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Introduction

In Japan, cooperation among hospitals on infection control has been incentivized through additional reimbursement by the universal health insurance policy since 2012. We organized Hokusetsu Infection Control Network including 8 large well-resourced hospitals and 16 small-sized hospitals in north part of Osaka in 2012, supported by local public health centers. Multidrug-resistance *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (MDRP) outbreak developed in long-term care facilities (LTCF) with 225 beds and six wards in our network. We succeeded control the first outbreak of *bla*_{GES-5} producing MDRP in Japan by a range of enhanced infection control measures which were supported by local public health centers and National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Japan (1).

Purpose

As this is the first identification of GES-5 in Japan (1), we performed surveillance of GES-5 carbapenemase producing organism in our network.

Methods

Whenever carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative organism (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* or *Enterobacteriaceae*) was cultured from a hospital in our network, we performed a multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to screen for carbapenemase genes, *bla*_{GES}, *bla*_{OXA-48-like}, *bla*_{IMP}, *bla*_{VIM}, and *bla*_{KPC} in Osaka Medical College Hospital (2) (Figure 1).

Pulse field gel electrophoresis was performed with *SpeI* restriction enzyme (3). The *bla*_{GES}-like genes were amplified with the GES-1f (50-ATGCGCTTCATTACGC-30) and Multi GES rev (50-TTTGTCCGTGCTCAGGAT-30) primers using standard PCR conditions (2). The amplified fragments were sequenced with an ABI 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA). The 826 bp sequence data (with primer sequences omitted) were analysed using the BLAST program against the GenBank database. The *aac*(6')-like genes, an aminoglycoside-resistant gene, were detected using PCR (4). We used effective molecular epidemiological technique based on the open-reading frame (ORF) distribution patterns detected by PCR to perform molecular epidemiological analysis of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which is called PCR-based ORF typing (POT) (5). The present investigation was conducted as part of a public health response to an outbreak. Neither informed consent from patients nor bioethical review was required from the associated institutions.

Results

A total of 23 MDRP cases were identified in LTCF, and both infection and colonization were included in the case. These isolates were found to be negative in combined disc tests for MBL and KPC production (6,7). The MDRP isolates from 11 patients in LTCF were found to be indistinguishable or closely related by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, and harboured the *bla*_{GES-5} gene.

The *aacA4* genes, an aminoglycoside-resistant gene, were also detected from MDRP isolates in LTCF (4). The PCR-amplified *bla*_{GES} sequences had 100% identity with *bla*_{GES-5} in the Genbank.

Next, we analyzed 29 isolates (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: 16, *Escherichia coli*: 6, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: 3, *Klebsiella oxytoca*: 2, *Enterobacter cloacae*: 1 and *Citrobacter koseri*: 1), and we detected *bla*_{IMP} in 6 isolates (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: 2, *Escherichia coli*: 3 and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: 2) in our network. We did not detect *bla*_{GES-5} (Fig. 2). DNA type of MDRP was different from MDRP producing *bla*_{GES-5} in LTCF by POT method (Fig. 3).

Figure 1

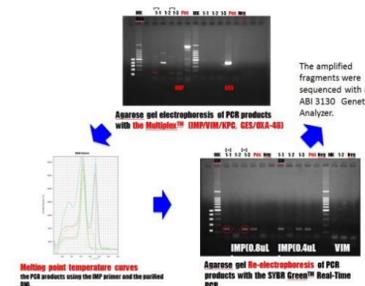


Figure 2

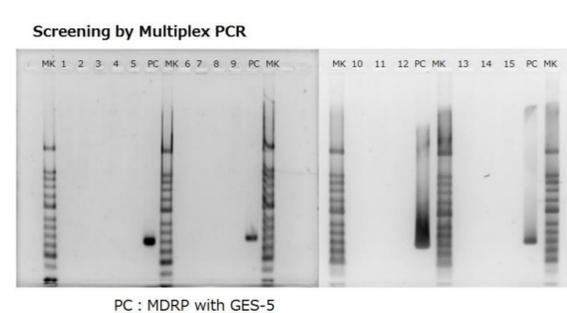


Figure 3

