

**Nosocomial outbreak of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase producing *Klebsiella oxytoca*, Austria**

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**Background:** *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase (KPC) is a member of Class A beta-lactamase that poses a serious challenge for both clinicians and clinical microbiologists. Outside the US, KPC-producing *K. pneumoniae* have recently been reported from several European countries, including Greece, Israel, Poland, Germany, or France. In contrast reports of KPC-producing *K. oxytoca* are rare. We report the first nosocomial outbreak of KPC carbapenemase producing *Klebsiella oxytoca*. **Methods:** Analysis of the outbreak was conducted using the DiversiLab System. Isolates were considered to be indistinguishable, closely related, possibly related, or unrelated. "Indistinguishable" was defined as > 98% similarity and none banding differences. **Results:** From October 2010 through February 2011 five patients were colonized (n=2) or infected (n=3) by KPC-producing *K. oxytoca*. All patients were admitted to the same room of a medical intensive care unit in Austria. Automated rep-PCR assays showed >97.9% similarity of isolated strains and confirmed the nosocomial outbreak. Details are depicted in table 1. **Conclusions:** In conclusion we report a clonal outbreak of KPC-producing *K. oxytoca* in Austria involving five patients and lasting for five months. While outbreaks of KPC-producing *K. pneumoniae* have been described frequently no outbreak of KPC-producing *K. oxytoca* has yet been described to the best of our knowledge. These observations provide some insight in the epidemiology and clinical importance of KPC carbapenemases that pose a serious clinical threat also when produced by *K. oxytoca*.

Patient	Age, years / Sex	Date of first detection	Comorbidities	LOS before detection, days	Total LOS, days	Site of first detection	Others sites detected	Number of KPC <i>K. oxytoca</i> isolates detected	Duration of colonization, days	Date of infection caused by KPC <i>K. oxytoca</i>	Site of infection caused by KPC <i>K. oxytoca</i>	Treatment outcome (final outcome)	Antimicrobial therapy before isolation of KPC <i>K. oxytoca</i>	Antimicrobial therapy for KPC <i>K. oxytoca</i> infection	Susceptibility phenotype of KPC <i>K. oxytoca</i> * (MIC; mg/l)
1	43/f	Oct 12, 2010	Ischemic stroke, DIC, ARF, AH	31	82	Urine	Tracheostoma, Tracheal aspirate, Nasal, Axilla	19	49	Oct 12, 2010	UTI, VAP	Successful (death)	Meropenem, Gentamicin, Linezolid, Moxifloxacin	FOS	AMK(2.0) FOS(2.0) TIG(0.5)
2	76/f	Oct 19, 2010	SSSS, ARF, AH, DM	11	12	Surveillance swab (Throat)	NONE	1	1	NA	NA	NA(death)	Ceftriaxone	NA	AMK(2.0) (0.125) FOS(2.0) TIG(0.5)
3	43/m	Oct 27, 2010	CAP ( <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> )	9	30	BAL	Throat, Nasal, Sputum, Groin	9	15	Oct 27, 2010	VAP	Successful (discharge)	Ceftriaxone, Moxifloxacin	FOS, TIG	AMK(4.0) (1.0) FOS(4.0) TIG(0.5)
4	70/m	Dec 14, 2010	Secondary AML, COPD	106	115	Pressure ulcer from urinary catheter	NONE	1	1	NA	NA	NA (discharge)	Meropenem, Levofloxacin	NA	AMK(2.0) (0.125) FOS(4.0) TIG(0.5)
5	89/f	Feb 16, 2011	UTI, CAD, Heart failure, CMP, ARF	26	29	BAL	NONE	1	1	Feb 16, 2011	VAP	NA(death)	Ciprofloxacin, Amox/Clav	NA	AMK(2.0) (1.5) FOS(4.0) TIG(0.25)

TABLE 1. Clinical data, strains and detected carbapenemases in KPC *Klebsiella oxytoca* outbreak, Austria, 2010- 2011.

AH, arterial hypertension; AMK, amikacin; AML, acute myeloid leukemia; Amox/Clav, Amoxicillin clavulanic acid; ARF, acute renal failure; BAL, bronchoalveolar-lavage fluid; CAD, coronary artery disease; CAP, Community acquired pneumonia; CMP, Cardiomyopathy; COL, colistin; DIC, disseminated intravascular coagulation; DM, diabetes mellitus; f, female; FOS, fosfomicin; GM, gentamicin; LOS, length of stay; m, male; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; NA, not applicable; SSSS, staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome; TIG, tigecycline; UTI, urinary tract infection; VAP, ventilator associated pneumonia.

\* MIC's were determined by the Etest method (AB BIODISK, Solna, Sweden).