



## The 65th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

## 721.ALLOGENEIC TRANSPLANTATION: CONDITIONING REGIMENS, ENGRAFTMENT AND ACUTE TOXICITIES

**Molecular Patterns of Resistance in Carbapenem Resistant Organisms Detected in Stool Surveillance Cultures in Patients Undergoing Hematopoietic Cell Transplant**

Koustubh Shekar, MD<sup>1</sup>, Akanksha Chichra, MBBS, DNB<sup>2,1</sup>, Keshav Garg<sup>2</sup>, Sujata Lall<sup>1</sup>, Nishant Jindal, MD/MBBS<sup>2,1</sup>, Niket Mantri, MD<sup>1</sup>, Sumeet Mirgh, MDDM, MBBS<sup>2,1</sup>, Lingaraj Nayak, MBBS, MD DM<sup>1,2</sup>, Anant Gokarn, MD DM<sup>2,1</sup>, Sachin Punatar, MD DM<sup>2,1</sup>, Libin Jacob Mathew<sup>1</sup>, Hari Menon, MD DM<sup>3</sup>, Vivek Bhat<sup>1</sup>, Navin Khattray, MD DM<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Tata Memorial Centre, Navi Mumbai, India

<sup>2</sup>Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai, India

<sup>3</sup>St Johns National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, India

**Introduction**

Patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) are at high risk of life-threatening bacterial infections. Although the prevalence and pattern of resistance varies amongst centres and countries, there is a growing global problem of resistance to antibiotics. The increased use of broad-spectrum antibiotics and injudicious antibiotic policies have contributed to the selection of multidrug resistant (MDR) pathogens. Translocation of organisms which normally colonize the gut into the bloodstream during the febrile neutropenia has long been postulated as a pathogenic factor for life-threatening gram-negative infections.

We routinely do stool surveillance culture of all patients admitted for autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplant to guide us on empirical antibiotic usage. This analysis was conducted to evaluate the incidence of carbapenem resistant organisms (CROs) and their molecular pattern of resistance in stool surveillance cultures.

**Methods**

This is a single centre retrospective analysis of patients who underwent autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplant for haematological malignancies from December 2021 to January 2023. In all patients stool surveillance cultures were sent at baseline during admission and then weekly thereafter till discharge. A blood Biofire syndromic multiplex PCR was performed in a fraction of stool isolates to identify the gene responsible for carbapenem resistance. Biofire syndromic multiplex PCR was performed only once for one patient on the first stool culture that grew a CRO. Biofire is a multiplex PCR that identifies Gram negative organisms including *Acinetobacter Baumannii*, *Bacteroides Fragilis*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Proteus*, *Salmonella*, *Serratia*, *H. influenza*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*; it also identifies the gene responsible for resistance. The Carbapenem resistant genes included in the Biofire syndromic multiplex PCR were IMP Carbapenemase, KPC Carbapenemase, OXA-48, NDM, VIM, CTXM.

**Results**

Seventy-one patients underwent HSCT from December 2021 to January 2023. These included 39 allogeneic and 32 autologous stem cell transplants. The median age of the cohort was 33 years (range 3-63 years) with 48 males and 23 females. The diagnoses were AML (n=8), ALL (n=14), CML (n=14), HL (n=10), Multiple Myeloma (n=19), Myelofibrosis (n=1), Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (n=5).

A total of 430 stool surveillance cultures from 71 patients were analysed. Of 430, 90 (20.9%) stool samples in 30 (42%) patients grew carbapenem resistant organism. Of these 90 CROs, twenty-three stool culture isolates belonging to 23 different patients were analysed for genotypic resistance.

These 23 CROs included *Escherichia coli* 12 (52%) and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 11 (48%). On phenotypic sensitivity testing, the CROs were sensitive to Ceftriaxone-Sulbactam-EDTA (23/23, 100%), Ceftazidime-Avibactam (2/15, 13%), Colistin (23/23, 100%), Aztreonam (3/23, 13%), Tigecycline (17/23, 74%), Minocycline (9/23, 39%) and Aminoglycosides (11/23, 48%) shown in Figure 1a

Resistance gene panel in these 23 stool isolates revealed NDM alone in 7 (31%), CTX-M along with NDM in 9 (39%), CTX-M along with OXA 48 like in 2 (9%), CTX-M, OXA 48 along with NDM in 4 (17%) and NDM with OXA 48 in 1 (4%) (Figure 1b).

Of the remaining 67 stools in which Biofire was not performed, *Escherichia coli* grew in 31 (46%) and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* grew in 35 (52%) and *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* in 1 (2%). On drug sensitivity testing, these CROs were sensitive to Ceftriaxone-

Sulbactam-EDTA (65/67, 97%), Ceftazidime-Avibactam (4/15, 26%), Colistin (65/67, 97%), Aztreonam (7/65, 11%), Tigecycline (39/57, 68%), Minocycline (24 /62, 39%) and Aminoglycosides (33/67, 49%).

**Conclusion:**

About 40% of our patients were colonized with CROs at some point during their transplant. Molecular patterns identified NDM alone or in combination with other resistance genes in more than 90% of stools where molecular testing was performed. The antibiotics to which these MDR organisms were most susceptible included Ceftriaxone-sulbactam-EDTA, Colistin and tigecycline. Our study suggests that NDM is the most common resistance gene responsible for carbapenem resistance in our patients. Thus, antibiotics or antibiotic combinations that target NDM should be considered early in patients with MDR sepsis.

**Disclosures** No relevant conflicts of interest to declare.

Figure 1a: Genotypic and phenotypic characteristics of carbapenem resistant organism

BIOFIRE RESULTS			Antibiotic Sensitivity							
	Organism	Genotype	Am	AT	CL	CSE	Fos	Mino	Tgc	CAZ-AVI
1	E.COLI	NDM	S	R	S	S	S	S	S	R
2	E.COLI	NDM	R	S	S	S	ND	S	S	R
3	E.COLI	NDM	S	R	S	S	ND	S	S	ND
4	E.COLI	CTX-M,NDM	S	R	S	S	ND	S	S	ND
5	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	CTX-M,OXA-48-LIKE,NDM	R	R	S	S	R	R	S	ND
6	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	CTX-M,OXA-48-LIKE,NDM	R	R	S	S	ND	R	S	R
7	E.COLI	NDM , CTX-M	R	R	S	S	ND	R	S	R
8	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	CTX-M,NDM	R	R	S	S	ND	R	S	R
9	E.COLI	NDM	S	S	S	S	ND	S	S	ND
10	E.COLI	NDM , CTX-M	S	R	S	S	ND	R	S	ND
11	E.COLI	NDM	S	R	S	S	ND	R	S	R
12	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	CTX-M,OXA-48-LIKE	S	R	S	S	ND	R	R	S
13	E.COLI	NDM	S	R	S	S	ND	S	S	ND
14	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	NDM , CTX-M	R	R	S	S	R	R	R	R
15	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	CTX-M,OXA-48-LIKE,NDM	R	R	S	S	R	R	R	S
16	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	NDM , CTX-M	R	R	S	S	R	R	R	R
17	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	NDM , CTX-M	R	R	S	S	ND	R	R	ND
18	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	NDM , CTX-M	R	R	S	S	ND	R	R	R
19	E.COLI	NDM,OXA-48-LIKE	R	R	S	S	S	R	S	R
20	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	NDM , CTX-M	R	R	S	S	R	R	S	R
21	E.COLI	NDM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	ND
22	E.COLI	CTX-M,OXA-48-LIKE,NDM	S	R	S	S	S	S	S	R
23	Klebsiella Pneumoniae	CTX-M,OXA-48-LIKE	S	R	S	S	ND	S	S	R

(Am-Amikacin, AT-Aztreonam, CL-Colistin, CSE-Ceftriaxone-sulbactam-EDTA, Fos-Fosfomycin, Mino-Minocycline, Tgc-Tigecycline, CAZ-AVI-Ceftazidime Avibactam, ND-not done, S-Sensitive, R-Resistant)

Figure 1b: Distribution of resistant gene pattern in CRO identified on stool surveillance cultures.

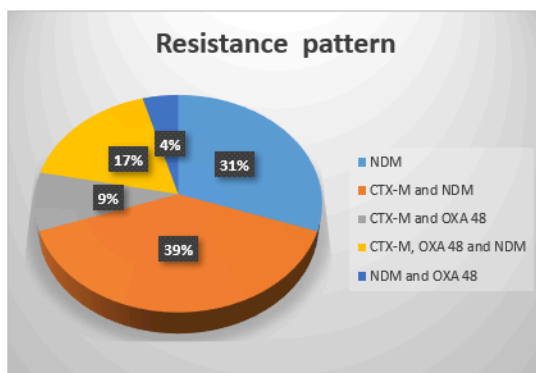


Figure 1

<https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2023-184659>