

LANCEFIELD STREPTOCOCCAL NEWSLETTER

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Variability of β -lactam susceptibility testing for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* using 4 commercial test methods and broth microdilution

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Se evaluaron dos métodos epsilométricos [M.I.C.E. (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Basingtoke, UK.) y Etest (bio Mérieux, Marcy l’Etoile, France)] y tres de dilución [Vitek 2 AST-STO1 (bioMérieux), Sensititre (Thermo Fisher Scientific) y microdilución en caldo (método de referencia)] para realizar pruebas de sensibilidad a penicilina, ceftriaxona, meropenem y amoxicilina con 91 aislados de *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

La correlación se definió como el porcentaje de aislados que con las pruebas comerciales presentaban una diferencia en sus CIM de ± 1 respecto del método de referencia. La concordancia se definió como el porcentaje de aislados que presentaban una idéntica categorización S, I, o R entre un método comercial y el de referencia.

| Antibiótico | Concordancia | Correlación |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Penicilina (oral) | 84-89%* | 89-96%* |
| Penicilina (meningitis IV) | 92-96%* | |
| Penicilina (no meningitis IV) | 90-92%* | |
| Ceftriaxona (meningitis IV) | 76-90%* | 93-98%** |
| Ceftriaxona (no meningitis IV) | 84-91%* | |
| Amoxicilina | 84-95%* | Etest 74%, M.I.C.E. 92% |
| Meropenem | 71-91%* | Etest 86%, M.I.C.E. 78% |

Tabla: Concordancia y correlación entre los cuatro métodos comerciales y el de referencia (microdilución en caldo)

* El mejor valor correspondió a Sensititre; ** The best value corresponds to Etest

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El método que tuvo una mejor correlación con el de referencia fue Sensititre (ambos son métodos de dilución). Desafortunadamente, como los paneles no incluyeron amoxicilina y los rangos de contracciones de meropenem eran limitados no se pudo calcular la correlación con el método de microdilución en caldo para esos antibióticos.

Los autores recomiendan proceder con cautela cuando se usen Vitek, Etest o M.I.C.E. con neumococos provenientes de infecciones invasivas.

Comentario (HL)

Sería necesario realizar estudios similares en los que se evalúe la evolución clínica de los pacientes con tratamientos inducidos por uno u otro método debido a que especialmente para neumococos la línea entre sensibilidad y resistencia es muy estrecha.

Two epsilometric methods [M.I.C.E. (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Basingtoke, UK.) and Etest (bio Mérieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France)] and three dilution methods [Vitek 2 AST-STO1 (bioMérieux), Sensititre (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and broth microdilution (reference method)] have been evaluated for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (91 isolates) susceptibility testing of penicillin, ceftriaxone, meropenem and amoxicillin.

Essential agreement was defined as the percentage of isolates with a test method MIC within ± 1 doubling dilution of the reference method MIC result. Categorical agreement was defined as the percentage of isolates with identical breakpoint interpretations of S, I, or R between a test method and the reference method.

| Antibiotic | Categorical agreement | Essential agreement |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Penicillin (oral) | 84-89%* | 89-96%* |
| Penicillin (meningitis IV) | 92-96%* | |
| Penicillin (nonmeningitis IV) | 90-92%* | |
| Ceftriaxone (meningitis IV) | 76-90%* | 93-98%** |
| Ceftriaxone (nonmeningitis IV) | 84-91%* | |
| Amoxicillin | 84-95%* | Etest 74%, M.I.C.E. 92% |
| Meropenem | 71-91%* | Etest 86%, M.I.C.E. 78% |

Table: Essential and categorical agreement between the four commercial methods and the reference method (broth microdilution)

* The best value corresponded to Sensititre; ** The best value corresponded to Etest

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The method that correlated most closely with the reference one was Sensititre (both are dilution methods). Unfortunately because the panels do not include amoxicillin and because of the limited concentration range of meropenem, essential agreement could not be calculated for these antibiotics.

Authors recommend to proceed with caution when using Etest, M.I.C.E. or Vitek especially with invasive isolates.

Comentario (HL)

It would be necessary to perform similar studies but evaluating the clinical response of patients to treatments guided by either method providing that the breakpoints between susceptibility and resistance are very closed.

***Streptococcus agalactiae* infection in cancer patients: a five-year study.**

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Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis. 2016; 35 (6): 927-33.

Este estudio fue realizado porque las infecciones invasivas ocasionadas por *Streptococcus agalactiae* en pacientes con enfermedades de base son en general poco estudiadas. La mayoría de los reportes provienen de países desarrollados y casi no se encuentran en la literatura estudios de países de vías de desarrollo. En este trabajo, los autores estudiaron retrospectivamente las características epidemiológicas, clínicas y microbiológicas de *S. agalactiae* aislados de pacientes que poseían como enfermedad de base el cáncer y que fueron tratados en el Instituto Nacional de Referencia del Cancer de Brasil (Río de Janeiro). Los autores revisaron las historias clínicas de 263 pacientes con cáncer a los que se les aisló *S. agalactiae* en el período 2010-2014. *S. agalactiae* fue detectado en pacientes adultos con tumores sólidos (94%), infecciones relacionadas a catéteres (77,2%) o sometidos a

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procedimientos quirúrgicos (71,5%). La relación entre mortalidad asociada a *S. agalactiae* e infección, para cada categoría específica de enfermedad neoplásica fue: gastrointestinal (46%), cabeza y cuello (25%), pulmón (11%), hematológica (11%), ginecológica (4%) y genitourinaria (3%). Además se evidenció un aumento en los aislamientos con resistencia a eritromicina y clindamicina y la emergencia de aislamientos con menor sensibilidad a la penicilina. Como conclusión los autores enfatizaron que los casos de infecciones invasivas por *S. agalactiae* ocurrió en pacientes adultos con cáncer. Si bien los autores no exploraron la asociación con otras enfermedades de base, resaltaron la importancia de realizar medidas de control en este tipo de pacientes.

This study was performed because *Streptococcus agalactiae* invasive infections in patients with underlying conditions were poorly studied. They have been reported in industrialized countries and only limited studies done in developing countries were published. They study the epidemiological, clinical, and microbiological aspects of *S. agalactiae* infections in cancer patients treated at a Reference Brazilian National Cancer Institute - INCA, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The authors reviewed the clinical and laboratory records of all cancer patients identified as having invasive *S. agalactiae* disease during 2010-2014, which account 263 isolates. *S. agalactiae* infections were mostly detected among adults with solid tumors (94 %) and/or patients who have used indwelling medical devices (77.2 %) or were submitted to surgical procedures (71.5 %). Mortality rates related to invasive *S. agalactiae* infections (n = 28; 31.1 %) for the specific category of neoplastic diseases were: gastrointestinal (46 %), head and neck (25 %), lung (11 %), hematologic (11 %), gynecologic (4 %), and genitourinary (3 %). They also found an increased in *S. agalactiae* resistance to erythromycin and clindamycin and the emergence of penicillin-less susceptible isolates. A remarkable number of cases of invasive infections due to *S. agalactiae* strains were identified, mostly in adult patients. The authors did not explore the association between *S. agalactiae* disease and other underlying medical conditions and highlighted the importance of control measures in cancer patients.

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The Impact of Obesity and Diabetes on the Risk of Disease and Death due to Invasive Group A Streptococcus Infections in Adults

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Clinical Infectious Diseases 2016;62(7): 845-52.

Las infecciones invasivas por *Streptococcus* del grupo A (iGAS) son causa de alta morbilidad y mortalidad en el mundo. Se analizó en una población adulta de Estados Unidos si la obesidad y la diabetes se asociaban con iGAS o con peor pronóstico. Entre 2010 y 2012, se identificaron 2.927 casos de iGAS. Se encontró que la diabetes es un factor de riesgo para iGAS en todos los grupos raciales y la obesidad extrema es un factor de riesgo para iGAS en la raza blanca y otras razas. La obesidad también se asoció con aumento del riesgo de ingreso en la UCI y con muerte, pero no hubo asociación entre diabetes y empeoramiento. La infección de piel y partes blandas fue el único síndrome que se asoció positivamente con la obesidad y la diabetes, aunque la relación entre la diabetes y este tipo de infecciones varió según la raza. No se encontró asociación entre la obesidad extrema y la incidencia de iGAS en la raza negra. Las diferencias biológicas en la composición del cuerpo pueden variar entre grupos étnicos, por lo que el índice de masa corporal no puede medir el mismo nivel de adiposidad en los distintos grupos demográficos. Si bien en los últimos 17 años en adultos de los Estados Unidos se ha

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observado un aumento en la prevalencia de la obesidad (de 31% a 35% aproximadamente) y diabetes (de 5% a 8% aproximadamente), no hubo un aumento significativo de la incidencia global de iGAS.

Estos resultados pueden ayudar a encontrar un blanco para vacunas contra GAS que actualmente se encuentran en desarrollo. Los esfuerzos para desarrollar mejores tratamientos para las iGAS podrían mejorar el pronóstico de los pacientes obesos.

Invasive group A *Streptococcus* (iGAS) infections cause significant morbidity and mortality worldwide. We analyzed whether obesity and diabetes were associated with iGAS infections and worse outcomes among an adult US population. Between 2010 and 2012, 2,927 iGAS cases were identified. We found diabetes to be a risk factor for iGAS infections among all race groups and extreme obesity to be a risk factor for iGAS infections among whites and other races. Obesity was also associated with an increased risk of ICU admission and death, although there were no associations between diabetes and poorer outcomes. Skin/soft tissue infection (SSTIs) was the only primary syndrome that was positively associated with obesity and diabetes, although the relationship between diabetes and SSTIs varied by race. Differences in the occurrence of SSTIs seem to be driving much of the increased risk of iGAS and poorer outcomes. We did not find an overall association between extreme obesity and the incidence of iGAS infections among blacks. Biologic differences in body composition may vary across races and ethnicities, so the body mass index may not be measuring the same level of adiposity across the different demographic groups. Although increases in the adult prevalence of obesity (from approximately 31% to approximately 35%) and diabetes (from approximately 5% to approximately 8%) in the United States have been noted over the past 17 years, there has been no significant increase in the overall incidence of iGAS. These results may help target vaccines against GAS that are currently under development. Efforts to develop enhanced treatment regimens for iGAS may improve prognoses for obese patients.

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We are reproducing here the letter sent by organizers of the next Lancefield Symposium:

SAVE THE DATE

“We are proud to announce that the 20th Lancefield International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases will be held in Fiji from the 16th to 20th October 2017.

The 20th LISSSD will continue the tradition of linking laboratory excellence with high quality clinical and epidemiologic studies of streptococcal infections, but will bring a fresh and forward-looking approach with a focus on cutting-edge science, and on streptococcal disease in endemic regions. The 20th LISSSD will be held in the stunning location of the Sofitel Hotel on Denarau Island on the west coast of Fiji, providing a beautiful and relaxing setting to discuss research ideas and collaboration, and providing easy access to some of the most picturesque islands in the world.

Please visit the conference website to register your interest and be kept up-to-date with conference arrangements as they unfold.

We very much look forward to your participation in the 20th LISSSD in Fiji.

20th LISSSD Co-Chairs

Associate Professor Joseph Kado & Associate Professor Andrew Steer

20th LISSSD Vice Co-Chairs

Professor Mark Walker and Professor Pierre Smeesters

On behalf of the Organising and Scientific Committees”

