

## Retrospective Surveillance of Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of *Acinetobacter* Species at Tertiary Care Hospital In Karachi, Pakistan

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**SUMMARY.** One of the challenging concerns in the health care system is escalating antimicrobial resistance owing to irrational antibiotic use. *Acinetobacter* species are the causative agent of nosocomial infections and have been found to developed multidrug resistance to many antibiotics. WHO recommends a routine surveillance program to monitor antibiotic resistance. The study was conducted to determine the pattern of antimicrobial susceptibility of *Acinetobacter* species in a tertiary care hospital of Karachi, Pakistan. A total of 751 *Acinetobacter* species were isolated from different cultures obtained from inpatients and outpatients visiting different clinical settings of tertiary care hospital of Karachi, Pakistan. *In vitro* antimicrobial susceptibility studies were performed through disk diffusion method using different antibiotics on *Acinetobacter* species as per Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines. Chi-square test was applied for the determination of the significance of antimicrobial resistance trends. The study results showed *Acinetobacter* species were found to be highly resistant to ceftriaxone, levofloxacin, amikacin, gentamicin and cefoperazone/sulbactam. Colistin was found to highly sensitive to *Acinetobacter* species in both outpatients and inpatient clinical settings. *Acinetobacter* species showed statistically significant increase in the antibacterial resistance against amikacin ( $p = 0.000$ ), tigecycline ( $p = 0.000$ ), trimethoprim sulphamethoxazole ( $p = 0.000$ ), levofloxacin ( $p = 0.000$ ), and ciprofloxacin ( $p = 0.001$ ). It was concluded *Acinetobacter* species can be effectively treated using colistin (100%) although *Acinetobacter* species showed an alarmingly high trend of antibiotic resistance to other antibiotics.

**RESUMEN.** Una de las preocupaciones desafiantes en el sistema de atención médica es la creciente resistencia a los antimicrobianos debido al uso irracional de antibióticos. Las especies de *Acinetobacter* son el agente causante de infecciones nosocomiales y se ha encontrado que desarrollan resistencia a muchos antibióticos. La OMS recomienda un programa de vigilancia de rutina para controlar la resistencia a los antibióticos. El estudio se realizó para determinar el patrón de susceptibilidad antimicrobiana de la especie *Acinetobacter* en un hospital de atención terciaria de Karachi, Pakistán. Se aislaron un total de 751 especies de *Acinetobacter* de diferentes cultivos obtenidos de pacientes hospitalizados y ambulatorios que visitaron diferentes entornos clínicos del hospital de atención terciaria de Karachi, Pakistán. Se realizaron estudios de susceptibilidad antimicrobiana *in vitro* mediante el método de difusión en disco utilizando diferentes antibióticos en especies de *Acinetobacter* según las directrices del Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Se aplicó la prueba de chi-cuadrado para determinar la importancia de las tendencias de resistencia a los antimicrobianos. Los resultados del estudio mostraron que las especies de *Acinetobacter* son altamente resistentes a ceftriaxona, levofloxacina, amikacina, gentamicina y cefoperazona/sulbactam. Se encontró que la colistina es muy sensible a las especies de *Acinetobacter* tanto en pacientes ambulatorios como en entornos clínicos hospitalarios. Las especies de *Acinetobacter* mostraron un aumento estadísticamente significativo en la resistencia antibacteriana frente a amikacina ( $p = 0.000$ ), tigeciclina ( $p = 0.000$ ), trimetoprim sulfametoxazol ( $p = 0.000$ ), levofloxacina ( $p = 0.000$ ) y ciprofloxacina ( $p = 0.001$ ). Se concluyó que las especies de *Acinetobacter* pueden tratarse eficazmente con colistina (100%), aunque mostraron una tendencia alarmantemente alta de resistencia a otros antibióticos.

**KEY WORDS:** *Acinetobacter* species, antibiotic resistance, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, colistin, disk diffusion method.

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