

# Molecular Identification of Bacterial Infections in Children with Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis

Rafeef Yousif Rasheed\*, Azhar A.f. Al Attraqchi, Shatha Hussin Ali

College of Medicine, Alnahrain University, Baghdad, Iraq.

\*Corresponding Author Email: [rafoof\\_2006@yahoo.com](mailto:rafoof_2006@yahoo.com)

## Abstract

**Background:** Bacteria is a major cause of peritonitis infections and it is very important to have a reliable test to detect these bacteria in peritoneal fluid by molecular methods. **Aims of the study:** Detection of the most common bacteria in peritoneal fluid from pediatric patients with acute and chronic renal failure who undergo peritoneal dialysis, through molecular diagnostic methods. **Methods:** One hundred clinical peritoneal fluid isolates were submitted to molecular methods (Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and DNA sequencing) for detection. **Results:** By molecular methods according to PCR technique, the following bacteria were identified: *S. aureus* which was seen in 17 (17.0%) of samples, *S. epidermids* which was identified 10 (10.0%) and *Pseudomonas* spp. which was identified 10 (10.0%) and according to DNA sequencing technique, the following bacteria were identified: *S. aureus* 10 (10.0%) of samples, *S. epidermids* 16 (16.0%), *E.coli* 6 (6.0%), *Bacillus* spp. 8 (8.0%), *Streptococcus* and *Micrococcus* 1 (1.0 %) for each one. **Conclusion:** The most common bacterial were the best. pathogene responsible for peritonitis were *S. aureus*, *Pseudomonas* spp., *S. epidermids*, and *E. coli*.

**Keywords:** Peritonitis, Molecular detection of bacterial peritonitis, Peritoneal dialysis infections.

## Introduction

Kidney failure is a medical condition in which the kidneys fail to adequately filter waste products from the blood. The two main forms are acute kidney injury, which is often reversible with adequate treatment, or chronic kidney disease, which is often not reversible. Peritonitis represents one of the most important complications of peritoneal dialysis (PD) [1].

Patients in established renal failure are at high risk of developing infection due to decreased immune defenses and because that dialysis techniques increase the potential of microbial contamination. The incidence of peritonitis has markedly decreased since the late 1980s, but the infection remains a significant complication of chronic PD [2].

Gram-positive cocci such as *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (*S. epidermidis*) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) are the most frequent causative agents of PD-associated peritonitis [3]. Gram-negative bacilli are the major cause of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) [4].

The most incidence bacteria in ascetic fluid cultures, included *E. coli* (46%), *Streptococcus* (30%) and *Klebsiella* (9%) [5]. Gram-positive cocci have generally accounted for less than 25% of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) [6]. *Staphylococcus aureus* accounts for a smaller proportion of peritonitis episodes (12%-20%) but is overrepresented in the more severe forms of peritonitis leading to hospitalization and catheter removal [7].

Culture method, remains the gold standard for diagnosis of bacterial typically becomes positive 24-72 hours, after sampling [8], but the development of rapid diagnostic methods has been identified as an important medical need to supplement conventional culture diagnostics and molecular techniques have potential to fulfill this need. Nucleic acid based diagnostic systems, including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and gene Sequencing methods as well as the application of DNA is well known sensitive techniques for a more rapid detection and the specific identification of pathogens [9].

## Materials and Methods

### Preparation of samples

One hundred pediatric patients suffering from acute and chronic kidney disease were enrolled in this study; the samples used in this study were peritoneal fluid. Patients were admitted to Children Welfare Teaching Hospital and Central Teaching Hospital for Children. Samples were collected during the period from May 2016 to February 2017. Patients' age range was between 8 days and 14 years.

The preparation of samples and DNA extraction and PCR done in medical microbiology laboratories of College of Medicine, Al-nahrain University. Ten ml of each peritoneal fluid sample was collected at third day of dialysis.

## Molecular Method for the Diagnosis of Bacteria

### DNA Extraction

DNA was extracted from each peritoneal fluid sample using a freezing-thawing technique [10] for cell lysis, and the QIA amp® DNA Mini Kit protocol for Gram-positive bacteria beginning with the RNase treatment step.

### Oligonucleotide Primers

The sequence of oligonucleotide primers (16S rRNA gene(universal gen) and Gap gene)that were used in conventional PCR to detect the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* [11] and Exo A gene for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* according to [12] The primers were Synthesized in Bioneer® (South Korea).Table(1).

**Table 1: Primers sequences with their relevant product size for bacteria**

Gen	Primer ID	Sequence 5'-3'	Annealing temperature	Product length
16S rRNA	F	GGAATTCAAAGG AATTGACG GGGGC	50°C	479 bp
	R	CGGGATC CCAGGCCCGGAACGTATTAC		
Gap	F	ATG GTTTTGGTAGAATTGGTCGTTTA	50°C	933 bp
	R	GACATTTTCGTTATCA TACCAAGCTG		
Exo A	F	GACAACGCCCTCAGCATCACCAGC	68°C	396 bp
	R	CGCTGGCCCATTCGCTCCAGCGCT		

### Polymerase Chain Reaction PCR

Procedure of PCR had done according to [13] Tables (2, 3).

**Table 2: PCR reaction mixture composition used for amplification of 16S rRNA, Gap genes for *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*(Conventional PCR)**

Reagents	(Volume /µl )
Forward Primer	1
Reverse Primer	1
DNA template	1
PCR master mix	5
(DNase free) water	12
Total volume	20

**Table 3: The PCR thermo cycler program for bacterial genes**

Steps	Temperature	Time	Cycles
Initial denaturation	94°C	5 min	
Denaturation	94°C	60 sec	30
Annealing	60°C	60 sec	
Elongation	72°C	70 sec	
Final extension	72°C	10min	
Hold	4°C		

### Electrophoresis

DNA samples were electrophoresed by horizontal agarose gel electrophoresis according to [14].

### Gene Sequencing

PCR product for 16S rRNA gene of bacteria was sent for Sanger sequencing using ABI3730XL, automated DNA sequence, by

Macrogen Corporation-Korea. The results were received by email then analyzed using genius software.

## Results

### DNA Extraction

The final concentration of extracted DNA was ranged from 4.9 to 167.8ng/µl and purity ranged from 1.17 to 1.9.

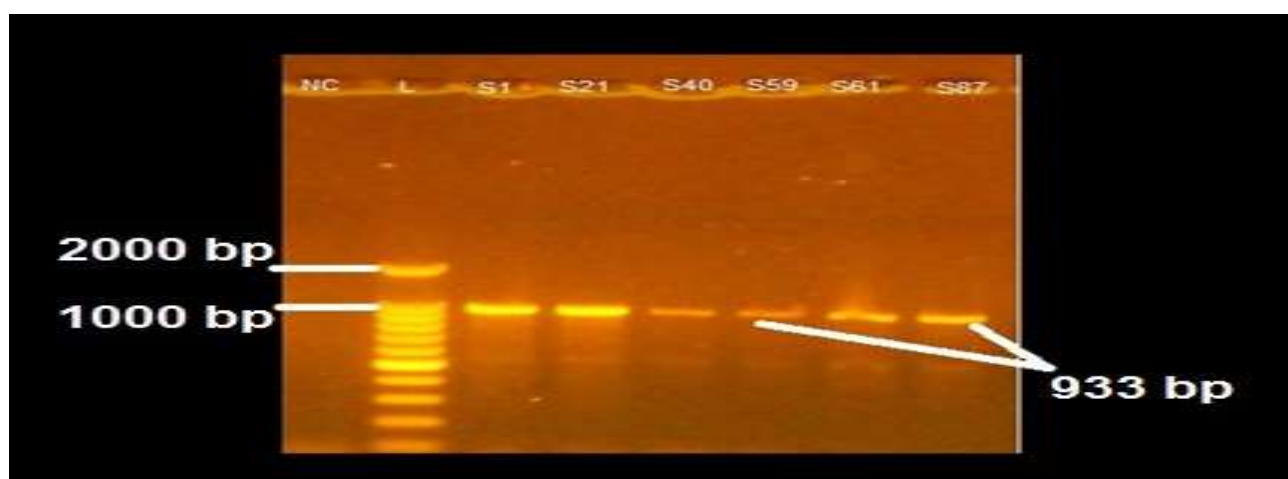
## PCR and DNA Sequencing Technique for Bacterial Identification

According to PCR technique, the following bacteria were identified: *S. aureus* which was seen in 17 (17.0%) of samples, *S. epidermids* which was identified 10 (10.0%) and *Pseudomonas* spp. which was identified 10

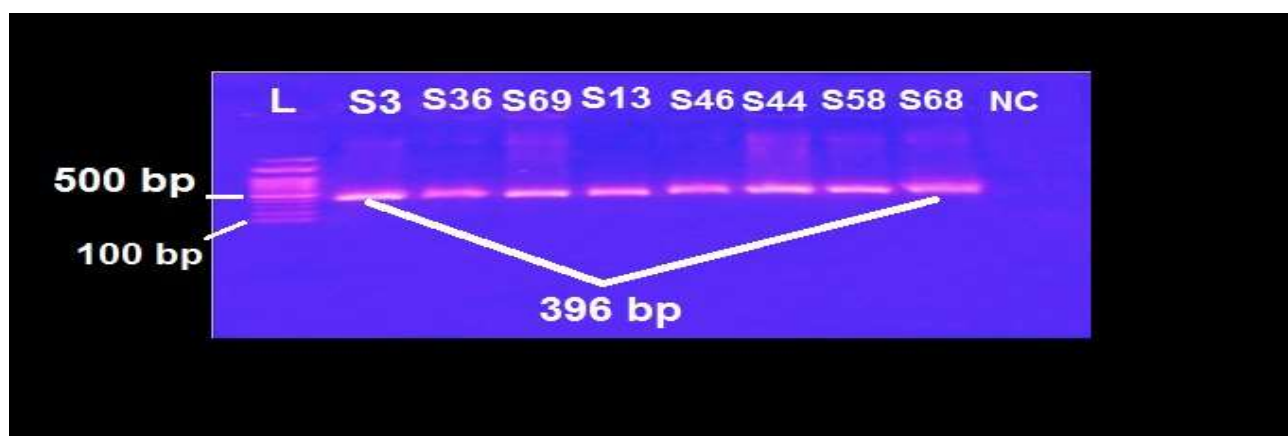
(10.0%), as shown in Table (3), Figures (1, 2). According to DNA sequencing technique, the following bacteria were identified: *S. aureus* 10(10.0%) of samples, *S. epidermids* 16(16.0%), *E.coli* 6 (6.0%), *Bacillus* spp. 8 (8.0%), *Streptococcus* and *Micrococcus* 1 (1.0%) for each one, as shown in Table (3).

**Table 4: Bacterial isolated by PCR and Sequencing.**

Technique	Bacteria	No.	%
PCR	<i>S.aureus</i>	17	17.0
	<i>S.epidermids</i>	10	10.0
	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp.	10	10.0
SEQ	<i>S.aureus</i>	10	10.0
	<i>S.epidermids</i>	16	16.0
	<i>E.coli</i>	6	6.0
	<i>Bacillus</i>	8	8.0
	<i>Streptococcus</i>	1	1.0
	<i>Micrococcus</i>	1	1.0



**Figure 1: Gel electrophoresis of conventional PCR products of Gap gene for *S.aureus* (933 bp); negative control; MW, 2000bp ladder; (2% agarose, 5v/cm (70)1hr)**



**Figure 2: Gel electrophoresis of conventional PCR products of Exo A gene for *Pseudomonas* spp.(396 bp); negative control; MW,1000bp ladder; (2% agarose,5v/cm (70)1hr)**

## Discussion

### Isolated Bacteria by PCR and DNA Sequencing Technique

#### PCR Technique

In the present study, and according to PCR technique, the following bacteria were diagnosed: *S. aureus* which was seen in

17(17.0 %) of samples, *S. epidermids* which was isolated from 10 (10.0%) of samples and *Pseudomonas* spp. which represent 10(10.0%) of samples. In a study carried out by Chang *et al.*, (2014)[15],PCR coupled with electro spray ionization mass spectrometry (PCR/ESI-MS) was compared with culture for pathogen detection in peritoneal dialysis

(PD)-related peritonitis, of 21 samples of PD effluent, PCR/ESI-MS identified microorganisms in 18 (86%) samples, including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in 1 culture-negative sample. Of 15 double-positive samples, PCR/ESI-MS and culture reached levels of agreement of 100% (15/15) and 87.5% (7/8) at the genus and species levels, respectively.

This means that the results of coupled (PCR/ESI-MS) incompatible to these obtained by culture method in sensitivity, but PCR alone is not sensitive enough in comparison with the gold standard method (culture). In another study, broad-range PCR (16S PCR) coupled with high-resolution melt analysis (HRMA) was compared with standard culture techniques for diagnosis of Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) in 106 peritoneal fluid samples from patients with suspected Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP). The sensitivity and specificity for (16SrRNA) PCR for detecting eubacterial DNA compared with those of standard culture techniques were 100% (17/17) and 91.5% (85/89), respectively [16].

Some PCR-based methods for detecting bacterial DNA have also been applied to the microbiological diagnosis of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) (Soriano *et al.*, 2011 [17]. However, these methods have received several major criticisms regarding the detection of bacterial DNA. First, most previous studies enrolled a limited number of patients, and a recent report including a large number of patients showed poor results for diagnosis. Furthermore, previous studies have revealed serious concerns regarding contamination of bacterial DNA in the PCR system [18].

Commercially available Taq-polymerases may be contaminated with bacteria DNA (18). Moreover, the reagents used for DNA extraction procedures carry a risk of exposing the clinical samples to exogenous bacterial DNA [19]. Although PCR is a very sensitive method for detecting DNA, PCR-based methods display discrepant and controversial findings with respect to diagnostic performance in detecting the causative pathogen(s) in bacterial peritonitis patients [17], perhaps, or at least in part, due to the problems described above. Therefore, no definitive PCR-based method for providing

an accurate diagnosis of bacterial peritonitis has been established. In addition, antibiotic therapy may reduce the Bacterial load and may also alter the bacterial target by damaging the bacterial cell wall/membrane, releasing the DNA and providing a free-circulating rather than a cell-associated DNA source [20].

If free DNA is targeted, then uncomplicated commercial nucleic acid purification systems can be used, whereas if the DNA source is cell-associated, steps to lyse the bacterial cell must be applied (White & Barnes, 2009) [20].

### DNA Sequencing Technique

In the present study, according to DNA sequencing technique, the following bacteria were diagnosed: *S. aureus* as 10 (10.0 %) of samples, *S. epidermidis* 16 (16.0 %) of samples, *E.coli* as 6 (6.0%) of samples, *Bacillus* spp. 8 (8.0%), *Streptococcus* spp. as 1 (1.0%) of samples and *Micrococcus* spp. as 1 (1.0%) of samples. These results also solidify the fact that the most common organisms associated with bacterial peritonitis are *S.aureus* and *S. epidermidis* and this is similar to what is stated in most published articles (Renaud *et al.*, 2011 [21]; Akoh, 2012 [22].

To identify the bacterial species, 16S rRNA gene sequencing was used. Based on that method, the most common colonizing bacterium was *S. epidermidis*, found on 5 of 11 culture-positive catheters [23]. Method, while molecular method identified the etiological agents in 40 (88.9 %) samples [24].

This higher sensitivity of DNA sequencing is controversial to current findings. Despite the high potential application of the 16S rRNA and ITS gene sequencing in comparison to culture method to detect the vast majority of etiological agents directly from peritoneal fluids; it could not be used as a standalone test as it lacks sensitivity to identify some bacterial species due to high genetic similarity in some cases and inadequate database in Gene Bank.

However, it could be used as a supplementary test to the culture method especially in the diagnosis of culture negative peritonitis [24].

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