

information on financial cost (direct and indirect) and turnaround time (TAT) for NGS results.

Results. A total of 33 clinical specimens from 25 patients were sent for NGS. The majority of specimens comprised joint tissue/fluid, organ tissue and CSF.

Concordance occurred between SOC and NGS testing in 75.8% (25/33) of samples; of those, 88% excluded infection. NGS identified a pathogen in 20% (5/25) patients in which concomitant SOC testing was negative. A subsequent change in antimicrobial management occurred in 16% (4/25) of patients. The mean TAT was 14 days and average cost per specimen was \$821.52 (range: \$573-\$1590).

Table 1. Pathogens identified by NGS with negative traditional microbiological test results

Table 1. Organisms identified by NGS with negative SOC
<i>Gordonia sputi</i>
<i>Bartonella species</i>
<i>Corynebacterium species</i>
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>

Figure 1. Distribution of specimen site (in %) sent for NGS

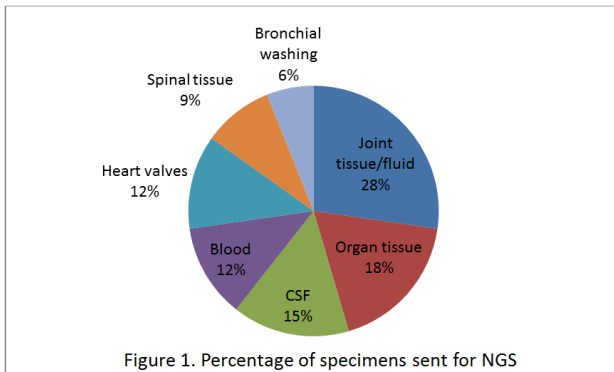


Figure 1. Percentage of specimens sent for NGS

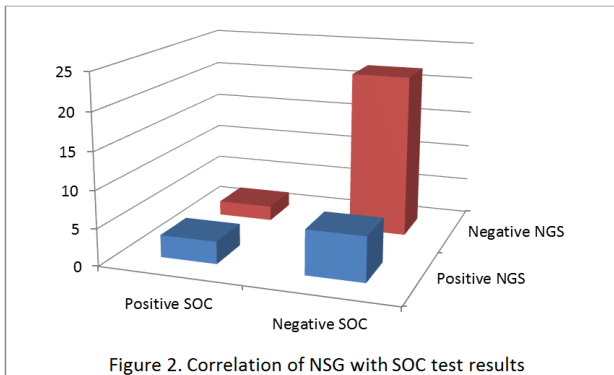


Figure 2. Correlation of NSG with SOC test results

Conclusion. NGS can provide additional diagnostic sensitivity in infectious diseases, which at our institution identified a new pathogen in 20% and a resultant treatment change in 16% of our patients. This testing may also allow physicians to reaffirm the absence of an infection diagnosis. A larger NGS testing population may reveal more significant benefits. While the attributable cost of NGS was substantial, it should be measured against the costs of administration of unnecessary antibiotics, inaccurate diagnosis, and adverse patient outcomes that may result from SOC testing alone. Considering its financial cost and extended TAT, in-house NGS testing may be warranted to facilitate a higher volume of testing.

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666. Molecular Epidemiology of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in Chile between 1999-2018

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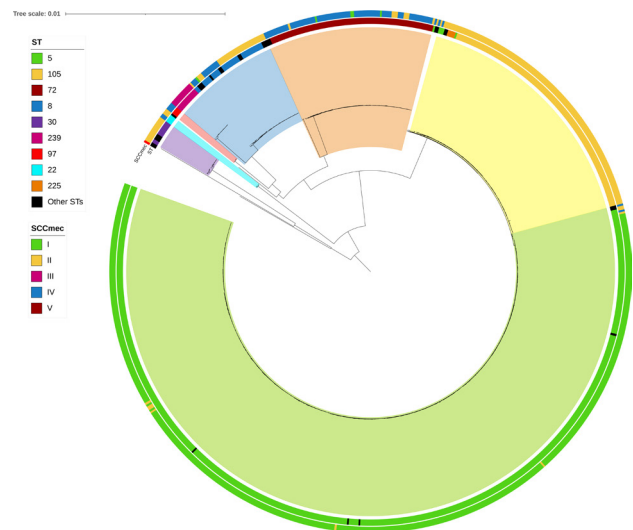
Session: P-30. Diagnostics: Typing/sequencing

Background. The global spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is associated with distinct genetic lineages that predominate in specific geographical regions. Available evidence suggests the Chilean-Cordobes clone (ChC), an ST5-SCCmecI lineage, has largely predominated in Chilean hospitals since its first description in the late 1990's. Although the circulation of other MRSA lineages, including community-associated clones, has been well documented, the dynamics of clonal replacement over time has not been explored. Therefore, we aimed to study the molecular epidemiology and dynamics of clonal replacement using a large collection of clinical MRSA strains recovered from Chile during the last two decades.

Methods. We used whole-genome sequencing (WGS) and core-based phylogenomic analysis to identify genetic lineages and explore their relationship in 798 MRSA isolates obtained between 1999-2018 from two tertiary-care Chilean hospitals.

Results. Overall, the most frequently identified clones were the ST5-SCCmecI ChC (n=476, 60%), followed by ST105-SCCmecII (n=119, 15%), ST72-SCCmecIV (n=74, 9%), and ST8-SCCmecII (n=26, 3%). Phylogenomic reconstruction demonstrated 7 major clades: Clade I (CC30); Clade II (CC22); Clade III (CC97); Clade IV (CC8); Clade V (ST72); Clade VI (CC5/ST225 and ST105) and Clade VII (CC5/ST5-SCCmecI) (Fig. 1). The ChC clone remained the most frequent MRSA lineage throughout the study period (Fig. 2). However, its relative abundance decreased from >90% of isolates in 1999 to ca. 40% in 2018. This decrease began around 2005 and was associated with a progressive expansion of the ST105-SCCmecII and ST72-SCCmecIV lineages (Fig. 2). A Bayesian molecular clock analysis established the most recent common ancestor in 1964 (95% HPD interval=1961.975-1966.218) and corroborated a CC5 expansion event starting in Chile in 1999 (Fig. 3). Interestingly, our analyses revealed two branches within the ST5-SCCmecI lineage: one predominating in 1999-2006, and a more recent branch (related to the ST105-SCCmecII clone) that emerged around 2008.

Figure 1. Core genome phylogenomic reconstruction of the 798 MRSA isolates.



The seven major clades are represented by colored sections. The Clade I (purple section) was composed of isolates belonging to the CC30. Clade II (cyan section) includes four isolates of CC22. Clade III (red section) is composed of isolates of CC97. Clade IV (blue section) grouped isolates of different ST239 and ST8, belonging to the CC8. Clade V (orange section) includes isolates of ST72. Clade VI (yellow section) includes isolates of ST225 and ST105, both belonging to CC5. Clade VII (green section) is mostly composed of isolates of ST5-SCCmecI. The inner ring shows the ST of the isolates; the external ring shows the staphylococcal chromosomal cassette mec (SCCmec) type.