

Antimicrobial resistance of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from dental plaques

Resistencia a los antimicrobianos de Staphylococcus aureus aislado de placas dentales

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Received: 24 - X - 2021

Accepted: 18 - XII - 2021

doi: 10.3306/AJHS.2022.37.01.136

Abstract

Background: *Staphylococcus aureus* is considered the pathogenic agent of dental implant infections. The present survey was performed to assess the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of *S. aureus* strains amongst the swab samples taken from the site of dental implant infection and also periimplant sulcular fluid (PISF).

Methods: A total of 70 individuals were included in this survey. Swab samples of the site of infection and also PISE fluid were taken and applied for microbial culture. Disk diffusion was used to assess the antimicrobial resistance of *S. aureus* isolates. Twenty out of 70 (28.57%) swab samples taken from the site of dental implant infection and PISF.

Results: The mean age of the studied population was 50.4 years, with a male to female ratio of 45/25. A history of alcohol and smoking was found in 25.71% and 77.5714 of the studied population. Statistically significant differences were found between male to female ratio ($P < 0.05$), distribution of non-alcoholic and alcoholic individuals ($P < 0.05$), and smokers with non-smoker individuals ($P < 0.05$). *S. aureus* strains harbored the highest resistance levels toward penicillin (90%), gentamicin (85%), tetracycline (85%), and ciprofloxacin (75%). Resistance toward rifampin (25%) and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (45%) was lower than other antimicrobials.

Conclusion: The role of antibiotic resistant-*S. aureus* strains was found as a reason of dental implant infections. However, some additional studies are needed to found more epidemiological aspects of antibiotic resistant-*S. aureus* in dental implant samples.

Keywords: *Staphylococcus aureus*, antimicrobial resistance, dental implants, prevalence.

Resumen

Antecedentes: El *Staphylococcus aureus* se considera el agente patógeno de las infecciones de los implantes dentales. El presente estudio se realizó para evaluar la prevalencia y la resistencia a los antimicrobianos de las cepas de *S. aureus* en las muestras tomadas de la zona de infección de los implantes dentales y del líquido sulcular periimplantario de la infección de los implantes dentales y del líquido sulcular periimplantario (PISF).

Métodos: Se incluyó a un total de 70 individuos en este estudio. Se tomaron muestras de hisopos del lugar de la infección y del líquido periimplantario y se aplicaron para el cultivo microbiano. Se utilizó la difusión en disco para evaluar la resistencia antimicrobiana de los aislados de *S. aureus*. Veinte de 70 (28,57%) muestras de hisopo tomadas del lugar de la infección del implante dental y del PISF.

Resultados: La edad media de la población estudiada fue de 50,4 años, con una proporción de hombres y mujeres de 45/25. Los antecedentes de alcohol y tabaquismo en el 25,71% y 77,5714 de la población estudiada. Se encontraron diferencias estadísticamente significativas entre la proporción de hombres y mujeres ($P < 0,05$), la distribución de individuos no alcohólicos y alcohólicos ($P < 0,05$), y los fumadores con los no fumadores ($P < 0,05$). Las cepas de *S. aureus* presentaron los niveles más altos de resistencia a la penicilina (90%), la gentamicina (85%), tetraciclina (85%) y ciprofloxacino (75%). La resistencia a la rifampicina (25%) y al trimetoprim-sulfametoxazol (45%) fue menor que a otros antimicrobianos.

Conclusión: Se constató el papel de las cepas de *S. aureus* resistentes a los antibióticos como motivo de las infecciones de los implantes dentales. Sin embargo, se necesitan estudios adicionales para encontrar más aspectos epidemiológicos del *S. aureus* resistente a los antibióticos en muestras de implantes dentales.

Palabras clave: *Staphylococcus aureus*, resistencia antimicrobiana, implantes dentales, prevalencia.

Introduction

Dental implant treatment is important for the recovery process in patients with developmental and acquired dental defects. Dental implants directly improve the oral cavity function and esthetics as well as a patient's speech and general well-being¹. In recent years, medical professionals have increasingly used dental implant procedures for tooth replacement. Consequently, there has been an increase in the number of patients with systemic diseases requesting dental implants to replace their missing teeth. However, the increase in demand for dental implants is also associated with an increase in complications associated with the procedure^{2,3}.

One of the major issues regarding dental implants is the infections occurrence in the site of dental plants⁴. In this regard, a small proportion of implants are not successful and may fail due to infection. The microbiota of implants is similar to that of teeth in similar clinical states. Implants that fail because of mechanical stress are colonized by species associated with healthy teeth. Infected implants are colonized by subgingival species, including *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*)⁵⁻⁷.

S. aureus is a Gram-positive and catalase-positive bacterium responsible for different kinds of infections, including Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs), wound and burn infections, soft tissue infections, food-borne infections and etc⁸. *S. aureus* has been reported to be a common cause of infection-related implant failure, which involves multiple stages, including adherence, maturation, and dispersal of bacteria⁹.

Dental implant *S. aureus* is able to cause several soft tissue infections and also infection expansion through head and neck¹⁰. Research reports that *S. aureus* bacteria harbor high resistance to diverse kinds of antibiotic drugs, particularly penicillins, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, aminoglycosides, macrolides, and fluoroquinolones¹¹⁻¹³. Resistant strains cause more severe infections for a longer period of time with higher economic losses owing to the costs of control and treatments¹⁴⁻¹⁶.

Rendering the high importance of this matter, the present survey was done to assess the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of *S. aureus* strains isolated from dental implant infections.

Materials and methods

Study criteria

The present cross sectional survey was conducted between January 2020 to January 2021 on 200 individuals who were treated with dental implants at least 12 months ago. All individuals had signs of inflammation, pain, and redness in the site of dental implant. The

inclusion and exclusion criteria were as follow:

The inclusion criteria:

1. Dental implant treatment at least 12 months ago
2. Presence of inflammation, pain and redness in the site of dental implant
3. Age > 18
4. No relevant medical conditions
5. Lack of antibiotic therapy in the past 2 months

The exclusion criteria:

1. Presence of the coronavirus diseases 2019 (COVID-19)
2. Presence of hepatitis viruses
3. Antibiotic uses in the past 2 months
4. Pregnancy or lactation
5. Malignant diseases or other diseases
6. Treated with radiotherapy or chemotherapeutic agents (chemotherapy) during the past five years
7. A history of head and neck radiation treatment owing to certain medical conditions

Written informed consents were taken from all individuals and their personal information kept secret.

Samples

Seventy out of 200 individuals were included into the study. Swab samples were taken from the site of dental implant infection without any contact with other parts of the oral cavity. Swabs were taken from both implant surfaces with inflammation and periimplant sulcular fluid (PISF) of each implant. All swabs were separately transferred to laboratory in cool boxes using the nutrient broth media.

S. aureus isolation and identification

A loopful sample of each broth media were transferred to blood agar media and incubated at 37°C for 24 h in aerobic atmosphere. *S. aureus* identification was done using some biochemical tests, including Gram staining, catalase activity, coagulated test (rabbit plasma), oxidase test, glucose O/F test, resistance to bacitracin (0.04 U), mannitol fermentation on Mannitol salt agar (Merck, Germany), urease activity, nitrate reduction, phosphatase, deoxyribonuclease (DNase, Merck, Germany) test, voges-proskaver (Merck, Germany) test and carbohydrate (xylose, sucrose, trehalose and maltose, fructose, lactose, mannose) fermentation tests¹⁷.

Antimicrobial resistance

Patterns of antibiotic resistance of the *S. aureus* isolates were studied using the simple disk diffusion technique. The Mueller-Hinton agar (Merck, Germany) medium was used for this purpose. Susceptibility of *S. aureus* isolates were tested against several types of antibiotic groups including penicillin (10 µg/disk), methicillin (5 µg/disk), gentamicin (10 µg/disk), azithromycin (15 µg/disk), erythromycin (15 µg/disk), tetracycline (30 µg/disk), ciprofloxacin (5 µg/disk), levofloxacin (5 µg/disk),

clindamycin (2 µg/disk), trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (25 µg/disk), and rifampin (5 µg/disk) antibiotic agents (Oxoid, UK) using the instruction of Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. The plates containing the discs were allowed to stand for at least 30 min before incubated at 37°C for 24 h. The diameter of the zone of inhibition produced by each antibiotic disc was measured and interpreted using the CLSI zone diameter interpretative standards. *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923 was used as quality control organism in antimicrobial susceptibility determination¹⁹⁻²¹.

Data analysis

SPSS software and chi-square test were used for data analysis. At first, obtained data were kept at the Microsoft Excel software and then transferred to the SPSS^{22,23}. *P* value > 0.05 was recognized as a significant level^{24, 25}.

Results

S. aureus distribution

A total of 70 swab samples were taken from the site of dental implant and assess for the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of *S. aureus* isolates. **Table I** shows the distribution of *S. aureus* amongst the examined samples. Twenty out of 70 (28.57%) swab samples taken from the site of dental implant infection and PISF.

Table I: *S. aureus* distribution amongst the examined samples.

Samples	N. collected	N. positive (%)
Dental implant swab	70	20 (28.57)

Demographical characters

Table II shows the demographical characters of the examined individuals. As shown, the mean age of the studied population was 50.4 years, with a male to female ratio of 45/25. A history of alcohol and smoking was found in 25.71% and 77.5714 of the studied population. Statistically significant differences were found between male to female ratio (*P* < 0.05), distribution of non-alcoholic and alcoholic individuals (*P* < 0.05), and smokers with non-smoker individuals (*P* < 0.05).

Table II: Demographical characters of the examined individuals.

Demographic characters	Individuals (n= 70)
Mean age (SD)	50.4 (13.5)
Sex (M/F)	45/25
Mean weight (SD)	70.6 (12.2)
Mean BMI (SD)	25.6 (3.8)
Alcohol (%)	18 (25.71)
Smoking (%)	54 (77.14)

Table III: Antimicrobial resistance of *S. aureus* strains isolated from dental implants

Samples (N. positive)	Resistance toward antimicrobials (%)										
	P10	Met	Gen	Az	Ert	Tet	Cip	Lev	Cln	Tr-Sul	Rif
Dental implants (20)	18 (90)	14 (70)	17 (85)	13 (65)	14 (70)	17 (85)	15 (75)	10 (50)	8 (40)	9 (45)	5 (25)

*P10: penicillin (10 µg/disk), Met: methicillin (5 µg/disk), Gen: gentamicin (10 µg/disk), Az: azithromycin (15 µg/disk), Ert: erythromycin (15 µg/disk), Tet: tetracycline (30 µg/disk), Cip: ciprofloxacin (5 µg/disk), Lev: levofloxacin (5 µg/disk), Cln: clindamycin (2 µg/disk), Tr-Sul: trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (25 µg/disk), Rif: rifampin (5 µg/disk),

Antimicrobial resistance

Table III shows the antimicrobial resistance of *S. aureus* strains isolated from dental implants. *S. aureus* strains harbored the highest resistance levels toward penicillin (90%), gentamicin (85%), tetracycline (85%), and ciprofloxacin (75%). Resistance toward rifampin (25%) and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (45%) was lower than other antimicrobials. Statistically differences were found for the resistance levels between diverse antimicrobials (*P* < 0.05).

Discussion

Several infections have been threatened the human life in recent years²⁶⁻³⁰. *S. aureus* is considered one of the most prevalence causes of hospital infections, globally^{31,32}. It is also considered the reason of some infectious cases in the dental implants³³.

The present survey showed that the *S. aureus* was isolated from 28.57% of the swab samples taken from the sites of the implant infections. Isolates were resistant to diverse classes of antimicrobial agents, particularly penicillin, gentamicin, tetracycline, and ciprofloxacin. A study conducted on Yemen³⁴, reported that 4.10% of examined samples of dental infections. Reports of this survey showed that isolates were resistant toward vancomycin (22.20%), clindamycin (26%), ciprofloxacin (29.70%), ceftizoxime (40.70%), clarithromycin (37%), augmentin (55.60%), tetracycline (74%), and erythromycin (23.30%). Minkiewicz-Zochniak et al. (2021)³⁵ reported that *S. aureus* isolates of dental implants samples were resistant toward ceftioxin (9%), gentamycin (15.20%), tobramycin (18.20%), ciprofloxacin (33.30%), levofloxacin (15.20%), erythromycin (66.70%), clindamycin (54.50%), tetracycline (12.10%), and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (3%).

Unauthorized and improper use of antibiotics and disinfectants in medical clinics, self-medication of patients with antibiotics, over-the-counter sales of antibiotics, over-prescribing of antibiotics are the main reasons for the high incidence of antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

About the main sources of dental implant infections, antibiotic-resistant bacteria can transmit from food³⁶⁻⁴¹, dental interventions, ear, nose and throat infections, sore throats, bloodstream infections, and finally imported infections from the outside of the mouth. The main important reality about these infections are their main

roles in the expansion of infections into other parts of the body, such as sinuses, head and neck, blood, root canals, and other parts of the body⁴². Thus, it is essential to know and understand other epidemiological aspects of the dental implants infections.

Conclusion

To put it in a nutshell, the present work show the role of antibiotic-resistant *S. aureus* is one of the main sources of dental implant infections. Isolates had a high resistance toward some kinds of antimicrobials and low resistance toward others. It seems that, rifampin and trimethoprim-

sulfamethoxazole owing to their low prevalence of resistance level can be suitable choices for the treatment of dental implant infections. Male was more prone to implant infections than females. Additionally, smoking is maybe the predisposing factor. However, the role of alcohol is not determined. Thus, more epidemiological surveys are needed to found more details about the *Staphylococcal* implant infections.

Interests conflict

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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