

P0896

Paper Poster Session

Pneumococcus and pneumococcal diseases in the conjugate vaccine era

Serotypes and antimicrobial resistance of invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates from East Algeria (2006-2014)

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Background: *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is one of the most common bacterial causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide causing life threatening infections such as meningitis, pneumonia and bacteremia. Antibiotic resistance in *S.pneumoniae* has increased worldwide but there are few data in Algeria and more information is needed about serotype distribution of invasive *S.pneumoniae* isolates. The resistance of *S. pneumoniae* to antibiotics is gradually becoming a serious problem, which underlines the urgent need for vaccines to control pneumococcal diseases.

Material/methods: From 2006 to 2014, a total of 123 non-duplicate invasive *S. pneumoniae* isolates were identified at the university hospital from East Algeria . Isolates were obtained from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), blood and pleural fluid and when an isolate was recovered from CSF and blood, it was categorized as meningitis. Bacterial strains were grown on Columbia sheep blood Agar and incubated at 37°C under a 5% CO₂ atmosphere for 20–24 hours. All isolates were originally identified as *S.pneumoniae* based on colony morphology, Gram staining, α-hemolysis and optochin susceptibility. Antibiotic resistance was determined by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) disk diffusion test. A total of 15 antibiotics were tested including oxacillin (screening) , erythromycin, clindamycin/lincomycin, tetracycline , chloramphenicol , cotrimoxazol , vancomycin , rifampicin , levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin and linezolid. The minimum inhibitory concentration of beta-lactams and erythromycin were determined using the E test method (AB BIODISK). Serotypes (100 strains) were determined by agglutination by latex particles and/or by the Neufeld test using monovalent antisera (Statens Serum Institute).

Results: Among the 123 isolates, 56.9% (70/123) were non-susceptible to penicillin (PNSP), 39.83% (49/123) were intermediate and 17.07% (21/123) were resistant (MIC range 2-4 µg/ml). Resistance rates to other antibiotics were as follow: erythromycin (26.82%), tetracycline (16.26%), cotrimoxazol (49.59%). All the strains were susceptible to chloramphenicol, vancomycin and levofloxacin. The predominant serotypes were 14 (24%), 19F(16%), 23F (10%), and 6B (6%) accounting for 56% of tested strains. Non-penicillin susceptibility was associated with serotype 14 (29.03%), 19F (17.74%), 23F (9.67%) and 6B (6.45%). In children ≤ 5 years of age, the rate of this serotypes were 14 (28.20%), 19F (15.38%), 23F (12.82%) and 6B (10.25%). Pneumococcal vaccination is not compulsory in Algeria. The theoretical coverage of PCV13 added up to 80%.

Conclusions: Continual surveillance of antibiotic susceptibility and serotype distribution is recommended in order to plan future treatment and preventive strategies. Our results suggested that the expanded coverage offered by PCV13 will provide additional protection against pneumococcal diseases in Algeria.