

## **Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated from sputum, urine and pus samples**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Gram-negative pathogens are an important cause of hospital acquired infections throughout the world. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* has become one of the more common causes of nosocomial infections.

**Materials and methods:** A total number of 1264 urine, 544 pus and 784 sputum samples from January 2008 to October 2010 were included in the study. Isolates of *klebsiella pneumoniae* were identified by their morphological and biochemical characteristics. All the isolates of *klebsiella pneumoniae* identified were subjected to antibiotic sensitivity testing by modified Kirby-bauer disc diffusion method.

**Results:** The number of *klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates were 254 from 1264 urine samples, 135 from 544 pus samples and 191 from 784 sputum samples. Majority of the strains isolated were sensitive to Amikacin.

**Conclusion:** The present study from 2008 to 2010 reveals the incidence of infections due to *klebsiella pneumoniae* strains in the hospitalized patients and their tendency towards antibiotic resistance.

**Key words:** *Kebsiella pneumoniae*, nosocomial infections, pneumonia, urinary tract infections, beta-lactamase, ESBL's, Gram-negative, non-motile, urease.

### **Introduction**

*Klebsiella pneumoniae* is a Gram-negative, non-motile, encapsulated, lactose fermenting, facultative anaerobic, rod shaped bacterium found in the normal flora of the mouth, skin and intestines. In the recent years, *klebsiella pneumoniae* has become important pathogen in nosocomial infections. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is most frequently recovered from clinical specimens and can cause a classic form of primary pneumonia. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* can also cause a variety of extrapulmonary infections, including enteritis and meningitis in infants, urinary tract infections in children and adults and septicaemia. In the United States, *klebsiella* accounts for 3-7% of all nosocomial bacterial infections, placing them among the eight most important infectious pathogens in hospitals. *Klebsiellae* have a tendency to harbor antibiotic resistant plasmids; thus, infections with multiple antibiotic-resistant strains can be anticipated.

Virtually all clinical strains are resistant to ampicillin, carbenicillin, and ticarcillin. Of particular concern is the recent appearance of *klebsiella* strains that possess plasmids that mediate resistance to ESBL drugs. This form of resistance is due to the production of unique beta-lactamase enzymes, referred to as ESBL's. These enzymes have been seen mostly in strains of *klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E.coli*, and cause them to be resistant to most beta-lactam drugs, including the third generation cephalosporins.

**Aim of the present study** was to know the antibiotic sensitivity pattern of *klebsiella pneumoniae* strains isolated from sputum, urine and pus samples sent to Microbiology laboratory from 2008 to 2010.

### **Materials and methods**

Sputum, urine, and pus samples collected from inpatients admitted into clinical wards were sent to Microbiology laboratory. The samples were inoculated on blood agar and mac conkey agar and incubated overnight at 37°C. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains were identified by their morphology and biochemical characteristics. Morphology of *klebsiella pneumoniae* identified were large, dome-shaped, mucoid colonies on blood agar and lactose fermenting colonies on mac conkey agar. In Gram-staining, gram-negative, short, plump, straight rods were seen. The biochemical characters identified were negative indole test, negative methyl red test, positive voges-proskauer test, positive citrate utilization test, positive urease test, acid and abundant gas production from glucose, lactose, sucrose, maltose and mannitol sugar fermentation tests.

Antibiotic sensitivity testing was done for all the isolates on Mueller-hinton agar by modified Kirby-bauer disc diffusion technique. The following antibiotic discs were used for testing bearing the concentrations:

### **Pus and sputum samples:**

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1. Amoxyclav - 10mcg.
2. Amikacin - 30mcg.
3. Ampicillin+Sulbactam - 10mcg/10mcg
4. Cefotaxime - 30mcg.
5. Ceftriaxone - 30mcg.
6. Gentamicin - 10mcg.
7. Ofloxacin - 5mcg.
8. Netilmycin - 30mcg.

**Urine samples:**

1. Ampicillin+Sulbactam – 10mcg/10mcg.
2. Amikacin – 30mcg.
3. Co-trimoxazole – 25mcg.
4. Cefazolin – 30mcg.
5. Ceftriaxone – 30mcg.
6. Gentamicin – 10mcg.
7. Nitrofurantoin – 300mcg.
8. Ofloxacin – 5mcg.
9. Tetracycline - 30mcg.



**Results**

**Table - 1.**

**Total no.of samples:**

Sample	2008	2009	2010	Total
Sputum	267	297	220	784
Pus	180	191	173	544
Urine	386	486	392	1264

**Table – 2**

**Culture positivity of Klebsiella pneumoniae:**

Sample	2008	2009	2010
Sputum	N=54(20.22%)	N=72(24.24%)	N=65(29.55%)
Urine	N=83(21.5%)	N=90(18.52%)	N=81(20.66%)
Pus	N=45(25%)	N=54(28.27%)	N=36(20.81%)

**Table - 3:**  
**Antibiogram of klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from pus samples:**

NAME	2008 (N=45)				2009 (N=54)				2010 (N=36)			
	SENSITIVE		RESISTANT		SENSITIVE		RESISTANT		SENSITIVE		RESISTANT	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
AMOXYCLAV	29	64.44	16	35.56	32	59.26	22	40.74	20	55.55	16	44.45
CEFOTAXIME	24	53.33	21	46.67	29	53.71	25	46.29	17	47.22	19	52.78
AMIKACIN	<b>34</b>	<b>75.56</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24.44</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>70.37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29.63</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>66.67</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33.33</b>
GENTAMICIN	30	66.67	15	33.33	32	59.23	22	40.74	21	58.33	15	41.67
AMPICILLIN+SULBACTAM	26	57.78	19	42.22	30	55.55	24	44.44	19	52.78	17	47.22
OFLOXACIN	19	42.22	26	57.78	28	51.85	26	48.15	17	47.22	19	52.78
TETRACYCLINE	20	44.45	25	55.56	23	42.59	31	57.41	15	41.67	21	58.33
NETILMICIN	26	57.78	19	42.22	31	57.41	23	42.59	22	61.11	14	38.89
CEFTRIAZONE	23	51.11	22	48.89	28	51.85	26	48.15	15	41.67	21	58.33

**Table - 4:**

**Antibiogram of klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from sputum samples:**

NAME	2008 (N=54)				2009(N=72)				2010(N=65)			
	SENSITIVE		RESISTANT		SENSITIVE		RESISTANT		SENSITIVE		RESISTANT	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
AMOXYCLAV	33	61.11	21	38.89	42	58.33	30	41.67	35	53.85	30	46.15
CEFOTAXIME	28	51.85	26	48.15	38	52.77	34	47.23	31	47.69	34	52.31
<b>AMIKACIN</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>66.67</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61.11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38.88</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>56.92</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>43.08</b>
GENTAMICIN	28	51.85	26	48.15	34	47.23	38	52.77	30	46.15	35	53.85
Ampicillin+Sulbactam	30	55.55	24	44.45	39	54.17	33	45.83	34	52.31	31	47.69
OFLOXACIN	27	50	27	50	38	52.77	34	47.23	30	46.15	35	53.85
TETRACYCLINE	26	48.15	28	51.85	33	45.83	39	54.17	26	40	39	60
NETILMYCIN	34	62.96	20	37.04	43	59.72	29	40.28	39	60	26	40
CEFTRIAZONE	26	48.15	28	51.85	33	45.83	39	54.17	27	41.54	38	58.46

**Table - 5:**

**Antibiogram of klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from urine samples:**

Name.	2008(N=83)				2009(N=90)				2010(N=81)			
	SENSITIVE		RESISTANT		SENSITIVE		RESISTANT		SENSITIVE		RESISTANT	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
NITROFURATOIN	42	50.60	41	49.39	43	47.78	47	52.22	38	46.92	43	53.08
Co-trimoxazole	41	49.39	42	50.60	42	46.67	48	53.33	35	43.21	46	56.79
OFLOXACIN	46	55.42	37	44.57	45	50	45	50	38	46.92	43	53.08
GENTAMICIN	51	61.45	32	38.55	52	57.78	38	42.22	42	51.85	39	48.15
<b>AMIKACIN</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>78.31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21.69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74.44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25.56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>71.60</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28.40</b>
CEFAZOLIN	48	57.83	35	42.17	41	45.56	49	54.44	35	43.21	46	56.79
Ampicillin+Sulbactam	54	65.06	29	34.94	55	61.11	35	38.89	48	59.23	33	40.74
CEFTRIAZONE	44	53.01	39	46.98	43	47.78	47	52.22	37	45.67	44	54.33

### Discussion

Klebsiella pneumoniae is most frequently recovered from clinical specimens and can cause a classic form of primary pneumonia. It is infrequently found in the oropharynx of normal persons (1-6% carrier rate). However, a prevalence rate as high as 20% may occur in hospitalized patients. The higher incidence of infections due to klebsiella pneumoniae during the past decade probably reflects both an increase in nosocomial infections in the debilitated or immunosuppressed individuals and a trend towards greater antibiotic resistance. In the present study from 2008 to 2010, culture positivity for klebsiella pneumoniae was 24.36% for sputum samples, 20.09% for urine samples and 24.82% for pus samples.

In the present study, majority of the strains isolated were sensitive to amikacin (P Value=0.50). The percentage of sensitivity to amikacin was **75.56%** in 2008, **70.37%** in 2009, and **66.67%** in 2010 for pus samples; **66.67%** in 2008, **61.11%** in 2009 and **56.92%** in 2010 for sputum samples and **78.31%** in 2008, **74.44%** in 2009 and **71.60%** in 2010 for urine samples; Thus showing a gradual increase in resistance and decrease in sensitivity.

### Conclusion

The present study from 2008 to 2010 reveals the incidence of infections due to klebsiella pneumoniae strains in the hospitalized patients and their tendency towards antibiotic resistance. Majority of the strains isolated were sensitive to amikacin. A gradual increase in resistance and decrease in sensitivity was observed for all the drugs tested towards klebsiella pneumoniae strains isolated from sputum, urine and pus samples from 2008 to 2010.

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