


Bacterial Profile, Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern and Associated Factors Among Patients Attending Adult OPD at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Hawassa, Ethiopia

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Background: Urinary tract infection (UTI) is a common health problem occurring when infectious agents colonize, invade, and propagate the urinary tract including the urethra, bladder, renal pelvis, or renal parenchyma. The study aimed to determine the prevalence of symptomatic UTI, drug resistance pattern, and its associated factors among patients attending adult outpatient department (OPD) at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital (HUCSH).

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted from October 2018 to February 2019 among adults ≥ 18 years old with symptoms of UTI. Processing of specimens for culture and identification was done. Antimicrobial susceptibility was done for positive urine cultures. Data entry and analysis were performed using SPSS version 23.0 software. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis test results were used.

Results: The overall prevalence of symptomatic urinary tract infection was 32.8% (95% CI: 28.3–37.6). The predominant isolated bacteria was *E. coli* 46 (36.2%) followed by *S. aureus* 21 (16.5%). Gram-negative bacteria were a high level of resistance to ampicillin (71.4%), and tetracycline (68.2%). Gram-positive bacteria were highly resistant to norfloxacin (77.7%). The overall prevalence of multi-drug resistant isolates was 102 (80.3%). Being female, no formal education, and self-medication history had more likely cause UTI.

Conclusion: Urinary tract infection (UTI) among adults was prevalent in the study area. Being female, educational status and self-medication history had a significant association with UTI. Resistance to ampicillin, tetracycline, and norfloxacin was high. Therefore, culture and antibiotic susceptibility testing should be routinely used for the proper management of patients with UTI.

Keywords: urinary tract infection, antimicrobial susceptibility, Hawassa, Southern Ethiopia

Background

Urinary tract infection (UTI) is some of the most common infections occurring when infectious agents colonize, invade and propagate the urinary tract including the urethra, the bladder, renal pelvis, or renal parenchyma^{1,2} and it is the most common infectious diseases diagnosed in outpatient as well as in hospitalized patients and can lead to significant morbidity, mortality, and high medical costs.^{3,4} All individuals are susceptible to UTIs with a diverse spectrum of etiological agents; however, the prevalence of infection differs with age, sex, and certain

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predisposing factors.^{5–7} Women are more vulnerable than men due to anatomical and physiological factors.⁸ Around 150 million peoples have been estimated to suffer from asymptomatic and symptomatic UTIs each year worldwide.⁹ Reporting of epidemiological data in urology and urinary tract infections are crucial to influence the development of therapeutic guidelines for UTIs and also the relevant stakeholders and government representatives often base their decisions on published evidence.¹⁰

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UTIs are the most common bacterial infection requiring medical care, resulting in 8.6 million ambulatory care visits in 2007, 23% of which occurred in the emergency department.¹¹ An estimated 50% of women report having had a UTI at some point in their lives and 8.3 million office visits and more than 1 million hospitalizations, for an overall annual cost of more than \$1 billion.¹² Annual deaths from untreatable infections may rise from an estimated 700,000 in 2015 to 10 million by 2050 if antibiotic resistance is not controlled.¹³

Studies in a different part of Ethiopia showed UTI is among the major health problem with a prevalence range of 9.2% to 37.2%^{14–16} and the common pathogens responsible for UTI are Gram-negative bacteria especially *E. coli* which accounts for a large percentage of isolates.^{17,18}

Other bacterial species occurring were *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, coagulase-negative Staphylococci, group B *Streptococcus*, and Enterococci.^{19,20} Gram-positive cocci have emerged as important causative agents of UTIs, particularly among elderly patients with predisposing conditions.²¹ The inappropriate overuse of antimicrobial agents can lead to the development of antibiotic resistance, increased hospital cost, morbidity, and mortality.²²

Risk factors for UTI include female sex, lower educational level, low immunity, employment status, incomplete bladder emptying, bladder dysfunction, and prostate syndrome in men.²³

The common risk factors reported from different studies conducted in Ethiopia among symptomatic UTI patients were sex, level of education, previous history of UTI, previous history of hospitalization.^{18,23,24}

Treatment of UTI cases often started empirically and therapy is based on information determined from the antimicrobial resistance pattern of the urinary pathogens.²⁵ Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (SXT), ciprofloxacin, cephalosporins, nitrofurantoin, and fosfomycin are used

as antibiotic drugs in the treatment of UTIs.²⁶ UTIs are often treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics because of the invariably increased development of a resistant organism. The inappropriate overuse of antimicrobial agents can lead to the development of antibiotic resistance, increased hospital cost, morbidity, and mortality.²⁷ Hence information on UTI and drug susceptibility patterns are very important for the proper selection and use of antibiotic agents. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the bacterial profile, antibiotic susceptibility pattern, and associated factors among patients attending adult outpatient department at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Hawassa, Ethiopia.

Materials and Methods

Study Area and Period

The study was conducted in Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital for five months from October 2018–February 2019. The Hospital is found in Hawassa city which is the capital city of Sidama Regional state of Ethiopia with a total population of 319,023 based on the 2007 national census.²⁸

The city is located 275 km to the South of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital is serving people of the region and patients coming from the nearby Oromia Region by different outpatient, inpatient, and emergency units (surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, internal medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmology, psychiatry, radiology, pathology, Microbiology).

Study Design and Participants

A cross-sectional study was conducted among patients with symptomatic UTI visiting adult OPD at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital. A systematic random sampling technique was used to select study participants until the required sample size was obtained.

The sample size was calculated by using 37.2% estimated prevalence (p) in a study conducted at Arba Minch Hospital,¹⁵ 5% margin of error (0.05) and 95% level confidence ($z=1.96$). Hence the sample size was calculated as;

$$n = 1.96^2 * \frac{0.372(1 - 0.372)}{0.05^2}, n = 359$$

Sample size = n (sample size) + (10% non-respondent).

Sample size (N) = 359 + 35.9 = 395

Total sample size was=395.

Data Collection

Socio-Demographic and Clinical Data Collection

Socio-demographic and clinical data were collected from patients using semi-structured questionnaires by nurses.

Laboratory Data Collection

Ten milliliters of clean-catch midstream urine sample was collected in a wide-mouthed sterile container from study participants.²⁹

The collected urine sample was labeled and delivered to the Hospital microbiology laboratory within 30 minutes.

Urine Culture and Identification

Using a calibrated wire loop (0.001 mL) urine samples were inoculated into blood agar and MacConkey agar plates. Streaked culture plates were incubated at 37°C overnights. After 24 hours of incubation, the bacterial growth on the respective media was seen, and a total colony count was done to check significant growth. Colony counts of bacterial growth of $\geq 10^5$ CFU/mL of urine were significant. Colony morphology and gram-stain were used for the characterization of the pure colony. Positive urine cultures were further identified by their characteristic's appearance on their respective media and confirmed by the pattern of their biochemical reactions.³⁰

Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing

Kirby-Bauer disc diffusion method was used for the antibiotic susceptibility test. Three to five pure colonies were transferred into a tube containing 4–5 mL nutrient broth and mixed gently and then incubated at 35–37°C for 2–6 hrs. The turbidity of the suspension was compared with McFarland 0.5 tubes to standardize the inoculum size.³¹

By using a sterile cotton swab dipping it into the suspension evenly over the entire surface of Mueller-Hinton agar (MHA) (Oxide Ltd, Hampshire, UK). The inoculated plates were left at room temperature to dry for 3–15 minutes. The following commercially available antibiotic discs were used with their respective concentrations: ampicillin (AMP) (10 μ g), ciprofloxacin (CIP) (5 μ g), cotrimoxazole (COT) (25 μ g), gentamycin (GEN) (10 μ g), meropenem (MER) (10 μ g), penicillin (PEN) (30 μ g), amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (AMC) (20/10 μ g), vancomycin (VAN) (30 μ g), ceftriaxone (CEF) (30 μ g), ceftazidime (CZD) (30 μ g), norfloxacin (NOR) (10 μ g), clindamycin (CLD) (2 μ g), erythromycin (ERY) (15 μ g), tetracycline (TET) (30 μ g), and cefoxitin (CXT) (30 μ g). The Zone of growth inhibition was measured by using a caliper after 18–24 hour incubation at 35–37°C. The diameters were

interpreted according to the clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guideline of 2019 as susceptible (S), intermediate (I), or resistant (R)³²

Quality Control

Completeness of the data collected by interview administered questionnaire about the socio-demographic and clinical data were checked daily by the principal investigator. The culture media, Gram staining reagents, and antibiotic discs were checked by looking at the expired date. Standard operating procedures were followed for all the methods described above. The prepared culture media, biochemical test, and antimicrobial susceptibility tests were checked by inoculating the reference strains of *E. coli* (ATCC-25922), *S. aureus* (ATCC-25923), and *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853) which were used as quality control throughout the study. The sterility of prepared culture media was checked by overnight incubating 5% of the batch at 35–37°C and observed for bacterial growth. If there was a growth in any of the prepared culture media, the whole batch of the media was discarded and prepared again by following correct SOPs.

Data Entry and Analysis

The data was analyzed using SPSS version 23.0. Frequency distribution and percentage calculation were done to describe the socio-demographic characteristics and clinical characteristics related variables. Crude odds ratio (COR) and adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with 95% Confidence Interval (CI) was computed using bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis. P-value calculated for assessing the association between dependent and independent variables. The major factor associated with the prevalence of UTI was calculated and interpreted at $p < 0.05$ and using a 95% confidence interval for statistical significance.

Results

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Out of 395, a total of 387 study participants were interviewed with a response rate of 98%. In this study, the mean age of study participants was 25.04 (± 8.20) years within the age range of 18–65. More than half of the study participants, 225 (58.1%) were 18–24 years old, 212 (54.8%) were females and 219 (56.6%) were urban dwellers with their residence. Regarding the occupational status, 139

Table 1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of SUTI Patients Attending Adult OPD at HUCSH, Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=387)

Variables	Category	Frequency No. (%)	
Age in years	18–24	225	(58.1)
	25–34	113	(29.2)
	≥35	49	(12.7)
Sex	Male	175	(45.2)
	Female	212	(54.8)
Residence	Urban	219	(56.6)
	Rural	168	(43.4)
Occupational status	Farmer	139	(35.9)
	Employed	105	(27.1)
	Merchant	143	(37.0)
Educational status	No formal education	59	(15.2)
	Primary education	143	(37.0)
	Secondary education	95	(24.5)
	College and above	90	(23.3)

(35.9%) were Farmer and 105 (27.1%) were employed. And 59 (15.2%) had no formal education (Table 1).

Clinical Characteristics

In this study, 76 (19.6%) of the study participants had smelly and cloudy urine. One hundred (25.8%) of the participants had a burning sensation during urination. One hundred forty - two (36.7%) of the study participants had a frequency of urination (Table 2).

Prevalence of Urinary Tract Infection

The prevalence of urinary tract infection was 32.8% (95% CI: 28.3–37.6). Of these 127 positive cases, seven different types of bacteria were identified that include both Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria. The majority of the isolates belong to the Gram-negative bacteria 91 (71.7%). Among the isolated bacteria *E. coli* was predominant; 46 (36.2%), followed by *S. aureus* 21 (16.5%), *P. aeruginosa* 16 (12.6%), *CoNS15* (11.8%), *Klebsiella pneumonia* 14 (11.0%), *Proteus mirabilis* 11 (8.7%) and *Enterobacter aerogenes* 4 (3.1%).

Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern

Gram-negative bacteria were resistant to ampicillin (71.4%), tetracycline (68.2%), and cotrimoxazole (51.6%). While they were sensitive to cefoxitin (96.7%), AMC (91.3%), erythromycin (88%), ceftriaxone (84.6%), ceftazidime (84.6%), and gentamycin (84.6%). *E. coli*

Table 2 Clinical Characteristics of SUTI Patients Attending Adult OPD at HUCSH, Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=387)

Clinical Characteristics	Yes	No
	No. (%)	No. (%)
Urine is smelly and cloudy	76 (19.6)	311 (80.4)
Burning sensation	100 (25.8)	287 (74.2)
Frequency of urination	142 (36.7)	245 (63.3)
Urgency of urination	139 (35.9)	248 (64.1)
Flank pain	146 (37.7)	241 (62.3)
Lower abdominal pain	154 (39.8)	233 (60.2)
Blood in urine	58 (15.0)	329 (85.0)
Previous history of UTI	89 (23.0)	298 (77.0)
History of Hospital admission	30 (7.8)	357 (92.2)
Interrupt or with-draw the Rx	115 (29.7)	272 (70.3)
Catheterization history	16 (4.1)	371 (95.9)
Diabetic mellitus	6 (1.6)	381 (98.4)
Self-medication history	280 (72.4)	107 (27.6)

Abbreviations: Rx, treatment; UTI, urinary tract infection.

were resistant to ampicillin (73.9%), cotrimoxazole (56.5%), and tetracycline (65.2%), but sensitive to gentamycin (91.3%), and AMC (91.3%), meropenem (82.6%), ceftriaxone (82.6%), and ceftazidime (82.6%). *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was resistant to ampicillin (81.3%), cotrimoxazole (56.3%) and tetracycline (81.3%) but showed sensitivity to cefoxitin (100.0%), ciprofloxacin (62.5%), gentamycin (81.3%), meropenem (75.0%), AMC (87.5%) and ceftriaxone (87.5%). *K. pneumonia* was resistant to ampicillin (78.6%) and tetracycline (71.4%). All *K. pneumonia* isolates showed sensitivity to meropenem, AMC, and erythromycin, and *K.pneumonia* were also sensitive to cefoxitin (92.9%), ceftriaxone (85.7%), ceftazidime (85.7%), ciprofloxacin (78.6%), and norfloxacin (78.6%). *P.mirabilis* were resistant to cotrimoxazole (54.5%) and tetracycline (63.6%). All *P.mirabilis* isolates were sensitive to AMC, cefoxitin, ceftazidime, and ceftriaxone; while 90.9% of *P.mirabilis* were sensitive to gentamycin and meropenem each. Seventy-five percent of *E. aerogenes* were resistant to ampicillin, ciprofloxacin, meropenem each; and 50.0% of *E. aerogenes* were resistant to gentamycin, AMC, ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, norfloxacin, and tetracycline each. All *E.aerogenes* isolates were sensitive to tetracycline and cefoxitin and 75.0% of *E. aerogenes* were sensitive to cotrimoxazole. The Gram-positive bacteria were resistant to norfloxacin (66.7%) and cotrimoxazole (47.2%). *Staphylococcus aureus* were resistant to norfloxacin (85.7%) while sensitive to penicillin (90.5%), vancomycin (90.5%), gentamycin (81.0%),

ciprofloxacin (76.2%), clindamycin (76.2%), erythromycin (76.2%) and tetracycline (76.2%). Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS) were resistant to norfloxacin (66.7%) but 100.0% of CoNS were sensitive to penicillin, clindamycin, and erythromycin and 86.7% of them were sensitive to vancomycin (Tables 3 and 4).

Among the total bacterial isolates (n=127), the overall prevalence of multi-drug resistance pattern was recorded as 102 (80.3%) of which 72/91 (79.1%) of Gram-negative and 30/36 (83.3%) of Gram-positive bacterial isolates were resistant to two or more classes of antimicrobial agents (Table 5).

Factors Associated with Urinary Tract Infection

In bivariate logistic regression analysis variables that had an association with the prevalence of UTI at p-value less than 0.25 and considered a candidate for multivariate analysis were sex, educational status, previous history of UTI, history of hospital admission, self-medication history and interrupt or with-draw of treatment. In multivariate logistic regression analysis, female participants were 3.10 times more likely to develop UTI (AOR= 3.10, 95% CI: 1.80, 5.32 p=<0.0001), than male counterparts. Similarly, no formal education were 3.56 times (AOR= 3.56: 95% CI: 1.55, 8.21 p=0.003) and primary education 2.22 times (AOR= 2.22: 95% CI: 1.10, 4.45 p=0.025) had a statistically significant association with UTI when compared with the study participants who had college and above education. In addition, study participants who had self-medication history were about 6.17 times more likely to develop UTI with (AOR=6.17: 95% CI: 3.54, 10.74 p=0.0001) as compared to their counterparts (Table 6).

Discussion

The overall prevalence of UTI among adult patients in Hawassa City was 32.8%. A comparable result was reported in studies conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (36%) and Arbaminch, Ethiopia (37.2%).^{15,33} This result was higher than the previous studies which were conducted in Jimma, Ethiopia (9.2%)²⁵ Harar, Ethiopia (27.9%)²⁴ and Mekele Ethiopia (21.1%).¹⁸ But it was lower than the studies reported in Nigeria (42.0%, 40.0%, and 39.0%)³⁴⁻³⁶ and with the study conducted in Harar, Ethiopia (39.6%).³⁷ This variation might be due to the difference in sample size, educational status, and other socio-demographic characteristics.

In this study, out of 127 study participants with positive urine culture, the prevalence of UTI was higher (70.9%) in females than male participants. This result was in agreement with other studies conducted on UTI from Mekele (88.9%), Addis Ababa, (84.6%), and another study in Addis Ababa, (80.3%).^{18,38,39} The high prevalence among females might be due to their shorter and wider urethra, as well as proximity to the anus of female, make them highly susceptible to UTI.⁴⁰

The majority of the causative agents of urinary tract infection in this study were Gram-negative bacteria 91 (71.7%) which was comparable with previous studies conducted in Shashemene, Ethiopia (59.2%).⁴¹ Arba Minch, Ethiopia (66.7%),¹⁵ Addis Ababa (60.8%),³⁹ Harar Ethiopia (77.8%)⁴² and Nigeria (86.1%).³⁵

This study opposes another study which was conducted in Nigeria which says the predominant bacterial isolates were Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*) (47.19%).³⁶

The difference may be due to the sample collection method used, socio-demographic characteristics, and different study times. *Escherichia coli* was the predominant bacterial isolate (36.2%) it was also similar to studies conducted in Mekele, Ethiopia (63.5%),¹⁸ Harar, Ethiopia (38.1%),⁴² Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (49%),³⁹ Arba Minch, Ethiopia (41.6%)¹⁵ and Shashemene, Ethiopia (39.3%).⁴¹

The second most common bacterial isolate was *S. aureus* (16.5%). This finding was agreed with a study conducted in Nigeria (14.9%),⁴³ Nigeria (18.4%),³⁴ and another study which was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (19.6%).³⁹ This result is higher than a study conducted in Bangladesh (13.2%),⁴⁴ Nigeria (13.9%),³⁵ three studies from Harar, Ethiopia (12.4%), (11.1%) and (7.5%).^{24,37,42} But the prevalence of *S. aureus* in this study was lower than studies conducted in Nigeria (47.19%),³⁶ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (30.8%)³⁸ and Arba Minch, Ethiopia (20.8%).¹⁵ The difference in prevalence may be due to the method used and sample size.

The other isolate which was identified in this study was *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* with a proportion of (12.6%), this result was close to studies conducted in Metu, Ethiopia (10.35%)⁴⁵ and Harar, Ethiopia (10%).³⁷ But it was higher than different studies in India (4.53%),⁴⁶ Nigeria (4.4%),⁴³ Harar Ethiopia (6.4%),⁴² Harar, Ethiopia (3.1%),²⁴ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1.2%)³³ and Hawassa, Ethiopia (3.0%).⁴⁷

In this study the proportion of CoNS was (11.8%) this result is closer to two studies previously conducted in

Table 3 The Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Gram-Negative Bacteria Isolated from Symptomatic UTI Patients Attending Adult OPD at HUCSH, Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=91)

Isolates Bacteria n (%)	Antibiotics, Frequency (%)												
	AMP	CIP	COT	GEN	MER	AMC	CEF	CZD	NOR	ERY	TET	CXT	
<i>E. coli</i> 46 (50.6)	S	13 (28.3)	34 (73.9)	20 (43.5)	42 (91.3)	38 (82.6)	42 (91.3)	38 (82.6)	38 (82.2)	36 (78.3)	16 (34.3)	44 (95.7)	
	R	33 (71.7)	12 (26.1)	26 (56.5)	4 (8.7)	8 (17.4)	8 (17.4)	4 (8.7)	8 (17.4)	10 (21.7)	30 (65.2)	2 (4.3)	
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> 16 (17.6)	S	3 (18.8)	10 (62.5)	7 (43.8)	13 (81.3)	12 (75.0)	14 (87.5)	14 (87.5)	14 (87.5)	11 (68.8)	3 (18.8)	16 (100)	
	R	13 (81.3)	6 (37.5)	9 (56.3)	3 (18.8)	4 (25.0)	2 (12.5)	2 (12.5)	2 (12.5)	5 (31.3)	13 (81.3)	-	
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 14 (15.4)	S	3 (21.4)	11 (78.6)	9 (64.3)	10 (71.4)	14 (100)	14 (100)	12 (85.7)	12 (85.7)	14 (100)	4 (28.6)	13 (92.9)	
	R	11 (78.6)	3 (21.4)	5 (35.7)	4 (28.6)	-	-	2 (14.3)	2 (14.3)	-	10 (71.4)	1 (7.1)	
<i>P. mirabilis</i> 11 (12.1)	S	6 (54.5)	8 (72.7)	5 (45.5)	10 (90.9)	10 (90.9)	11 (100)	11 (100)	11 (100)	6 (54.5)	4 (36.4)	11 (100)	
	R	5 (45.5)	3 (27.3)	6 (54.5)	1 (9.1)	1 (9.1)	-	-	5 (45.5)	5 (45.5)	7 (63.6)	-	
<i>E. aerogenes</i> 4 (4.4)	S	1 (25.0)	1 (25.0)	3 (75.0)	2 (50.0)	1 (25.0)	2 (50.0)	2 (50.0)	2 (50)	4 (100)	2 (50)	4 (100)	
	R	3 (75.0)	3 (75.0)	1 (25.0)	2 (50.0)	3 (75.0)	2 (50.0)	2 (50.0)	2 (50)	-	2 (50)	-	
Total 91 (100)	S	26 (28.6)	64 (70.3)	44 (48.4)	77 (84.6)	75 (82.4)	83 (91.3)	77 (84.6)	77 (84.6)	71 (88)	29 (31.8)	88 (96.7)	
	R	65 (71.4)	27 (29.7)	47 (51.6)	14 (15.4)	16 (27.6)	8 (8.7)	14 (15.4)	14 (15.4)	20 (22)	62 (68.2)	3 (3.3)	

Abbreviations: AMP, ampicillin; CIP, ciprofloxacin; COT, cotrimoxazole; GEN, gentamycin; MER, meropenem; AMC, amoxicillin/clavulanic acid; CEF, ceftriaxone; CZD, ceftazidime; NOR, norfloxacin; ERY, erythromycin; TET, tetracycline; CXT, ceftiofur; S, susceptible; R, resistance.

Table 4 The Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Gram-Positive Bacterial Isolates from Symptomatic UTI Patients Attending Adult OPD at HUCSH, Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=36)

Isolates Bacteria n (%)	Antibiotics, Frequency (%)									
		CIP	COT	GEN	PEN	VAN	NOR	CLD	ERY	TET
<i>S.aureus</i> 21 (58.33)	S	16 (76.2)	12 (57.1)	17 (81.0)	19 (90.5)	19 (90.5)	3 (14.3)	16 (76.2)	16 (76.2)	16 (76.2)
	R	5 (23.8)	9 (42.9)	4 (19.0)	2 (9.5)	2 (9.5)	18 (85.7)	5 (23.8)	5 (23.8)	5 (23.8)
CoNS 15 (41.67)	S	8 (53.3)	7 (46.7)	8 (53.3)	15 (100.0)	13 (86.7)	5 (33.3)	15 (100.0)	15 (100.0)	9 (60.0)
	R	7 (46.7)	8 (53.3)	7 (46.7)	–	2 (13.3)	10 (66.7)	–	–	6 (40.0)
Total 36 (100.0)	S	24 (66.7)	19 (52.8)	25 (69.4)	34 (94.4)	32 (88.9)	8 (22.3)	31 (86.1)	31 (86.1)	25 (69.4)
	R	12 (33.3)	17 (47.2)	11 (31.6)	2 (5.6)	4 (11.1)	28 (77.7)	5 (13.9)	5 (13.9)	11 (31.6)

Abbreviations: CIP, ciprofloxacin; COT, cotrimoxazole; GEN, gentamycin; PEN, penicillin; VAN, vancomycin; NOR, norfloxacin; CLD, clindamycin; ERY, erythromycin; TET, tetracycline; S, susceptible; R, resistance.

Table 5 Multi-Drug Resistance Pattern of Bacterial Isolates from SUTI Patients Attending Adult OPD at HUCSH, Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=102)

Bacterial Isolates	Total n (%)	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	MDR n (%)
Gram negative	91 (71.7)	25 (34.7)	17 (23.6)	6 (8.3)	8 (11.1)	3 (4.1)	6 (8.3)	5 (6.9)	–	2 (2.8)	72 (79.1)
<i>E.coli</i>	46 (50.6)	13 (52)	8 (47)	3 (50)	4 (50)	2 (66.7)	3 (50)	2 (40)	–	–	35 (48.6)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	16 (17.6)	3 (12)	5 (29.4)	1 (16.7)	2 (25)	1 (33.3)	–	2 (40)	–	1 (50)	15 (20.8)
<i>K. pneumonia</i>	14 (15.4)	4 (16)	–	2 (33.3)	1 (12.5)	–	1 (1.7)	1 (20)	–	–	9 (12.5)
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	11 (12.1)	5 (20)	4 (23.5)	–	1 (12.5)	–	–	–	–	–	10 (13.9)
<i>E. aerogens</i>	4 (4.3)	–	–	–	–	–	2 (33.3)	–	–	1 (50)	3 (4.2)
Gram positive	36 (28.3)	4 (13.3)	14 (46.7)	4 (13.3)	–	1 (3.3)	6 (20.0)	–	–	1 (3.3)	30 (83.3)
<i>S. aureus</i>	21 (58.3)	3 (75)	10 (71.4)	2 (50)	–	–	3 (50)	–	–	–	18 (60.0)
CoNS	15 (41.7)	1 (25)	4 (28.6)	2 (50)	–	1 (100)	3 (50)	–	–	1 (100)	12 (40.0)
Total	127 (100)	29 (28.4)	31 (30.4)	10 (9.8)	8 (7.8)	4 (3.9)	12 (11.8)	5 (4.9)	–	3 (2.9)	102 (80.3)

Notes: R, resistance; n, number; MDR resistance for two or more antibiotics; R2 – resistance to two antibiotics; R3 – resistance to three antibiotics; R4 – resistance to four antibiotics; R5 – resistance to five antibiotics; R6 – resistance to six antibiotics; R7 – resistance to seven antibiotics; R8 – resistance to eight antibiotics; R9 – resistance to nine antibiotics; R10 – resistance to ten antibiotics.

Harar, Ethiopia (7.9%) and (8.2%),^{24,42} this result is higher than a study conducted in India (2.7%).²⁷ But it is lower than a study conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (18.9%)²⁹ and Hawassa, Ethiopia (24.2%)⁴⁷

The proportion of *Klebsiella pneumonia* in this study was (11%) close to a report from Harar, Ethiopia (15.5%),²⁴ it was higher than Hawassa, Ethiopia (9.1%),⁴⁷ but lower than India (27.40%),⁴⁸ Iraq (24.5%),⁴⁹ Bangladesh (22%)⁴⁴ and Harar, Ethiopia (23.8%).⁴² *Proteus mirabilis* in this study was (8.7%) close to two reports in Harar, Ethiopia (9.5%) and (10.3%).^{24,42} It was higher than India (4.79%)⁴⁸ and Bangladesh (5.5%),⁴⁴ but lower than Iraq (17%).⁴⁹ The proportion of *Enterobacter aerogenes* was (3.1%) this result agree with a study done in India (5.4%),²⁷ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (5.4%),²⁹ and higher than a study in India (1.71%)⁴⁸ and Mekele, Ethiopia (1.37%),¹⁸ but lower than Jimma, Ethiopia (9.5%).²⁵ In this study, all patients UTI was caused by a single species.

Classical resistance classifications (multidrug resistance [MDR], extensive drug resistance [XDR], pan-drug resistance [PDR]) are very useful for epidemiological purposes, however, they may not correlate well with clinical outcomes, therefore, several novel classification criteria (eg, usual drug resistance [UDR] – if they were resistant to at least one tested antibiotic outside of their realm of intrinsic non susceptibility, difficult-to-treat resistance [DTR]- if an isolate showed resistance to carbapenems, extended-spectrum cephalosporins, and fluoroquinolones) were introduced in recent years.⁵⁰

In the present study, a large number of Gram-negative bacterial isolates were resistant to ampicillin (71.4%), tetracycline (68.2%), and cotrimoxazole (51.6%), and this result agree with another study conducted in Harar, Ethiopia.²⁴

The high resistance to common antibiotics was thought to be since study participants had a self-medication history

Table 6 Bivariate and Multivariate Logistic Regression Analysis of Factors Associated with UTI Among Symptomatic Patients Attending Adult OPD at HUCSH, Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=387)

Variables	Bacteriuria in Culture				Bivariate Analysis	P-value	Multivariate Analysis	P-value
	Yes		No					
	No	(%)	No	(%)	COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)		
Age in years								
18–24	57	(25.3)	168	(74.7)	1			
25–34	42	(37.2)	71	(62.8)	1.44 (0.89, 2.30)		1.22 (0.71, 2.08)	0.474
≥35	28	(57.2)	21	(42.8)	1.85 (0.99, 3.45)		1.76 (0.87, 3.54)	0.115
Sex								
Male	37	(21.1)	138	(78.9)	1			
Female	90	(42.5)	122	(57.5)	2.75 (1.75, 4.33)	0.000	3.10 (1.80, 5.32)	<0.0001*
Educational status								
No formal education	30	(50.8)	29	(49.2)	4.14 (2.00, 8.55)	0.000	3.56 (1.55, 8.21)	0.003*
Primary education	54	(37.7)	89	(62.3)	2.43 (1.31, 4.50)	0.005	2.22 (1.10, 4.45)	0.025*
Secondary education	25	(26.3)	70	(73.7)	1.43 (0.72, 2.85)	0.311	2.25 (0.57, 2.72)	0.577
College and above	18	(20.0)	72	(80.0)	1			
Previous history of UTI								
No	83	(27.9)	215	(72.1)	1			
Yes	44	(49.4)	45	(50.6)	2.53 (1.56, 4.12)	0.000	1.42 (0.79, 2.58)	0.243
History of hospital admission								
No	14	(31.9)	243	(68.1)	1			
Yes	13	(43.3)	17	(56.7)	1.63 (0.77, 3.47)	0.205	1.23 (0.51, 2.99)	0.641
Self-medication history								
No	59	(21.1)	221	(78.9)	1			
Yes	68	(63.6)	39	(36.4)	6.53 (4.01, 10.63)	0.000	6.17 (3.54, 10.74)	0.0001*
Interrupt or with-draw the Rx								
No	74	(27.2)	198	(72.8)	1			
Yes	53	(44.1)	62	(53.9)	2.29 (1.45, 3.60)	0.000	1.50 (0.86, 2.60)	0.150
History of catheterization								
No	250	(67.4)	121	(32.6)	1			
Yes	10	(62.5)	6	(37.5)	1.24 (0.44, 3.49)	0.684		
History of diabetes								
No	256	(67.2)	125	(32.8)	1			
Yes	4	(66.7)	2	(33.3)	1.02 (0.19, 5.66)	0.976		

Notes: RX, treatment; 1, reference; *statistically significant.

Abbreviations: AOD, adjusted odds ratio; COR, crude odds ratio.

without prescription to common antibiotics. The Gram-negative bacterial isolates were sensitive to cefoxitin (96.7%), AMC (91.3%), erythromycin (88%), ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, gentamycin (84.6%) each, meropenem (82.4%), norfloxacin (75.8%) and ciprofloxacin (70.3%).

This result was in agreement with another study conducted in Mekele, Ethiopia which reported that the Gram-negative isolates were sensitive to ciprofloxacin (85.15), ceftriaxone (83.0%), and norfloxacin (80.8%).¹⁸ Among the Gram-negative isolates *E. coli* was resistant to ampicillin

(73.9%), cotrimoxazole (56.5%), and tetracycline (65.2%), while sensitive to gentamycin, and AMC (91.3%) each, meropenem (82.6%), ceftriaxone, and ceftazidime (82.2%) each.

Gram-positive bacterial isolates show resistance to norfloxacin (66.7%) and high level of sensitivity to penicillin (94.4%), vancomycin (88.9%), clindamycin and erythromycin (86.1%) each gentamycin and tetracycline (69.4%) each ciprofloxacin (66.7%) and cotrimoxazole (52.8%). *Staphylococcus aureus* was resistant to norfloxacin (85.7%) and was sensitive to both penicillin and vancomycin (90.5%), gentamycin (81.05%), ciprofloxacin, clindamycin, erythromycin, and tetracycline (76.2%) each, and cotrimoxazole (57.1%). In the present study the overall prevalence of MDR pattern was (80.3%) this result is higher than the studies conducted in Mekele, Addis Ababa, and Harar, Ethiopia^{18,39,42} respectively. In this study, the prevalence of MDR pattern of Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria were (79.1%) and (83.3%) respectively. The MDR of Gram-negative bacteria in this study higher than the result which was reported from Harar, Ethiopia.⁴²

Multidrug-resistant (MDR) Gram-positive bacteria in this study were higher than studies conducted in Mekele, Addis Ababa, Harar, Ethiopia respectively.^{18,39,42} The possible reason for this MDR might be the self-medication history of study participants.

This study reported that sex, being female was 3.10 (1.80, 5.32), $p < 0.0001$, education, study participants who had no formal education 3.56 (1.55, 8.21) $p = 0.003$, participants who had only primary education 2.22 (1.10, 4.45) $p = 0.025$ and self-medication history 6.17 (3.54, 10.74), $p = 0.0001$ had a statistically significant association with SUTI. As reported in this study in many other studies sex had been reported as a statistically significant factor for SUTI in Uganda,⁵¹ similar studies in Ethiopia in Mekele, Ethiopia.¹⁸

Study in Metu, Ethiopia reported being female 3.56 (1.44, 8.76) and educational status, participants who were not able to read and write had 2.6 (1.19, 5.49) statistical association with SUTI,⁴⁵ similarly in Nekemt, Ethiopia level of education (no formal education) had statistically significant with SUTI 9.3 (1.1–79.2).²³

In another study which was conducted in Bale Zone, Southeast Ethiopia, study participants with low educational level were statistically significant with SUTI 6.617 (1.87, 9.94, $p = 0.024$). The possible reason for the significant association of SUTI with no formal education might be due to participants who had no formal education lack

knowledge about personal hygiene and contamination of bacteria from the gastrointestinal tract.⁵²

Limitation of the Study

This study had its limitation, first, absence of novobiocin disc, this may lead differentiation of coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus* species, Second, the urine sample was collected by the patient itself-may not avoid contamination during sample collection. And third, a recall bias by study participants may exist.

Conclusions

Urinary tract infection among adults was prevalent in the study area. Being female, educational status and self-medication history had a significant association with urinary tract infection. Most isolated bacteria were resistant to Ampicillin and Tetracycline.

Abbreviations

AST, antibiotic susceptibility test; ATCC, American Type Culture Collection; BAP, blood agar plate; CDC, Center for Disease Control and prevention; CFU, colony forming unit; CLSI, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; CSA, Central Statistical Agency; CoNs, coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus*; EDHS, Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey; H₂O₂, hydrogen peroxide; H₂S, hydrogen sulfide; HUCSH, Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital; IRB, Institutional Review Board; KB, Kirby Bauer; MDR, multi-drug resistance; MHA, Muller-Hinton agar; NB, nutrient broth; OPD, outpatient department; SGC, School of Graduate Committee; SNNPRs, Southern Nations Nationalities People Regional State; SPSS, Statistical Package for Social Science; SUTI, symptomatic urinary tract infection; TSI, triple sugar iron; UTI, urinary tract infection; WBCs, white blood cells; WHO, World Health Organization.

Data Sharing Statement

The data that support the findings of this study will be available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Ethics Approval and Informed Consent

Ethical clearance was obtained from Hawassa University College of Medicine and Health Science Institution Review Board (IRB) Ref. No IRB/012/10. A permission

and support letter was obtained from the Hospital administration office. Data were collected from study participants after explaining the purpose and procedure of the study and assuring the confidentiality of their results then obtaining informed written consent. The laboratory diagnosis of study participants was done without cost. Both the negative and positive results were given back to the doctor for appropriate management. This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

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Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in this work.

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