accounted for 647 (19.8%). Most studies agreed on the fact that more than half of the UTI is caused by *Escherichia coli*.<sup>15–17</sup> Similarly, in this review, among the isolated bacteria, *Escherichia coli* was the most common uropathogen; it was noted as the major pathogen in all 26 eligible studies that are included in this review. *Klebsiella* species were the second most common bacteria isolated from Ethiopia,<sup>14,15,18</sup> India,<sup>3,19,20</sup> Nepal,<sup>21</sup> Nigeria,<sup>22–24</sup> Ghana,<sup>25</sup> Iran,<sup>26</sup> Sudan,<sup>27</sup> Cameroon,<sup>28</sup> Yemen,<sup>29</sup> South Africa,<sup>30</sup> Uganda,<sup>31</sup> Saudi Arabia,<sup>32</sup> Tanzania,<sup>33,34</sup> Bangladesh<sup>35</sup> (Table 1).

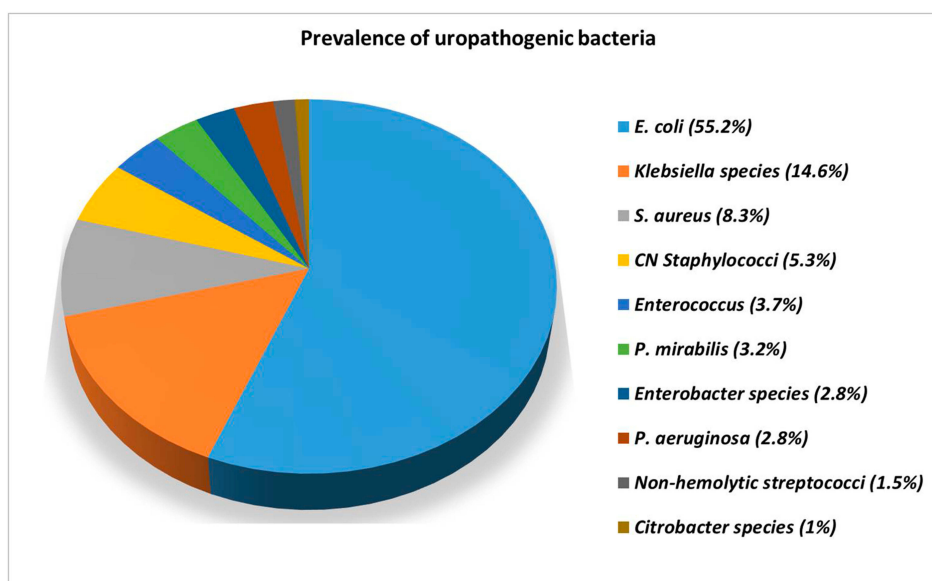
*Escherichia coli* was the number one Gram negative bacterial pathogen and found in all eligible studies from all countries (Figure 1). *Staphylococcus aureus* was the number one Gram positive pathogen predominately isolated from Ethiopia,<sup>14,15,17,18</sup> Sri Lanka,<sup>36</sup> Ghana,<sup>25</sup> India,<sup>3,19</sup> Nepal,<sup>21</sup> Nigeria,<sup>22–24</sup> Sudan,<sup>27</sup> Yemen,<sup>29</sup> Uganda,<sup>31</sup> Saudi Arabia,<sup>32</sup> Tanzania,<sup>33</sup> Bangladesh,<sup>35</sup> Pakistan<sup>37</sup> and Iran.<sup>38</sup> Whereas *Proteus mirabilis* was isolated from Ethiopia,<sup>14,15,18</sup> Ghana,<sup>39</sup> India,<sup>3,19,20</sup> Nepal,<sup>21</sup> Nigeria,<sup>22–24</sup> Yemen,<sup>29</sup> South Africa,<sup>30</sup> Saudi Arabia,<sup>32</sup> Tanzania<sup>33</sup> and Bangladesh.<sup>35</sup> On the other hand, *Enterococci* bacteria were isolated from Ghana,<sup>25,39</sup> India,<sup>3,19,21</sup> Nigeria,<sup>24</sup> South Africa,<sup>30</sup> Uganda,<sup>31</sup> Tanzania<sup>33</sup> and Ethiopia.<sup>18</sup> *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was also reported majorly from India,<sup>3,19,20</sup> Nepal,<sup>21</sup> Ethiopia,<sup>15,18</sup> Nigeria,<sup>23,24</sup> Sudan,<sup>27</sup> Cameroon,<sup>28</sup> Uganda<sup>31</sup> and Tanzania.<sup>34</sup> Similarly, *Enterobacter* uropathogens were

**Table 1** Characteristics of Eligible Studies and Distribution of Uropathogens Causing Urinary Tract Infection in Pregnant Women Reviewed from Africa and Asia from 2005 to 2016

First Author	Country	Pub. Year	Setting	Sample Size	UTI Overall Prev. N (%)	Uropathogens Causing Urinary Tract Infection N (%)											
						<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Klebsiella species</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	CN. <i>Staphylococci</i>	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	<i>Enterococcus</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>Enterobacter</i>	Non-hemolytic streptococci	<i>Citrobacter</i>		
Dereese <sup>5</sup>	Ethiopia	2016	Hospital	180	26 (14.4)	9 (34.6)	3 (11.5)	2 (7.7)	5 (19.2)	2 (7.7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (7.7)
Jenifer <sup>36</sup>	Sri Lanka	2012	Hospital	250	9 (3.6)	6 (66.6)	-	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labi <sup>39</sup>	Ghana	2015	Hospital	274	15 (5.5)	2 (13.3)	-	2 (13.3)	3 (20)	4 (26.7)	1 (6.7)	2 (13.3)	1 (6.7)	2 (13.3)	1 (6.7)	1 (6.7)	
Sibi <sup>19</sup>	India	2014	Hospital	395	180 (46.6)	79 (43.9)	59 (32.7)	7 (2.2)	10 (5.5)	9 (5)	12 (6.7)	4 (1.7)	4 (4)	-	-	-	
Thapa <sup>21</sup>	Nepal	2015	Hospital	300	92 (30.5)	48 (52)	16 (17.3)	7 (7.3)	1 (1.3)	15 (16)	-	1 (0.7)	4 (4)	-	-	1 (1.3)	
Vaijanathrao <sup>3</sup>	India	2015	Hospital	2445	491 (20.1)	233 (47.5)	89 (18.1)	34 (6.9)	31 (6.3)	7 (1.4)	53 (10.8)	23 (4.7)	21 (4.3)	-	-	-	
Oli <sup>22</sup>	Nigeria	2010	Hospital	357	65 (18.21)	21 (25.6)	11 (13.4)	17 (20.73)	13 (15.8)	3 (3.66)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Alemu <sup>14</sup>	Ethiopia	2012	Hospital	385	40 (10.4)	19 (47.5)	4 (10)	4 (10)	9 (22.5)	2 (5)	-	4 (10)	2 (5)	-	-	-	
Turpin <sup>25</sup>	Ghana	2007	Hospital	220	16 (7.3)	6 (37.5)	2 (12.5)	5 (31.2)	1 (6.25)	-	2 (12.5)	-	-	-	-	-	
Moghadas <sup>26</sup>	Iran	2009	HC	297	10 (3.3)	7 (70)	2 (20)	-	-	-	-	-	1 (10)	-	-	-	
Hamdan <sup>27</sup>	Sudan	2011	Hospital	235	33 (14)	14 (42.4)	3 (9)	13 (39.3)	-	-	-	1 (3)	-	-	-	2 (6)	
Mokube <sup>28</sup>	Cameroon	2013	HC, Hospital & clinics	102	24 (23.5)	9 (37.5)	8 (33.3)	-	-	-	-	3 (12.5)	4 (16.6)	-	-	-	
Al-Haddad <sup>29</sup>	Yemen	2005	Hospital	137	41 (30)	17 (41.5)	4 (9.8)	8 (19.5)	-	5 (12.2)	-	-	-	2 (4.9)	-	-	
Lewis <sup>30</sup>	S. Africa	2013	Hospital	425	203 (47.8)	160 (79.6)	5 (2.5)	-	5 (2.5)	10 (5)	3 (1.5)	-	-	7 (3.5)	-	1 (0.5)	
Andabati <sup>31</sup>	Uganda	2010	Hospital	218	29 (13.1)	15 (51.2)	5 (18)	2 (6.2)	6 (20.2)	-	1 (0.8)	2 (6)	-	-	-	-	
Sharifa <sup>32</sup>	Saudi Arabia	2010	Hospital & clinics	9698	166 (1.7)	88 (53)	1 (0.6)	8 (4.8)	-	1 (0.6)	-	-	-	18 (10.8)	-	-	
Okon <sup>23</sup>	Nigeria	2012	Hospital	200	118 (59)	23 (19.5)	47 (39.8)	27 (22.9)	-	11 (9.3)	-	10 (8.5)	-	-	-	-	
Sabrina <sup>33</sup>	Tanzania	2010	Hospital	200	42 (21)	14 (33.3)	9 (21.4)	6 (14.3)	7 (16.7)	3 (7.1)	3 (7.1)	-	-	-	-	-	
Demile <sup>7</sup>	Ethiopia	2012	Hospital	367	35 (9.5)	16 (45.7)	-	4 (11.4)	6 (17.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ullah <sup>35</sup>	Bangladesh	2007	Hospital	1800	430 (23.8)	320 (74.4)	18 (4.2)	84 (19.5)	-	8 (1.8)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Manjula <sup>20</sup>	India	2013	Hospital & clinics	417	206 (49.4)	117 (56.8)	41 (19.9)	-	-	12 (5.8)	2 (0.9)	13 (6.3)	8 (3.8)	10 (4.8)	3 (1.4)	-	
Haider <sup>37</sup>	Pakistan	2010	Hospital	232	10 (4.3)	7 (70)	-	3 (30)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enayat <sup>38</sup>	Iran	2008	Clinics	1505	134 (8.9)	79 (58.9)	-	18 (13.4)	22 (16.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Thairu <sup>24</sup>	Nigeria	2013	Hospital	180	78 (43.3)	18 (23.1)	9 (11.5)	8 (10.2)	12 (15.4)	8 (10.2)	5 (6.4)	4 (5.1)	9 (11.5)	5 (6.4)	-	-	
Masinde <sup>34</sup>	Tanzania	2009	Hospital	247	36 (14.5)	16 (44.4)	2 (5.5)	-	-	-	-	4 (11.1)	3 (8.3)	-	-	-	
Kabew <sup>40</sup>	Ethiopia	2013	Hospital	3182	742 (23.3)	361 (48.6)	136 (18.3)	25 (3.4)	49 (6.6)	9 (1.2)	41 (5.5)	27 (3.6)	29 (3.9)	4 (0.5)	27 (3.6)	-	
<b>Total</b>				<b>24,248</b>	<b>3271 (13.5)</b>	<b>1804 (55.2)</b>	<b>479 (14.6)</b>	<b>284 (8.3)</b>	<b>180 (5.3)</b>	<b>108 (3.2)</b>	<b>126 (3.7)</b>	<b>96 (2.8)</b>	<b>92 (2.8)</b>	<b>57 (1.5)</b>	<b>34 (1)</b>	<b>34 (1)</b>	

**Notes:** Study targets of all reviewed studies were pregnant women. Sample source for all studies were urine of pregnant women. Percentage is calculated from the sample size of individual studies. While the percentage in the total row is calculated from the total sample size.

**Abbreviations:** *E. coli*, *Escherichia coli*; *S. aureus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*; CN, *Staphylococci*; Coagulase negative *Staphylococci*; *P. mirabilis*, *Proteus mirabilis*; *P. aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; HC, health center; UTI, urinary tract infection; Pub. year, publication year; Prev, prevalence.



**Figure 1** Frequency of uropathogenic bacteria among pregnant women in developing countries in Africa and Asia from 2005 to 2016.

isolated from Ghana,<sup>39</sup> Nepal,<sup>21</sup> Ethiopia,<sup>14,18</sup> Iran,<sup>26</sup> Tanzania,<sup>34</sup> Cameroon,<sup>28</sup> India<sup>3,20</sup> and Nigeria<sup>24</sup> (Table 1).

Likewise, *non-hemolytic Streptococci* uropathogens were predominantly reported from Ghana,<sup>39</sup> Sudan,<sup>27</sup> Yemen,<sup>29</sup> South Africa,<sup>30</sup> Saudi Arabia,<sup>32</sup> Ethiopia,<sup>18</sup> Nigeria<sup>24</sup> and India.<sup>20</sup> In addition, *Citrobacter* uropathogens were mainly reported from studies conducted in Ethiopia,<sup>15,18</sup> India,<sup>20</sup> South Africa,<sup>30</sup> Nepal<sup>21</sup> and Ghana<sup>39</sup> (Table 1).

The country wise overall prevalence of UTI among pregnant women showed South Africa (47.8%), Nigeria (35.4%), Nepal (30.5%), Yemen (30.5%), Bangladesh (23.8%), India (23.6%), Cameroon (23.5%), Ethiopia (20.5%), Tanzania (17%), Brazil (15.6%), Sudan (14%), Uganda (13.1%), Iran (8.9%), Ghana (6.2%), Pakistan (4.3%), Sri Lanka (3.6%), Iran (3.3%) and Saudi Arabia (1.7%).

Eight studies were eligible for antimicrobial resistance testing of uropathogenic bacteria. These are four from Africa (Table 3) and four from Asia (Table 2). In most of the regions, almost all the bacterial uropathogens had high resistance to ampicillin (67.2%). Whereas all the strains showed relative sensitivity to ciprofloxacin (71.2%), nitrofurantoin (65%) and ceftriaxone (74.1%). In most of the studies observed in Asia (Table 2) and Africa (Table 3), uropathogenic bacteria had resistance to Ampicillin and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and most were sensitive to ciprofloxacin and nalidixic acid.

## Risk Factors

Even though UTI is mainly considered as a result of bacterial infection, there are also numerous other predisposing factors that signify the infection. Physiological and hormonal changes that occur in the course of pregnancy, routes of infection as a result of reproductive physiology of females and urinary instrumentation are among the major factors predisposing pregnant women to acquire UTI (Figure 2). Pregnancy is a critical period and boosts the occurrence of UTI due to the following risk factors. The reviewed studies have identified different factors that play a vital role in predisposing to UTI during the course of pregnancy (Table 4). The previous history of UTI could be one of the risk factors for acquiring UTI during pregnancy. Most of the reviewed studies have reported that past UTI history has been significantly associated with UTI during the time of pregnancy.<sup>15,14,21,24,37</sup> Moreover, due to the fact that all the reviewed articles were from developing countries, UTI showed a significant association with low socioeconomic status.<sup>15,34,37</sup>

In half of the eligible studies, the educational level of the study subjects has been found to have significant association with the development of UTI during pregnancy<sup>15,21–23,37</sup> implying that study participants having low educational level were prone to UTI during pregnancy mainly due to hygienic factors and inadequate awareness regarding other prominent risk factors of UTI;



**Table 2** Review on Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of Uropathogens Causing UTI Among Pregnant Women in Developing Countries Conducted in Asia from 2005 to 2016

Author	Uropathogens	Resistance Patterns, N (%)								
		AMP	CIP	NA	SXT	GM	NOR	F	AMO	CRO
Sibi <sup>19</sup>	<i>E.coli</i>	N/D	18 (22.8)	41 (51.9)	13 (16.5)	69 (87.4)	34 (43.1)	N/D	75 (94.9)	32 (40.5)
	<i>S. aureus</i>	N/D	3 (48)	2 (25)	2 (25)	3 (50)	5 (75)	N/D	3 (50)	7 (100)
	<i>CN Staphylococci</i>	N/D	4 (40)	2 (20)	1 (10)	5 (50)	6 (60)	N/D	3 (30)	4 (40)
	<i>Klebsiellasp.</i>	N/D	24 (35.5)	9 (33)	17 (25)	29 (42)	16 (57)	N/D	47 (68)	40 (58)
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	N/D	0 (0)	1 (33.3)	0(0)	1 (33.4)	1 (33.3)	N/D	2 (50)	1 (33.3)
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	N/D	1 (10.1)	0 (0)	3 (33.3)	6 (66.7)	3 (33.3)	N/D	2 (22.8)	1 (12)
	<i>Enterococcus</i>	N/D	4 (33.3)	0 (0)	2 (16.7)	8 (66.7)	3 (25)	N/D	3 (25)	5 (42)
Thapa <sup>21</sup>	<i>E. coli</i>	44 (56.4)	32 (41)	N/D	32 (41)	6 (7.7)	46 (58.9)	8 (10.3)	N/D	N/D
	<i>Klebsiellasp.</i>	20 (76.4)	10 (38.5)	N/D	10 (38.5)	3 (11.5)	2 (7.69)	7 (26.9)	N/D	N/D
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	0 (0)	0 (0)	N/D	1 (100)	0 (0)	1 (100)	0 (0)	N/D	N/D
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	13 (54.2)	7 (29.2)	N/D	12 (50)	3 (12.5)	1 (4.2)	4 (16.7)	N/D	N/D
	<i>Enterococcus</i>	4 (66.7)	3 (50)	N/D	4 (66.7)	0 (0)	3 (50)	0 (0)	N/D	N/D
	<i>Citrobacter</i>	1 (50)	1 (50)	N/D	2 (100)	0 (0)	1 (50)	1 (50)	N/D	N/D
Ullah <sup>25</sup>	<i>E. coli</i>	N/D	8 (2.5)	186 (58.1)	222 (69.4)	N/D	N/D	160 (50)	170 (53)	N/D
	<i>CN Staphylococci</i>	N/D	6 (7.1)	40 (47.6)	58 (66.7)	N/D	N/D	36 (42.4)	34 (40.5)	N/D
	<i>Klebsiellasp.</i>	N/D	0 (0)	6 (33.3)	16 (88.9)	N/D	N/D	4 (22.2)	10 (55.6)	N/D
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	N/D	0 (0)	2 (25)	6 (75)	N/D	N/D	2 (25)	4 (50)	N/D
Enayat <sup>38</sup>	<i>E. coli</i>	77 (97.5)	10 (92.7)	64 (81.1)	59 (74.7)	75 (94.9)	21 (26.6)	56 (70.9)	N/D	N/D
	<i>S. aureus</i>	12 (66.7)	12 (66.7)	N/D	14 (77.7)	N/D	3 (16.6)	10 (55.5)	N/D	N/D
	<i>CN Staphylococci</i>	14 (63.6)	8 (38.4)	2 (27.3)	18 (81.8)	N/D	12 (54.6)	12 (54.6)	N/D	N/D
	<i>Klebsiellasp.</i>	2 (40)	1 (20)	4 (80)	4 (80)	2 (40)	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
	<i>Enterobacter</i>	6 (60)	2 (20)	1 (10)	3 (30)	3 (30)	6 (60)	4 (40)	N/D	N/D

**Notes:** Resistance patterns for each studies were calculated as a percentage of individual bacterial isolates. All studies use Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guideline to depict the resistance patterns of each bacterial isolate.

**Abbreviations:** N/D, resistance pattern not determined; AMP, ampicillin; CIP, ciprofloxacin; NA, nalidixic acid; SXT, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole; GM, gentamicin; NOR, norfloxacin; F, nitrofurantoin; AMO, amoxicillin; CRO, ceftriaxone.

however, nearly half of the studies reported insignificant association.<sup>14,31,34,36,39</sup> High sexual activity during pregnancy has also been found to be significantly associated with UTI in few studies conducted in Asia and Africa;<sup>19,37,39</sup> moreover, it was also an established risk factor in the western world and it is significantly associated with UTI during pregnancy.<sup>6</sup>

Despite the fact that majority of the reviewed studies reported that parity did not show significant association with UTI in pregnancy, there were some studies conducted in Nepal, Nigeria, Brazil, India and Pakistan that showed a significant association<sup>20,21,23,37</sup> inferring a boost in the number of childbirth would raise the occurrence of UTI during pregnancy. Unlike few studies,<sup>20,23–25</sup> most of the reviewed studies revealed that gestational age was not significantly associated with bacteriuria.

Gravidity also played a vital role in predisposing to UTI. Data from most of the studies have indicated that gravidity is

not significantly associated with UTI. However, two studies from Saudi Arabia<sup>32</sup> and Nigeria<sup>23</sup> reported significant association between gravidity and UTI during pregnancy. History of catheterization is another risk factor for UTI in pregnancy; one of the studies from Ethiopia<sup>14</sup> has shown a significant association stating that pregnant women who had repeated use of catheter would mediate bacterial inoculation into urogenital tract and might result in UTI during pregnancy.

Maternal age has also been shown as a risk factor for UTI during pregnancy. Nearly half of the reviewed studies have shown that maternal age is significantly associated with the development of UTI<sup>15,19,20,24,34</sup> indicating that pregnant women with increased age group were more exposed to acquire UTI during pregnancy as aging is one of the predominant factors for heightened infections due to lowered immunity and diminished physiological activities.

Most commonly women with diabetes are more exposed to UTI than non-diabetic women.<sup>3,20,36</sup> This is mainly due to the

**Table 3** Review on Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of Uropathogens Causing UTI Among Pregnant Women in Developing Countries Conducted in Africa from 2005 to 2016

Author	Uropathogens	Resistance Patterns, N (%)								
		AMP	CIP	NA	SXT	GM	NOR	F	AMO	CRO
Derese <sup>15</sup>	<i>E. coli</i>	7 (77.7)	1 (11.1)	4 (44.5)	1 (11.1)	0 (0)	N/D	4 (44.4)	7 (77.7)	0 (0)
	<i>S. aureus</i>	2 (100)	1 (50)	N/D	1 (50)	0 (0)	N/D	1 (50)	1 (50)	1 (50)
	<i>Klebsiellaspp.</i>	3 (100)	1 (33.3)	1 (33.5)	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)	N/D	3 (100)	3 (100)	0 (0)
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	4 (100)	1 (25)	3 (75)	4 (100)	2 (50)	N/D	3 (75)	2 (50)	1 (25)
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	2 (100)	0 (0)	1 (50)	1 (50)	0 (0)	N/D	1 (50)	2 (100)	0 (0)
	<i>Citrobacter</i>	1 (100)	0 (0)	1 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	N/D	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	<i>CN staphylococci</i>	4 (80)	2 (40)	N/D	4 (80)	0 (0)	N/D	1 (20)	4 (80)	1 (20)
Labi <sup>39</sup>	<i>E. coli</i>	2 (100)	N/D	2 (100)	2 (100)	2 (100)	N/D	0 (0)	N/D	N/D
	<i>CN Staphylococcus</i>	2 (100)	N/D	1 (50)	2 (100)	2 (100)	N/D	0 (0)	N/D	N/D
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	3 (100)	N/D	3 (100)	3 (100)	2 (66.6)	N/D	0 (0)	N/D	N/D
	<i>Enterococcus</i>	4 (100)	N/D	3 (75)	4 (100)	4 (100)	N/D	0 (0)	N/D	N/D
Oli <sup>22</sup>	<i>E. coli</i>	16 (76.2)	N/D	16 (76.7)	12 (57.2)	7 (33.3)	N/D	10 (47.6)	11 (52.4)	3 (14.3)
	<i>S. aureus</i>	15 (88.3)	N/D	14 (82.4)	12 (70.6)	10 (58.8)	N/D	14 (82.4)	11 (64.7)	6 (35.3)
	<i>CN. staphylococcus</i>	8 (61.5)	N/D	9 (69.3)	10 (76.9)	3 (23.1)	N/D	9 (69.3)	6 (46.2)	0 (0)
	<i>Klebsiella spp.</i>	9 (81.8)	N/D	6 (54.5)	7 (63.6)	5 (45.5)	N/D	8 (72.3)	7 (63.7)	2 (17.3)
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	2 (76.7)	N/D	1 (33.3)	2 (76.7)	1 (33.3)	N/D	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	0 (0)
Thairu <sup>24</sup>	<i>E.coli</i>	11 (60)	N/D	N/D	9 (52.5)	6 (31.2)	N/D	4 (20)	1 (8)	1 (5)
	<i>S. aureus</i>	0(0)	N/D	N/D	5 (59)	4 (44)	N/D	3 (41.5)	0 (0)	1 (3.2)
	<i>CN. staphylococcus</i>	1 (4)	N/D	N/D	8 (67)	7 (60)	N/D	7 (55)	0 (0)	4 (34)
	<i>Klebsiellaspp.</i>	5 (55)	N/D	N/D	2 (22)	4 (49.2)	N/D	0 (0)	1 (10)	3 (33.2)
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	2 (56)	N/D	N/D	4(100)	3 (87.3)	N/D	3 (68)	1 (33.4)	3 (79.5)
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	4 (50)	N/D	N/D	7 (90)	4 (53.7)	N/D	4 (53.5)	1 (13.6)	5 (55.4)
	<i>Streptococcus</i>	4 (81.5)	N/D	N/D	5 (89.2)	3 (67.4)	N/D	3 (53.1)	0 (0)	2 (39.4)
	<i>Enterococcus</i>	1 (22)	N/D	N/D	3 (68)	2 (45)	N/D	2 (42.7)	0 (0)	1 (12)
	<i>Enterobacter</i>	6 (70)	N/D	N/D	4 (41.3)	1 (2.4)	N/D	5 (50)	2 (20)	6 (70)

**Notes:** Resistance patterns for each study were calculated as a percentage of individual bacterial isolates. All studies use Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guideline to depict the resistance patterns of each bacterial isolate.

**Abbreviations:** N/D, resistance pattern not determined; AMP, ampicillin; CIP, ciprofloxacin; NA, nalidixic acid; SXT, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole; GM, gentamicin; NOR, norfloxacin; F, nitrofurantoin; AMO, amoxicillin; CRO, ceftriaxone.

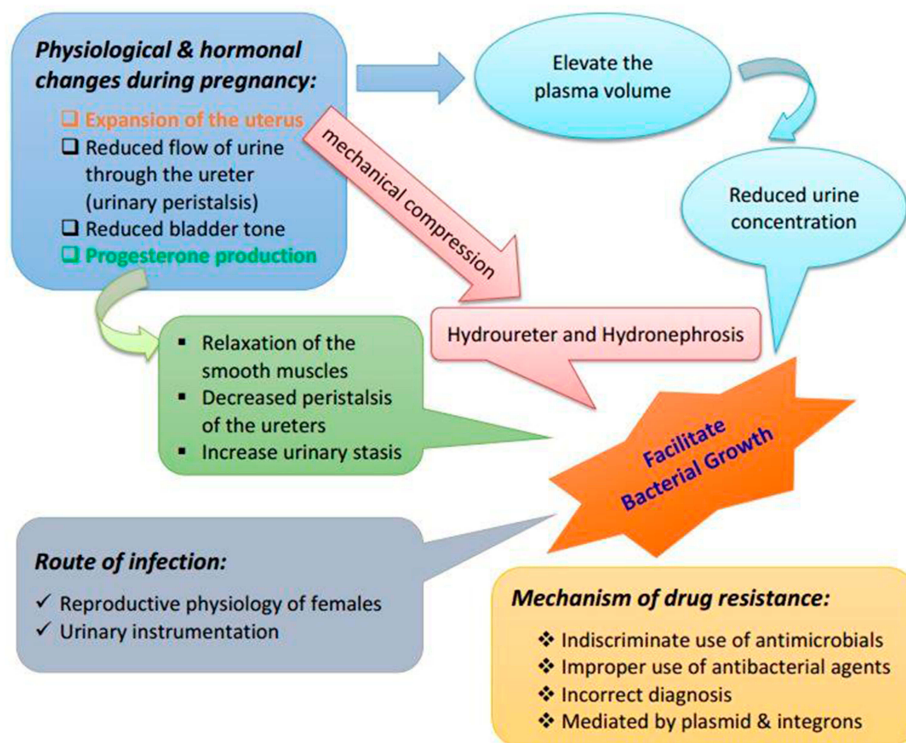
rise in the use of various medical instruments such as a urinary catheter which heightens the probability of getting the infection. Besides, diabetes treatment exposes to the development of UTI. Moreover, higher content of glucose in urine, as well as the compromised immunity predispose to the UTI. However, none of the reviewed studies have shown significant association of UTI with Diabetic Mellitus and recent history of antibiotic treatment (Table 4).

## Discussion

This review has addressed the prevalence of the uropathogenic bacteria, antimicrobial resistance patterns and risk factors of UTI among pregnant women conducted in 26 eligible studies reviewed from Asia and Africa.

*Escherichia coli* was the predominantly identified uropathogen (100%) isolated from all the eligible studies

reviewed from Asian and African countries. *Klebsiella species* was the second dominant uropathogen isolated from 82 and 87% of the eleven Asian and fifteen African countries, respectively. *S. aureus* was reviewed from 82 and 73% of the studies carried out in eleven Asia and fifteen African countries, respectively. Similarly, *CN Staphylococci* was also reported in 45 and 73% of the studies conducted in eleven Asia and fifteen African countries, respectively. On the other hand, *P. mirabilis* was revealed from 64 and 60% of the studies carried out in eleven Asia and fifteen African countries, respectively. *Enterococcus* was reviewed from 27 and 47% of the studies conducted in eleven Asia and fifteen African countries, respectively. Whereas *P. aeruginosa* was reported from 36 and 53% of the studies conducted in eleven Asia and fifteen African countries, respectively. *Enterobacter* uropathogens were revealed from 36 and 40% of the eleven



**Figure 2** A diagrammatic illustration elucidating the possible risk factors of acquiring UTI and mechanism of bacterial drug resistance among pregnant women.

Asian and fifteen African countries, respectively. Likewise, non-hemolytic *Streptococci* have been isolated from 27 and 33% of the studies conducted in eleven Asian and fifteen African countries, respectively. *Citrobacter* was also reviewed in 18 and 27% of the studies carried out in eleven Asia and fifteen African countries, respectively (Table 1).

Of the total 24,248 urine sample data collected from the 26 eligible studies published from 2005 to 2016, 3271 (13.5%) overall prevalence of UTI was reported in developing countries. Among the causative agents 1804 (55.2%) *E. coli* bacteria were isolated followed by *Klebsiella* species (14.6%). *S. aureus* covered 8.3% of the isolates. Coagulase negative *Staphylococci*, *Enterococcus* and *P. mirabilis* contributed 5.3, 3.7 and 3.2% respectively. The review further revealed that less isolated uropathogens including *P. aeruginosa*, *Enterobacter*, Non-hemolytic streptococci and *Citrobacter* were contributed 2.8, 2.8, 1.5 and 1% of the isolated UTI causing bacteria (Table 1).

The pooled mean resistance of *E. coli* to ampicillin, nalidixic acid, amoxicillin, gentamicin, Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, Norfloxacin, Nitrofurantoin, Ciprofloxacin and Ceftriaxone was 77.9, 68.7, 57.2, 50.6, 52.8, 36.9, 34.7, 34 and 14.9% respectively. The pooled mean resistance of *S. aureus* to ampicillin, ciprofloxacin, trimethoprim-

sulfamethoxazole and norfloxacin was 63.7, 54.9, 51.3 and 45.8% respectively. Similarly, the pooled mean resistance of *CN staphylococci* to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, ampicillin, norfloxacin, gentamicin, nalidixic acid, nitrofurantoin, amoxicillin, ciprofloxacin and ceftriaxone was 68.9, 61.8, 57.3, 46.6, 42.8, 40.2, 39.3, 31.4 and 23.5%, respectively. The pooled mean resistance of *Klebsiella spp.* to ampicillin, amoxicillin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, nalidixic acid, nitrofurantoin, gentamicin, norfloxacin, ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin were 70.6, 59.5, 54.9, 46.8, 44.3, 36.9, 32.3, 27.1 and 25.5% respectively. The pooled mean resistance of *P. aeruginosa* to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, norfloxacin, nalidixic acid, ampicillin, nitrofurantoin, ceftriaxone, amoxicillin, gentamicin, and ciprofloxacin was 75, 66.6, 54.2, 52, 47.6, 45.9, 44.5, 42.6 and 8.3% respectively. On the other hand, the pooled mean resistance of *P. mirabilis* to ampicillin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, amoxicillin, nalidixic acid, gentamicin, nitrofurantoin, norfloxacin, ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin was 76.2, 67.8, 43.9, 41.6, 38.8, 29.7, 18.7, 16.8 and 9.8% respectively (Table 5) (Figure 3).

Most of the uropathogenic bacteria developed high resistance to Ampicillin. In addition, more than half of isolates developed resistance to Trimethoprim-



**Table 4** Risk Factors Associated with UTI Among Pregnant Women Reviewed from Asia and Africa from 2005 to 2016

First Author	Continent	Significantly Associated with Bacteriuria	Not Significantly Associated with Bacteriuria
Derese <sup>15</sup>	Africa	Past history of UTI, family monthly income ≤500 birr and 501–1000 birr, age groups of 25–34 years, and educational level	History of catheter, History of antibiotics, Parity, gestational age
Jenifer <sup>36</sup>	Asia	–	Gestational diabetes, past UTI, multiparity, advanced maternal age, lower education level, advanced gestational age and lower socioeconomic status.
Labi <sup>39</sup>	Africa	Being frequently sexually active during pregnancy	Educational status, parity, gestational age, marital status and the number of fetuses carried, sexual frequency
Sibi <sup>19</sup>	Asia	Age group between 25–34 years, High sexual activities, recent use of diaphragm with spermicide	Gestational age of pregnancy
Thapa <sup>21</sup>	Asia	Parity, education status, occupation of pregnant women, times of bathing, history of UTI	Age group, pregnancy Trimester, Smoking habit
Vaijanathrao <sup>3</sup>	Asia	–	Gestational diabetic mellitus, Gestational age
Oli <sup>22</sup>	Africa	Educational level,	Gestational age
Alemu <sup>14</sup>	Africa	History of catheterization and previous history of UTI	Maternal age, address, parity, gravidity, trimester, occupation, marital status, education
Turpin <sup>25</sup>	Africa	Gestational age	Parity
Hamdan <sup>27</sup>	Africa	–	Age, gestational age, parity, and history of UTI
Mokube <sup>28</sup>	Africa	–	Gravidity, parity
Andabati <sup>31</sup>	Africa	–	Education level, Marital status, Smoking, Alcohol, Gravidity, Antibiotic (oral/injectable) used in the previous two weeks, gestational age
Sharifa <sup>32</sup>	Asia	Age, gravidity	History of previous abortions
Okon <sup>23</sup>	Africa	Tertiary education, third trimester, multi-gravidity, multiparity	-
Manjula <sup>20</sup>	Asia	Gestational age, parity, age group	-
Haider <sup>37</sup>	Asia	Illiteracy (Educational status), history of sexual activity, low socioeconomic (monthly income < Rs. 10,000/month) group, past history of UTI and multiparity	Age group, haemoglobin level
Enayat <sup>38</sup>	Asia	Hemoglobin level	Age, gravidity, Parity,
Thairu <sup>24</sup>	Africa	Age group, fever, previous symptoms of UTI, gestational age,	Gravidity
Masinde <sup>34</sup>	Africa	Low socioeconomic status	Maternal age, parity, gestational age, occupation, marital status, educational level

sulfamethoxazole and sensitivity to Ciprofloxacin and Nalidixic acid. The possible reason for such rise in drug resistance might be repeated, inappropriate, and incorrect use of antimicrobial agents in empirical treatment and poor infection control strategies which in

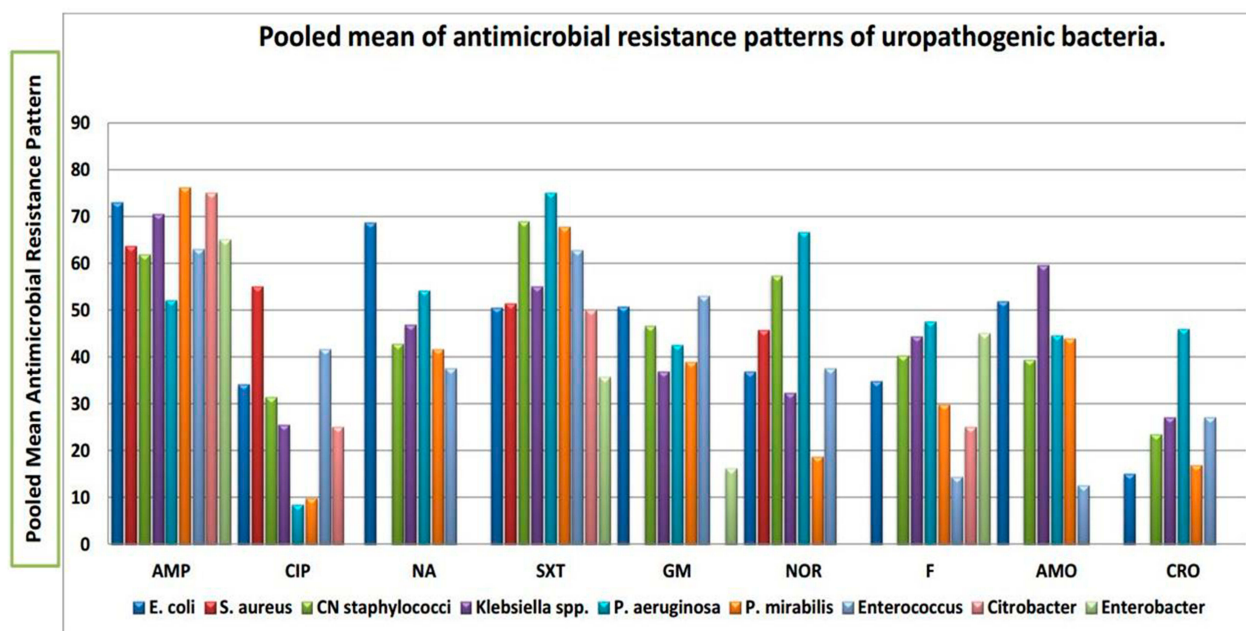
turn raise the prevalence of resistant microorganism in the community.

Most of the reviewed studies indicated that past history of UTI, low income and frequent sexual activity during pregnancy had been significantly associated with UTI

**Table 5** Pooled Range and Mean of Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of Uropathogenic Bacteria Causing Urinary Tract Infection in Pregnant Women Reviewed from Africa and Asia from 2005 to 2016

Uropathogens	Resistance Patterns, N (%)																	
	AMP		CIP		NA		SXT		GM		NOR		F		AMO		CRO	
	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM	PR	PM
<i>E. coli</i>	56.4-100	77.9	11.1-92.7	34.0	44.5-100	68.7	11.1-100	52.8	0-94.9	50.6	19.2-58.9	36.9	0-70.9	34.7	8-94.9	57.2	0-40.5	14.9
No. of studies	6		5		6		8		7		4		7		5		4	
<i>S. aureus</i>	0-100	63.7	48-66.7	54.9			25-77.7	51.3			16.6-75	45.8						
No. of studies	4		3				2				2							
<i>CN staphylococci</i>	4-100	61.8	7.1-40	31.4	20-69.3	42.8	10-100	68.9	0-100	46.6	54.6-60	57.3	0-69.3	40.2	0-80	39.3	0-40	23.5
No. of studies	5		4		5		7		5		2		6		5		4	
<i>Klebsiella spp.</i>	40-100	70.6	0-38.5	25.5	33-80	46.8	22-88.9	54.9	11.5-49.2	36.9	7.69-57	32.3	0-100	44.3	10-100	59.5	0-58	27.1
No. of studies	5		5		5		7		6		2		5		5		4	
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	0-100	52	0-25	8.3	33.3-75	54.2	0-100	75	0-87.3	42.6	33.3-100	66.6	0-75	47.6	33.4-50	44.5	25-79.5	45.9
No. of studies	3		3		2		4		4		2		3		3		3	
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	50-100	76.2	0-29.2	9.8	0-100	41.6	33.3-100	67.8	0-66.7	38.8	4.2-33.3	18.7	0-53.5	29.7	13.6-100	43.9	0-55.4	16.8
No. of studies	5		4		5		7		6		2		6		5		4	
<i>Enterococcus</i>	22-100	62.9	33.3-50	41.6	0-75	37.5	16.7-100	62.8	0-100	52.9	25-50	37.5	0-42.7	14.2	0-25	12.5	12-42	27
No. of studies	3		2		2		4		4		2		3		2		2	
<i>Citrobacter</i>	50-100	75	0-50	25			0-100	50					0-50	25				
No. of studies	2		2				2						2					
<i>Enterobacter</i>	60-70	65					30-41.3	35.6	2.4-30	16.2			40-50	45				
No. of studies	2						2		2				2					

**Abbreviations:** AMP, ampicillin; CIP, ciprofloxacin; NA, nalidixic acid; SXT, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole; GM, gentamicin; NOR, norfloxacin; F, nitrofurantoin; AMO, amoxicillin; CRO, ceftriaxone; PR, pooled range; PM, pooled mean.



**Figure 3** Pooled mean antimicrobial resistance patterns of uropathogenic bacteria among pregnant women in developing countries in Africa and Asia from 2005 to 2016.

among pregnant women. Moreover, nearly half of the reviewed eligible studies have revealed that risk factors including maternal educational level, age, parity, gestational age, gravidity and history of catheterization have been found to be significantly associated with the development of UTI during pregnancy.

## Conclusion

The prevalence of UTI in the selected regions of the two continents is different. A significant prevalence of UTI among pregnant women is mainly observed in Africa and Asia. Uropathogenic bacteria showed resistance to antimicrobial drugs that are regularly used in developing countries. Despite this increased extent, most of the reviewed studies revealed that routine culture and antibiotic susceptibility testing were not being performed as an essential part of antenatal care and the treatment is an empirical basis. This may show the need to incorporate culture and drug susceptibility tests into the routine antenatal care of pregnant women and drug resistance should be monitored. Moreover, as a preventive approach for UTI and emerging antimicrobial drug resistance, instant UTI culture assessment of pregnant women, especially those having possible risk factors such as previous histories of UTI and catheterization etc.; moreover, appropriate prescription and use of antibiotics is necessary.

## Ethics and Consent Statement

As the data were taken from databases of different publishers, ethical approval and consent to participate are not applicable.

## Author Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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## Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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