

Conclusion. In hvKp-rich settings, diabetes mellitus, community-acquisition, and siderophores other than aerobactin were not remarkable predictors of hvKp infection. However, the K1 genotype, *rmpA*, and aerobactin were found to be substantial predictors, warranting clinical assessment of any possible/further pyogenic (metastatic) infection. We believe that these findings shed light on key hvKp virulence factors.

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658. Diagnostic Testing Among Patients with Suspected Recurrent Clostridioides difficile Infection (rCDI) in ECOSPOR III a Phase 3 Clinical Trial: Implications for Clinical Practice vs Clinical Trials

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Session: P-29. Diagnostics: Bacteriology/mycobacteriology

Background. Accurate diagnosis of rCDI is challenging because of limitations in test performance and alternative causes of recurrent diarrhea, such as post-infectious irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). Stool enzyme immunoassay (EIA) toxin testing (TOX) is the best predictor of active disease, but may miss cases of CDI when toxins are below the limit of detection. In contrast, glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH) or PCR have high sensitivity but cannot differentiate colonization from infection, leading to possible overdiagnosis due to low specificity. In ECOSPOR III, SER-109, an investigational purified microbiome therapeutic, was superior to placebo in reducing rCDI (12.4% vs 39.8%, respectively; p-value < 0.001). We examined diagnostic testing patterns among screened subjects.

Methods. Patients with ≥2 prior episodes and ≥3 unformed bowel movements over 48 hours were screened. To ensure enrollment of patients with active CDI, toxin testing was required at entry via a local certified or central lab (Eurofins; Framingham, MA). Subjects with discordant GDH+/TOX- tests at the central lab had reflex confirmatory testing with a cell cytotoxicity neutralization assay (CCNA), considered the "gold standard" for toxin testing.

Results. The leading reason for screen failure among 281 subjects screened was a negative toxin test (50/99; 50.5%). Of 182 patients enrolled, 59 (32.4%) qualified with EIA TOX+ at the local lab (33 TOX+; 25 GDH+/TOX+) and 122 (67.0%) qualified by the central lab (Table 1). Of these 122 subjects, 87 qualified by GDH+/TOX+ but 35 required additional reflex testing by CCNA due to discordant GDH+/TOX-results; all 35 were positive.

Diagnostic Testing for Qualifying C. difficile Episode in ITT Population

Test for qualifying episode	SER-109 N=89 n (%)	Placebo N=93 n (%)
LOCAL LAB	24 (26.9)	35 (37.6) *
TOX+ alone	14	19
TOX+ GDH+	10	15
CENTRAL LAB	64 (71.9)	58 (62.4)
GDH+ TOX+	44 (49.4)	43 (46.2)
GDH+ TOX- CCNA+	20 (22.5)	15 (16.1)
MISSING	1 (1.1)	0

*includes 1 patient enrolled with PCR+ test

Conclusion. These diagnostic testing patterns suggest a subset of patients with suspected rCDI have toxin concentrations below the EIA threshold for detection or may have an alternative cause of diarrhea, such as post-infectious IBS. Thus, the limitations of EIA toxin testing need to be considered in clinical practice when evaluating patients with compatible symptoms of rCDI and a high prior probability of infection. In contrast, in trials of investigational agents, toxin testing assures enrollment of patients with active disease and accurate estimates of efficacy.

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659. Correlate Clinically and More-Use of Interpretative Comments in Clinical Microbiology Reporting

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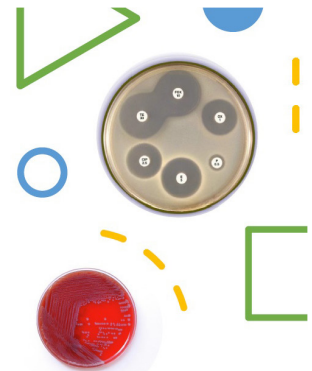
Background. Microbial identification & antibiotic susceptibility testing is an important investigation in clinical microbiology laboratory. In many centres in India the report has only the isolate and antibiotics tested. The additional comments if added give guidance to the clinicians to utilize the results. Pre-analytical issues of adequate & relevant clinical history, appropriate sampling techniques, timely transport & storage, history of antibiotic usage along with post analytical issues of recommended line of antibiotic therapy and infection control practices are better addressed with this practice.

Problems in Microbial Culture-Identification & Antibiotic Susceptibility reports in India

- Only isolate name with list of antibiotics reported-Susceptible(S)/Intermediate(I)/Resistant(R)
- Lack of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration(MIC) or therapeutic efficacy in reports
- Incomplete clinical details on request forms
- Accreditation not mandatory-NABL/NABH/CIC/ACP*
- Lack of automation in ID/AST **across laboratories
- Authorization by non-microbiologists- lab technicians & pathologists who are not trained in clinical microbiology
- Lack of healthcare professionals taking up Clinical Microbiology as a career

*National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH), National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories(NABL), Joint Commission International (JCI), Association of Clinical Pathologists(ACP)

** ID-Identification, AST-Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing



Methods. This was a prospective qualitative study from the period of January 2017-March 2021 where in the standard operating protocol of Clinical Microbiology was reviewed and appropriate comments were included in the Laboratory Information System once the isolate was identified using VITEK 2, automated ID/AST instrument and interfaced. The Clinical Microbiologist would then review the comments upon discussion with the clinicians and then authorize reports. The reports included sample & isolate specific details, recommended antibiotic therapy and infection control related comments. This was based on standard international and national guidelines (CLSI, EUCAST, IDSA, IAP, and National Treatment Guidelines of India).

Initiatives in this study to include interpretative comments in Clinical Microbiology

- Selective reporting of antibiotics-First/Second/Third[high-end] antibiotics based on antibiotic policy
- Site & isolate specific comments- Inherent resistance, pharmacokinetics & pharmacodynamics based
- Sampling adequacy and quality with timing of collection
- Recommended antibiotics
- Delta check of culture reports and correlation with other lab parameters
- Request for repeat sampling when necessary
- Recommended infection prevention & control measures
- Screening of MRSA,MDR & VRE***
- Monthly antibiogram circulated amongst staff
- Training of nurses, technicians, pharmacists and doctors

***MRSA-Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, MDR-Multidrug resistant, VRE-Vancomycin resistant Enterococci



Results. There was a gradual improvement in completion of request forms with clinical history, sample site and antibiotic history being mentioned. This was assessed through periodic audits conducted every quarter from 36% in March 2017 to 95% in March 2021. Clinical communication with the microbiology laboratory also showed improvement with documentation. Feedback from clinicians was also taken on the utility of these comments, (87/120)72.5% of the clinicians found them useful(Grade 5). (32/120) 26 % (Grade 3) of the clinicians had concerns about the turnaround time and requested for provisional reports.

Sample requisition clinical details-adequacy and completion rates

