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Original Article

Assessment of Antimicrobial Resistance and Susceptibility Pattern of UTI-causing Microorganisms in Southern Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract

Background: Bacterial resistance against antibiotics has become a global challenge and measures are needed to stop this. The aim of this study is to highlight this problem and to determine the antibiotic susceptibility pattern of organisms in Southern Punjab, Pakistan. **Method**: This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in Sheikh Zayed Medical Hospital, Rahim Yar Khan. The urine samples obtained from 4 different wards were sent for culture and sensitivity analysis. 9 antibiotics (Nitrofurantoin, Fosfomycin, Ciprofloxacin, Ceftriaxone, Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole, Norfloxacin, Linezolid, Amoxicillin, and Imipenem) were tested against 5 isolated strains of uropathogens using Kirby Bauer disk diffusion test. The sensitivity reports were obtained, and data points were entered into a spreadsheet and analysed using SPSS. **Results**: Out of 101 samples of uropathogens that showed positive growths (42.08%), 53 (52.4%) were from male patients and 48 (47.5%) positive growths were from females. *Escherichia Coli* had the highest positive growths (58%) followed by *Pseudomonas* (19%) *Klebsiella* (13%), *Staphylococcus Aureus* (7%) and *Coagulase-negative staphylococci* (3%). Imipenem was the most sensitive drug whereas the highest resistance by organisms was developed against TMP-SMX. No significant association(p>0.05) was found between any of the anti-microbial drugs and *Escherichia coli*, gram-positive uropathogens, and gram negative uropathogens. **Conclusion**: The high increasing rate of broad-spectrum antibiotics resistance suggests that diagnostic and culture tests should be encouraged in hospitals. Based on these test results, appropriate antibiotics should be prescribed. The limitations include the inability to distinguish between nosocomial and community-acquired urinary tract infections and also did not consider other demographic factors like age.

Introduction

Antibiotics play a vital role in the treatment of infectious diseases by bacterial stasis or lysis. However, the increased and improper use of antibiotics has led to the development of antibiotic resistance, where bacteria acquire the ability to survive antibiotic treatment.[1] Bacteria employ various mechanisms to develop resistance, including enzyme production, reduced drug sensitivity, and possession of numerous mobilizable genes within bacterial populations. Additionally, patient self-medication, over-prescribing, and incomplete dosing significantly contribute to bacterial resistance.[2]

In the context of antibiotic resistance, Pakistan, as a developing nation, faces the challenge of multiple drug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant bacteria.[3] An example of this issue is the synergistic action of Azithromycin and fluoroquinolones in treating co-infections alongside COVID-19, which has led to the associated overuse of antibiotics and the potential for antimicrobial resistance.[4] Given the prevalent misuse and overuse of antibiotics in Pakistan, understanding susceptibility patterns and developing effective strategies are imperative, especially since there has been no research of this kind conducted in the lower Punjab region, necessitating immediate action to establish efficient measures.

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are prevalent infectious diseases, particularly in developing countries. The emergence of drug resistance among bacterial uropathogens has further complicated the problem, giving rise to antibiotic-resistant species.[5] The 2017-2018 GLASS (Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System) report indicated over 70% resistance to ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin in Escherichia coli in Pakistan. To tackle this issue effectively, it is crucial to determine the susceptibility patterns of uropathogens to specific antibiotics to minimize exacerbation of resistance. Moreover, the implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs is essential to enhance healthcare quality and ensure appropriate antibiotic use.[6] These collective measures will enable healthcare professionals to manage urinary tract infections more effectively, employing a targeted approach that reduces recurrence rates and achieves higher cure rates within shorter durations.

The primary objective of our study is to identify UTI causing pathogens and their antimicrobial susceptibility patterns based on gender, gram-staining, and hospital ward. This research aims to improve treatment efficacy and reduce recurrence rates. Additionally, our study seeks to promote culture testing and the practice of appropriate prescription of antibiotics based on culture and susceptibility patterns. By addressing these

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objectives, we aim to contribute valuable insights that will aid in the development of more effective treatment strategies for UTIs, while also improving appropriate antibiotic prescribing practices.

Methods

Study Design and Setting

The study was a descriptive cross-sectional study conducted at Sheikh Zayed Medical Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab, Pakistan from May to July 2022. The purpose of the study was to investigate the prevalence of urinary tract infections (UTIs) in patients admitted to the medicine, gynecology, surgery, and nephrology wards. These departments were chosen due to the high burden of UTI patients in them, as observed by the researchers during their hospital rotations. The study was evaluated using the STROBE checklist for cross sectional studies. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Research Board Sheikh Zayed Medical College/Hospital, with the reference No: 479/IRB/SZMC/SZH, and written permission was obtained from the head of each department. The researchers had no potential conflicts of interest, and no external funding for the study.

Participants

Patients presenting with uncomplicated UTI symptoms (abdominal pain, burning micturition, cloudy or foul-smelling urine) were included in the study, while those at high risk of complications or in critical condition were excluded. Immunocompromised, septic, and patients with other comorbidities like diabetes and those who had taken antibiotics in the last 24 hours were also excluded. This was done as such patients may require different management approaches that may confound the results. This exclusion criterion resulted in a higher proportion of female patients in the study, as the gynecology ward primarily admitted female patients. Simple random sampling was employed.

Data Collection

Patients included in the study provided informed consent and their data was collected using a self-developed questionnaire which included variables such as name, age, gender, and ward name. The questionnaire was pre-tested through trial interviews to improve question-asking methods and variables. Based on previous studies and hospital records, a study sample size of more than 200 was expected between the period of study from May to July 2022.

Confirmation of Diagnosis

Early morning mid-stream urine samples were collected from the patients and stored in sterile urine collection containers. The urine culture samples were sent to the microbiological culture sensitivity laboratory for analysis. Positive results were determined when significant bacterial growth > 10^5 CFU/ml was observed. Colony study and biochemical tests were performed to identify the microorganisms. Some of the disks didn't show positive bacterial growth, which could be due to other microorganisms like fungi, however only UTI causing bacteria were studied in this study.

Antibiotic Sensitivity Testing

MacConkey agar was used to subculture the colonies and obtain pure growth of the microorganisms. The Kirby Bauer disk diffusion test was conducted to assess the sensitivity of the isolates to ten different antibiotics. The ten antibiotics used in the procedure were furnished separately as discs to the laboratory by the researchers, exclusively for use on these urine samples. The measurement of the zone of inhibition of bacterial growth was performed, and the results were compared with the guidelines of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). All intermediate results were considered as sensitive too.

Antibiotics and Sensitivity Reports

The organisms were subjected to various groups of antibiotic discs from Oxoid, including Nitrofurantoin (300µg), Fosfomycin (50µg), Ciprofloxacin (5µg), Ceftriaxone (30µg), Trimethoprim/ Sulfamethoxazole (1:19 and 25µg), Norfloxacin (5µg), Linezolid (30µg), Amoxicillin (30µg), and Imipenem (10µg). The sensitivity reports of all patients were individually studied. Then the data points were entered into a spreadsheet.

Statistical Analysis

The data was analyzed using IBM's Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 26). Descriptive statistics, including numbers, frequencies, and percentages, were used to describe the data. There was no missing data. Age was the only quantitative variable. Tables and charts were utilized to display the data, and the association between categorical variables was assessed using the Chi-square test. A standard p-value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant. The chi-square test was also conducted to assess the significance of antimicrobial drugs against gram-positive cocci (GPC) and gram-negative bacteria separately. No sensitivity analysis was applicable.

Results

The study analyzed 240 urine samples from suspected urinary tract infection cases admitted to the departments of medicine, gynecology, surgery, and nephrology. There was no attrition and no missing data or loss of patients to follow-up between admission and diagnosis and arrival of antimicrobial culture and sensitivity report. Among the 101 positive growths for uropathogens, 53 were male patients, and 48 were female patients. The most common organism was *Escherichia Coli (E. coli)* with a growth rate of 58%, followed by *Pseudomonas* (19%), *Klebsiella* (13%), *Staphylococcus Aureus (S. Aureus)* (7%), and *Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS)* (3%). ***Table 1*** presents the growth rate of uropathogens and the drugs to which they are sensitive. ***Figure 1*** illustrates the distribution of microorganisms by gender of patients. The medicine ward had the highest growth rate (45%), followed by gynecology (41.86%), surgery (41.17%), and nephrology (38.75%). The uropathogens were further tested for antimicrobial susceptibility patterns. The results of urine culture analysis from the samples collected in these wards are summarized in ***Figure 2***, presenting the growth rates and distribution of these organisms.

Table 1. **Microorganisms and their Sensitivity in Percentage to Various Antibiotics.**

Microorganism	Total Growth	Antibiotic Used								
		NF [a]	CIP [b]	FOS [c]	CRO [d]	SXT [e]	NOR [f]	LNZ [g]	AMC [h]	IMP [i]
Escherichia Coli	59	45.76	42.37	50.84	55.93	27.11	37.28	45.76	50.84	77.96
Pseudomonas	19	36.84	31.57	42.10	42.10	21.05	26.31	63.15	31.57	68.42
Klebsiella	13	38.46	30.76	30.76	46.15	30.76	38.46	53.8	46.15	76.92
S. Aureus	7	42.85	28.57	57.14	57.14	28.57	28.57	42.85	57.14	71.42
CoNS [j]	3	33.33	33.33	66.66	66.66	0	33.33	33.33	66.66	100
	101									

Legend: [a] Nitrofurantoin, [b] Ciprofloxacin, [c] Fosfomycin, [d] Ceftriaxone, [e] Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole, [f] Norfloxacin, [g] Linezolid, [h] Amoxicillin, [i] Imipenem, [j] Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS). The numbers indicate in percentage the sensitivity of that uropathogen to the antibiotic used. For instance, in E. Coli 45.76% percentage of the positive growth cultures were sensitive to Nitrofurantoin and so on.

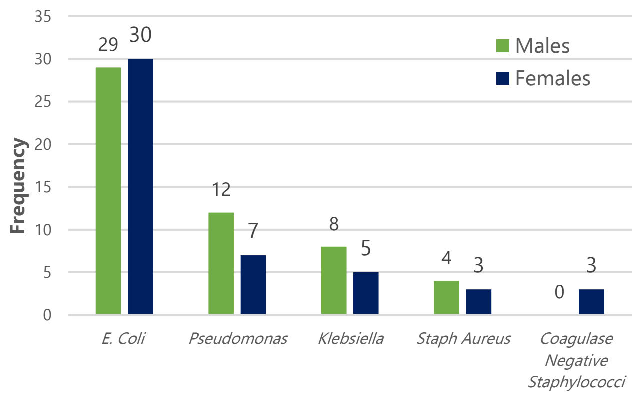
In this study, a total of 9 antibiotics, including Nitrofurantoin (NF), Ciprofloxacin (CIP), Fosfomycin (FOS), Ceftriaxone (CRO), Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (SXT), Norfloxacin (NOR), Linezolid (LNZ), Amoxicillin (AMC), and Imipenem (IMP), were checked for their sensitivity and resistance against the 5 organisms: *E. coli, Pseudomonas, Klebsiella, S. Aureus, and CoNS.*

Among gram-negative organisms, Imipenem showed the highest sensitivity (76%), while the highest resistance was observed against TMP-SMX (74%). The findings of resistance and sensitivity to these antibiotics by all uropathogens in general are summarized in ***Figure 3***. Gram-positive cocci demonstrated the highest sensitivity to Imipenem (80%) and the highest resistance to TMP-SMX (80%). Their sensitivity and resistance to other antibiotics is depicted in ***Figure 4***. Notably, there was a difference in sensitivity between gram-positive cocci and gram-negative uropathogens, particularly in relation to linezolid, as well as quantitative differences among Amoxicillin, Fosfomycin, and Ceftriaxone.

Regarding specific organisms, *E. coli* exhibited the highest sensitivity to IMP (78%) and the highest resistance against SXT (73%). *Pseudomonas* displayed the highest resistance against SXT (79%), while it showed high sensitivity to both LNZ (63%) and IMP (68%). *S. Aureus* isolates exhibited the highest resistance against CIP, SXT, and NOR (71%), while its sensitivity was highest against IMP (71%), followed by FOS and CRO (50%). *Klebsiella* showed the highest sensitivity to IMP (76.92%), followed by LNZ (53.8%), CRO, AMC (46.15%), and NF (38.46%). It displayed the highest resistance against SXT, CIP, and FOS (69.24%).

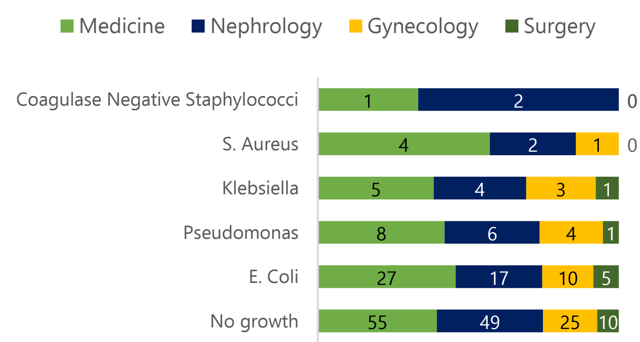
CoNS showed maximum sensitivity to IMP (100%) and maximum resistance to SXT (100%) among the few samples that showed its growth. The antimicrobial sensitivity pattern of *E. coli* based on the tissue culture sensitivity report is depicted in ***Figure 5***, while ***Figure 6*** presents the antimicrobial sensitivity pattern for *Pseudomonas*, and ***Figure 7*** reports the susceptibility pattern of *S. aureus*.

Figure 1. **Distribution of the Grown Microorganisms by Sex.**



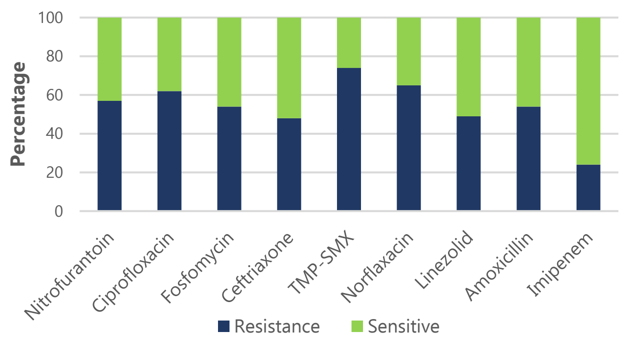
Legend: The distribution of microorganisms by patient sex includes 59 patients with *Escherichia coli* (29 males, 30 females), 19 with *Pseudomonas* (12 males, 7 females), 13 with *Klebsiella* (8 males, 5 females), 7 with *Staphylococcus aureus* (4 males, 3 females), and 3 with coagulase-negative staphylococci (0 males, 3 females).

Figure 2. **Growth Results by Ward of Sample Origin.**



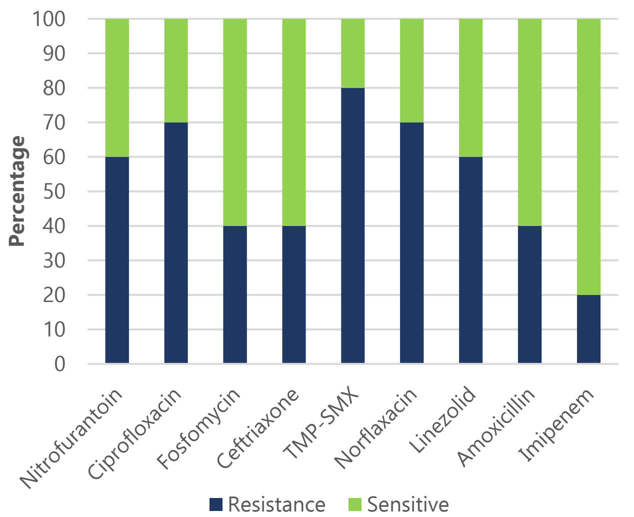
Legend: Uropathogens isolated from urine cultures by ward: Medicine ward had 45 positive growths—27 *E. coli*, 8 *Pseudomonas*, 5 *Klebsiella*, 4 *Staphylococcus aureus*, and 1 coagulase-negative staphylococci. There were no coagulase-negative staphylococci in the Gynecology or Surgery wards, and no *Staphylococcus aureus* causing UTIs in the Surgery ward.

Figure 3. **Effectiveness of Various Antimicrobial Drugs Against Common Gram-Negative Pathogens.**



Legend: Resistance (R) and sensitivity (S) rates: Nitrofurantoin (57% R, 43% S), Ciprofloxacin (62% R, 38% S), Fosfomycin (54% R, 46% S), Ceftriaxone (48% R, 52% S), TMP-SMX (74% R, 26% S), Norfloxacin (65% R, 35% S), Linezolid (49% R, 51% S), Amoxicillin (54% R, 46% S), and Imipenem (24% R, 76% S).

Figure 4. **Effectiveness of Various Antimicrobial Drugs Against Common Gram Positive Uropathogens.**



Legend: Resistance (R) and sensitivity (S) rates: Nitrofurantoin (60% R, 40% S), Ciprofloxacin (70% R, 30% S), Fosfomycin (40% R, 60% S), Ceftriaxone (40% R, 60% S), TMP-SMX (80% R, 20% S), Norfloxacin (70% R, 30% S), Linezolid (60% R, 40% S), Amoxicillin (40% R, 60% S), and Imipenem (20% R, 80% S).

With the Chi-square test, no significant association was found between any of the antimicrobial drugs and *E. coli* growth or sensitivity to Imipenem. No statistically significant findings were also observed in the efficacy of antimicrobial drugs against Gram-positive cocci (GPC) and Gram-negative bacteria separately.

Discussion

In the present study, we observed an increasing trend of resistance to commonly used antibiotics among uropathogens. The culture of bacteria revealed a positivity ratio of approximately 42%, with multiple isolated strains exhibiting resistance to the tested drugs. The susceptibility pattern differed between gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. Gram-negative organisms showed increasing resistance to traditional urinary tract infection antibiotics such as trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, norfloxacin, and ciprofloxacin, while most of them remained susceptible to ceftriaxone, linezolid, and imipenem. Gram-positive organisms demonstrated moderate susceptibility to ceftriaxone, fosfomycin, and amoxicillin, with imipenem being the most effective. Fluoroquinolones and other antibiotics had reduced effectiveness against most gram-positive strains. Coagulase-negative staphylococci were only found in women, and the medicine ward exhibited a higher incidence of urinary tract infections compared to other wards. *E. coli* affected more females than males, indicating a higher risk for females.[7] Amoxicillin and fosfomycin showed relatively better efficacy against *E. coli* compared to other gram-negative bacteria, while linezolid was less effective. These findings are consistent with previous research conducted in Europe.[8] *Pseudomonas* displayed high resistance to all antibiotics except imipenem and linezolid. The resistance observed can be attributed to various factors, including self-medication, overprescription, insufficient doses, and inappropriate antibiotic usage.

Limitations of this study should be acknowledged. Firstly, the study was unable to differentiate between nosocomial (hospital-acquired) urinary tract infections and those caused through other colonization routes. As the urine cultures were obtained from hospital patients, the identified microbes could represent multi-drug resistant strains present in the hospital environment, acquired by the patients due to stress, immunocompromise states, or other hospital-related factors.[9] This could give rise to selection bias as the selected population was from hospital settings and did not include patients treated in community settings. Additionally, the male-to-female patient ratio is not truly representative due to some data being primarily collected from the gynecology ward, which predominantly caters to women patients. The study also did not consider factors such as age, patient awareness, and habits related to self-medication, immune status, socio-economic status, hospital stay and other co morbidities. These variables can act as confounding factors and may create a bias. Human errors during antimicrobial disc sensitivity testing are also possible. Although the chi-square test showed no significance between the usage of any drug and the bacteria's sensitivity or resistance, further analysis with a larger sample size is warranted to confirm these findings. Additional studies should also be undertaken of patients with UTI with comorbidities, to study the disease trends in them.

Although the study was well-designed and conducted with ethical considerations, there is a chance of error in the procedures used, such as the disc sensitivity test and the delay between disc application and incubation while measuring the reading zone, creating a risk of measurement bias. This could be reduced by proper placing of the disk and timely measurements of the reading zone.

The growth positivity rate observed in the study is within a reasonable range, indicating the proficiency of the antimicrobial laboratory technique with minimal chances of missing potential

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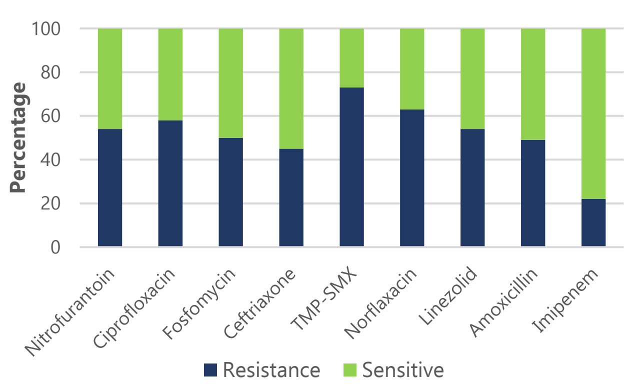
organism growth in the culture. *E. coli* and other gram-negative bacteria are commonly associated with UTIs due to their virulence factors that facilitate colonization and ascending infection in the urinary tract. *E. coli*, in particular, possesses specific Type I fimbriae and P pili containing hemolysin and other toxins, contributing to its pathogenicity in causing urinary tract infections. On the other hand, fewer gram-positive organisms were isolated in urine cultures of UTIs. It is important to note that UTIs can occur in patients within hospitals, even if they were not part of the initial presenting complaint.[10] For instance, post-operative patients in surgery or gynecology wards, particularly those who underwent caesarean section, were screened for urine culture, and some were found to have infections.

The reduced resistance to Imipenem across all bacteria indicates appropriate prescription practices for this drug and suggests a lower prevalence of carbapenemase-producing bacteria, especially among *E. coli* and *Klebsiella*, in the region. However, this also suggests a higher occurrence of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing bacteria, rendering commonly used antibiotics for other infectious diseases less effective. Previous in-vitro studies have also shown increased effectiveness of Imipenem,[11] but it is worth noting that research from India indicates resistance to multiple carbapenems.[12] It is important to reconsider the use of Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) as an antibiotic choice due to the high rate of resistance against it, despite its supposed activity against *Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) and gram-negative bacteria causing UTIs. Fluoroquinolones, especially the newer generations, were previously considered first-line therapy for complicated UTIs and pyelonephritis. However, a considerable amount of literature now refutes their use in UTIs for various reasons.[13] This overprescription of fluoroquinolones may have led to the development of resistance not only against these drugs but also against nitrofurantoin, which was commonly used in cystitis. Commonly used drugs like ceftriaxone and amoxicillin show average rates of sensitivity and resistance, indicating that these drugs could become ineffective if they continue to be self-medicated and prescribed without appropriate history and microbial culture. Fosfomycin, on the other hand, still retains some effectiveness against gram-positive strains, possibly due to its lesser usage and lower prevalence.[14] The increasing resistance to linezolid may be attributed to the high prevalence of MRSAand the drug being the first-line treatment for multi-drug resistant organisms, leading to its overuse.

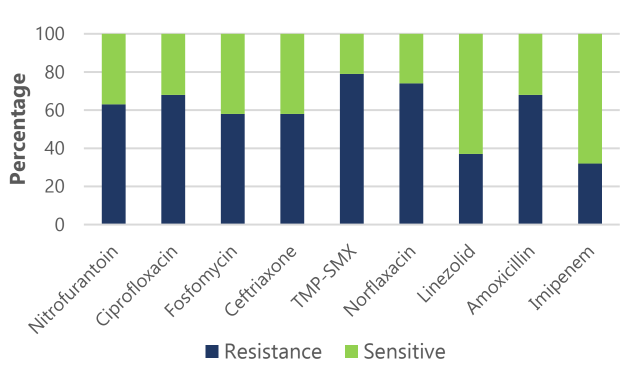
The findings from this study have significant implications and can be generalized, particularly among hospital populations worldwide. By looking at the susceptibility pattern of UTI causing pathogens various hospitals in the region should monitor their prescribed antibiotics and reassess their usage. A need for more culture and sensitivity-based practice would also be felt to reinforce the better prescription of antibiotics. Such practices will be particularly useful in low-income areas or in populations struggling with hygiene, both of which will have significant overlap with the area where the study was conducted as well. *E. coli, Klebsiella, and Pseudomonas*, which were studied for their

Figure 5. **Antimicrobial Drug Sensitivity and Resistance Pattern for *E. Coli.***



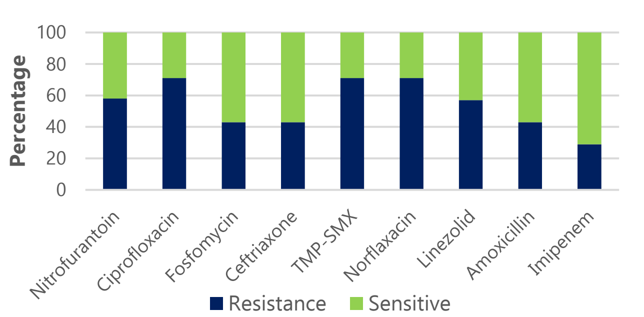
Legend: Resistance (R) and sensitivity (S) rates: Nitrofurantoin (54% R, 46% S), Ciprofloxacin (58% R, 42% S), Fosfomycin (50% R, 50% S), Ceftriaxone (45% R, 55% S), TMP-SMX (73% R, 27% S), Norfloxacin (63% R, 37% S), Linezolid (54% R, 46% S), Amoxicillin (49% R, 51% S), and Imipenem (22% R, 78% S).

Figure 6. **Antimicrobial Drug Sensitivity and Resistance Pattern for Pseudomonas.**



Legend: Resistance (R) and sensitivity (S) rates: Nitrofurantoin (63% R, 37% S), Ciprofloxacin (68% R, 32% S), Fosfomycin (58% R, 42% S), Ceftriaxone (58% R, 42% S), TMP-SMX (79% R, 21% S), Norfloxacin (74% R, 26% S), Linezolid (37% R, 63% S), Amoxicillin (68% R, 32% S), and Imipenem (32% R, 68% S).

Figure 7. **Antimicrobial Drug Sensitivity and Resistance Pattern for S. Aureus.**



Legend: Resistance (R) and sensitivity (S) rates: Nitrofurantoin (58% R, 42% S), Ciprofloxacin (71% R, 29% S), Fosfomycin (43% R, 57% S), Ceftriaxone (43% R, 57% S), TMP-SMX (71% R, 29% S), Norfloxacin (71% R, 29% S), Linezolid (57% R, 43% S), Amoxicillin (43% R, 57% S), and Imipenem (29% R, 71% S).

antimicrobial susceptibility patterns in urine cultures, are causative agents of both community- and hospital-acquired infections.[15] The increasing resistance to most antibiotics observed in these pathogens not only affects patients with UTIs but also those with other infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and sepsis, who may be prescribed commonly used antibiotics like ceftriaxone, amoxicillin, and linezolid without experiencing improvement due to resistance against them. To further explore these correlations and trends, future studies can investigate the antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of other frequently encountered infectious diseases. It would be valuable to isolate and identify specific strains of microorganisms with these resistance patterns and conduct genomic studies to explore the underlying mechanisms of resistance. Antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals should be promoted and implemented, along with systematic reviews of antibiotic prescriptions across all hospital wards.[16] It is crucial to increase awareness among healthcare professionals regarding the importance of microbial culture and sensitivity evaluation and to educate the general population about the risks of self-medication and microbial resistance.[17] Additionally, there is a need for the development of improved diagnostic features and testing methods that can differentiate not only between bacterial and viral infections but also among different bacterial infections. Global collaboration is essential to establish effective management plans based on accurate diagnosis.

Summary – Accelerating Translation

Title: Assessment of Antimicrobial Resistance and Susceptibility Pattern of UTI-causing microorganisms in Southern Punjab, Pakistan.

Main Problem to Solve: As use of antibiotics becomes commonplace without complete adherence or protocol, bacteria have started to emerge that are resistant to traditionally prescribed antibiotics. This study determines how some urinary tract infection causing organisms have become resistant to some common antibiotics.

Aim of Study: The aim of the study is to enhance treatment approaches, improve prescription practices, encourage microorganism culture and antibiotic sensitivity testing in hospital settings as well as encouraging antibiotic stewardships. Our goal is to provide valuable statistics regarding resistance patterns of UTI-causing microorganisms in the region as well as raise awareness and encourage health professionals to exercise caution in their prescription decisions and self-prescription among patients.

Methodology: Early morning mid-stream urine samples were collected from different wards of Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Rahim yar Khan. Informed consent and data like age, and ward name was collected through a self-developed questionnaire. Among those with positive growths were sent to microbiological culture sensitivity laboratory for analysis against 5 common antibiotics: Nitrofurantoin, Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin, TMP-SMX, Imipenem, Amoxicillin, Ceftriaxone, Fosfomycin, Linezolid. Kirby Bauer disk diffusion test was conducted to assess the sensitivity of the isolates. Data was analyzed using SPSS and the association between categorical variables was assessed using the Chi-square test. Descriptive statistics, including numbers, frequencies, and percentages, were used to describe the results obtained from culture and sensitivity tests.

Results: Out of the 101 urine samples tested, 42.08% showed positive growth of bacteria causing urinary tract infections. The most common bacteria found was *Escherichia coli (E. coli)*, which accounted for 58% of the positive growths followed by *Pseudomonas* (19%) and *Klebsiella* (13%), *Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus)* (7%), and *coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS)* (3%)

Imipenem was found to be the most effective drug, with the highest sensitivity against bacteria causing urinary tract infections. It showed a sensitivity rate of 80% against gram-positive uropathogens, 78% against *E. coli*, and 76% against gram negative uropathogens. On the other hand, the bacteria showed the highest resistance to TMP-SMX, with resistance rates of 80% in gram-positive uropathogens, 74% in gram-negative uropathogens, and 73% in *E. coli*.

No significant association of sensitivity or resistance was found between any of the antimicrobial drugs and *E. Coli* or gram-positive uropathogens or gram negative uropathogens

Conclusion: The study concluded that urinary tract organisms displayed escalating resistance to commonly used antibiotics and antimicrobial stewardship programs are needed in hospitals along with development of improved diagnostic features and testing methods to differentiate among bacterial infections and eventually prescription of antibiotics accordingly.

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Author Contributions

Conceptualization: MMA, RS, and MABAM. Methodology: MMA, RS, MABAM, and MR. Software: MMA. Validation: FK, RS, MABAM, and MR. Formal Analysis: MMA, and FK. Data Curation: MMA, FK, RS. MABAM. and MR. Investigation: MMA, FK, MABAM, and MR. Resources: MMA, FK, RS, and MABAM. Writing – Original Draft: MMA, FK, and MR. Writing – Review & Editing: MMA, FK, RS, MABAM, and MR. Visualization: MMA, FK, RS, and MABAM. Project Administration: MMA, FK, and RS. Funding Acquisition: MMA, FK, RS, MABAM, and MR.

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