



## Antimicrobial Sensitivity Patterns of *Proteus mirabilis* Isolates from Urine Samples

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To assignation the grade of resistance to the widely used antibiotics in clinical isolates of *Proteus mirabilis* 60 isolates were collected from special hospital in Denizli and recorded at specimens.

**Method:** Antibiotic resistance was determined by agar disc diffusion method using Mueller-Hinton agar according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute recommendations.

**Results:** All isolates were defined as Trimetoprim/ Sulfamethaxol and Nitrofurantoin resistant. The resistance rates for Meropenem, Cefixime, and Ceftazidime were 95%, 90% and 87% respectively. 53 isolates (88%) isolates showed Multiple Antibiotic Resistance three to thirteen antibiotics.

**Conclusion:** Resistance of *Proteus* to antibiotics was due to selection for drug resistance has been associated with an increased and inappropriate use of antibiotics. There is an irregular use of antimicrobial agents in Turkey.

**Keywords:** *Proteus mirabilis*, antibiotic sensitivity, urine samples

### Introduction

*Proteus* is a genus of Gram-negative bacteria belonging to the family of Enterobacteriaceae. *Proteus* species are distinguishable from most other genera by their ability to swarm across an agar surface [1]. *Proteus* is widespread in the environment and makes up part of the normal flora of the human gastrointestinal tract. *Proteus* ranks third as the cause of hospital-acquired infections [2]. Three species: *P. vulgaris*, *P. mirabilis*, and *P. penneri* are opportunistic human pathogens [3]. *Proteus* species are the major cause of diseases acquired outside the hospital, where many of these diseases eventually require hospitalization [4]. *P. mirabilis* causes 90% of *Proteus* infections. *Proteus* species, particularly *P. mirabilis*, is believed to be the most common cause of infection-related kidney stone, one of the most serious complications of unresolved or recurrent bacteruria [5]. *P. mirabilis* has been implicated in meningitis, empyema, osteomyelitis and gastroenteritis. Also, it frequently causes nosocomial infections of the urinary tract (46%), surgical wounds (24%) and lower respiratory tract (30%). Less frequently, *proteus* species cause bacteraemia (17%), most often in elderly patients [6].

The aim of this study was to determine the characteristics and patterns of antibiotic resistance among isolates of *P. mirabilis* recovered from urine samples in Denizli.

### Subject and methods

#### Culture and Identification

Total of 60 samples were collected from patients attending Denizli State Hospital Laboratories. Samples were of urine. Isolates were identified depending on morphological and biochemical tests as compared with identification scheme described by [7], and according to API 20E confirmatory

test. The specimens were directly streaked onto MacConkey and blood agar and were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. In total, 60 *P. mirabilis* were isolated from various urine samples and detected by the VITEK 2 Compact system (BioMerieux, France) at the microbiology laboratory of our hospital

#### Microscopic and Morphological Identification

After the isolation of bacteria on MacConkey and blood agar, their shape, size, texture and colony arrangement were observed. Single colonies were picked up, stained with gram stain. Finally they were examined under microscope to identify their shape and length.

#### Antibiogram Pattern of *P. mirabilis*

Antibiotic resistance was determined by an agar disc diffusion test [8], using Mueller-Hinton agar (Difco) according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) recommendations (9). Fourteen different antibiotics were used. The antibiotics used were selected according to the 2004 NCCLS guidelines. For antibiotic resistance determination, the isolates were grown in Luria-Bertani (LB) broth until the turbidity equal to the 0.5 McFarland standard (approximately 10<sup>8</sup>cfu/ml). Cultures were swabbed on to the Mueller-Hinton agar and all isolates were tested against Trimetoprim/ Sulphamethazol (SXT), Nitrofurantoin (NIT), Meropenem (MEM), Cefixime (CFX), Ceftazidime (CAZ), Ampicillin (AM), Imipenem (IPM), Piperacillin/Tazobactam (TZP), Ceftriaxone (CFT), Amikacin (AN), Ertapenem (ERT), Gentamicin (GEN), Cefuroxime (CFU), Amoxicillin-Clavunat (AMX). The isolates those grown in inoculation were evaluated as resistant, and the others were evaluated as susceptible [9]. The antibiotic discs were

dispensed sufficiently separated from each other so as to avoid overlapping of inhibition zones. The plates were incubated at 37°C, and the diameters of the inhibition zones were measured after 18 h. All susceptibility tests were carried out in duplicate and were repeated twice if discordant results had been obtained.

### Multiple Antibiotic Resistance Index

For all isolates, MAR index values were tested according to Krumperman., 1985 and Matyar *et al.*, 2008<sup>[10, 11]</sup>.

### Results

All isolates were defined as Trimetroprim/ Sulfamethaxol and Nitrofurantoin resistant. The resistance rates for Meropenem, Cefixime, and Ceftazidime were 95%, 90% and 87% respectively as shown Table1.

### Inserted Table1

Out of 60 *P. mirabilis* strains isolated 53 (88 %) were MDR as shown Table2.

### Discussion

Trimetroprim/ Sulfamethaxol sensitivity was seen in 100% isolates in our study. Some researchers have reported Trimetroprim/ Sulfamethaxol sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12, 13]</sup>. In contrast to our results, Regasa,<sup>[13]</sup> reported that all of the *P.mirabilis* isolates showed resistance to Trimetroprim/ Sulfamethaxol. Trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole are combined together due to their synergism effect on bacteria. It's abroad spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial agent for both gram positive and gram negative bacteria. Trimethoprim is a diaminopyrimidine, whereas sulfamethoxazole is a sulfonamide and the Co-trimoxazole inhibits the synthesis of tetrahydrofolic acid, which is necessary for the synthesis of bacterial nucleic acid along with two components of the drug inhibiting different steps in the folate synthesis pathway<sup>[14]</sup>.

We found that 100% isolates were sensitive to nitrofurantoin in our study. Some researchers have reported nitrofurantoin sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12, 15-19]</sup>. Several other studies demonstrated that *Proteus* was among the most common organisms isolated and percentage of resistant to nitrofurantoin is very high<sup>[20, 21]</sup>.

Our rate of meropenem sensitivity was 95%<sup>[1, 22, 23]</sup>. Our results were similar to Wang *et al.*<sup>[24]</sup> who also reported sensitive to meropenem was 100%.

Our rate of cefixime sensitivity was 90%. Some researchers have reported cefixime sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[17, 23]</sup>. Our results were similar to Narayana-Swamy *et al.*,<sup>[23]</sup> who also reported sensitive to cefixime was 87,5% in *Proteus* spp. Our rate of ceftazidime sensitivity was 87%. Some researchers have reported ceftazidime sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12, 18, 19, 25-28]</sup>. Our results were similar to Passadoura *et al.*,<sup>[18]</sup> who also reported sensitive to ceftazidime was 90,9% in *Proteus* spp. We found that 85% isolates were sensitive to ampicillin in our study. Some researchers have reported ampicillin sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 25, 27]</sup>. Our results were similar to Al-Bassam and Al-Kazaz.,<sup>[12]</sup> who also reported sensitive to ampicillin was 75%.

Our rate of imipenem sensitivity was 78%. Some

researchers have reported imipenem sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12,17,18,22,23,25,27]</sup>. Our rate of imipenem resistance was 22%. Our results were similar to Filgona *et al.*,<sup>[27]</sup> who also reported imipenem resistance was 18,8%.

We found that 75% isolates were sensitive to piperacillin/tazobactam in our study. Some researchers have reported piperacillin/tazobactam sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[19, 28, 29]</sup>. Our rate of ceftriaxone sensitivity was 70%. Some researchers have reported ceftriaxone sensitivity rate to *P. mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[16, 17, 18, 22, 27, 29, 30, 31]</sup>. Our results were higher than previous researchers<sup>[17, 29, 31]</sup>. But also our results were lower than Passadoura *et al.*,<sup>[18]</sup>.

We found that 57% isolates were sensitive to amikacin in our study. Some researchers have reported amikacin sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12, 17, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 30, 32, 33]</sup>. Our results were similar to Bahashwan and El Shafey.,<sup>[25]</sup> who also reported sensitivity amikacin was 61,4% in *Proteus* specimens.

Our rate of ertapenem sensitivity was 53%. Some researchers have reported ertapenem sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[27, 34, 35]</sup>. A Our rate of ertapenem resistance was 23%. Our results were similar to Filgona *et al.*,<sup>[27]</sup> who also reported ertapenem resistance was 18,8%.

Our rate of gentamycine sensitivity was 52%. Some researchers have reported gentamycine sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[12, 17, 19, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33]</sup>. Our results were similar to Al-Bassam and Al-Kazaz.,<sup>[12]</sup> who also reported sensitive to gentamycine was 50%.

Our rate of cefuroxime sensitivity was 40%. Our results were higher than Alhambra *et al.*<sup>[34]</sup>. But also, our results were lower than Passadoura *et al.*,<sup>[18]</sup>. Our results were similar to Manisha *et al.*,<sup>[36]</sup> who also reported cefuroxime sensitivity was 60%.

We found that 33% isolates were sensitive to amoxicillin-clavunat in our study. Some researchers have reported amoxicillin-clavunat sensitivity rate to *P.mirabilis* in clinical samples<sup>[17, 23, 28, 37-39]</sup>. Our results were similar to Romanus *et al.*,<sup>[39]</sup> who also reported amoxicillin-clavunat sensitivity was 40%.

53 isolates (88%) isolates showed Multiple Antibiotic Resistance three to thirteen antibiotics as shown Table2. MDR *Proteus* reported by Feglo *et al.*<sup>[30]</sup> was 88%, Leulmi *et al.*<sup>[40]</sup> 61%, Pandey *et al.*<sup>[41]</sup> 48.86% and Tumbarello *et al.*<sup>[42]</sup> 36 % (in blood stream infections). Exposure to piperacillin-tazobactam and empirical cephalosporin use have recently been identified as independent risk factors for MDR *P. mirabilis* UTIs<sup>[43]</sup>.

*Proteus* species usually show high resistance to commonly used antibiotics<sup>[44]</sup>. In this study all the *P. mirabilis* isolated were sensitive to Trimetroprim/ Sulfamethaxol and Nitrofurantoin. The antibiotic susceptibility tests demonstrated that *Proteus* species have a wide range of resistance to several antibiotics. This could be a result of the extra outer cytoplasmic membrane which contains a lipid bilayer, lipoproteins, polysaccharides and lipopolysaccharides, and of course, abuse and misuse of antibiotics could be part of the contributing factors of resistance to antibiotics. It is advisable that treatment of *Proteus* urinary tract infection be guided by the sensitivity result since the antibiotic susceptibility pattern of each species, depends on the extent to which the use of the

various drugs has either selected resistant mutant or promoted the transfer of resistance factor from other members of the enterobacteriaceae [45].

**Table 1:** Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of *P.mirabilis* isolated from urine samples

Antibiotics	Sensitive	Intermediate	Resistance
SXT	60 (100 %)	0(0%)	0(%0)
NIT	60 (100 %)	0(0%)	0(%0)
MEM	57(95%)	2(3%)	1 (2%)
CFX	54(90%)	6(10%)	0 (0%)
CAZ	52(87%)	3 (5%)	5(8%)
AMP	51 (85%)	8(13%)	1 (2%)
IPM	47 (78%)	13 (%22)	0 (0%)
TZP	45 (75%)	6(10%)	9 (15%)
CFT	42(70%)	14(23%)	4 (6%)
AN	34(57%)	26(43%)	0 (0%)
ERT	32(53%)	26(43%)	2 (3%)
GEN	31 (52%)	29(48%)	0 (0%)
CFU	24(40%)	36(60%)	0 (0%)
AMX	20 (33%)	35(58%)	5 (8%)

Abbreviations; SXT; Trimetoprim/ Sulfamethaxol., NIT; Nitrofurantoin, MEM; Meropenem, CFX.; Cefixime, CAZ; Ceftazidime, AMP, Ampicillin, IPM; Imipenem, TZP; Tazobactam/ piperacillin, CFT; Ceftriaxon, AN; Amikacin, ERT, Ertapenem, GEN; Gentamicin , CFU, Cefuroxime AMX, Amoxicillin-Clavunat

**Table 2:** Number of urine samples and Multiple Antibiotic Resistance Index 60 *P.mirabilis* strains

Total Resistant Antibiotics	Total Isolate Number	Percentage of Isolates	Mar Index Value
2	7	12%	0,14
3	8	13%	0,21
4	6	10%	0,29
5	7	12%	0,36
6	9	15%	0,43
7	10	16%	0,5
8	7	12%	0,57
9	3	5%	0,64
10	1	2%	0,71
12	1	2%	0,86
13	1	2%	0,93
	Total 60	Total 100	

## Conclusion

Resistance of *Proteus* to antibiotics was due to selection for drug resistance has been associated with an increased and inappropriate use of antibiotics. There is an irregular use of antimicrobial agents in Turkey.

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