

INVESTIGATE OF VIRULENCE- GENES OF *PASTEURELLA MULTOCIDA* TYPES AND ANTIBIOTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY IN BUFFALOES IN MARSHES OF SOUTH OF IRAQ

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Abstract

This study was conducted to investigate the incidence of *Pasteurella multocida* in buffaloes in south of Iraq. A total 393 of different ages and sexes, were clinically examined. Nasal swabs and blood samples were taken . Enrich and Selective medias ,biochemical tests and Gram stain were used. also used antibiotic susceptibility. All positive cases confirmed by polymerase chain reaction with specific primer to *P. multocida* then use specific primers to detect *P.multocida* A,B. Also use specific primers to detect some virulence gene (pfhA; nanH; ompA; hgbA).Prevalence of *P. multocida* types in marshes area which it appear 35 samples 35% to type A and it significant variation at ($P \le 0.05$) than types (B) which found 65 samples 65% also it significant variation. Capsular typing of 100 isolates in marshes appeared 35 (35%) to type A, 65 (65%) to type B with significantly variation between types. Distribution of virulence- genes appeared 75 (75%) to ompA, hgbA 59 (59%), nanH 46 (46%) and pfhA 33(33%) with significantly variation between genes. No significant variation of prevalence of virulence- genes which it appear 49(74.2%);26(76.4%) to ompA, 41(62.1), 18(52.9) to hgbA; 27(40.9), 19(55.9) to nanH and 20(30,3), 13(38.3) to pfhA for diseased and non diseased respectively. Prevalence of *P.multocida* virulence- genes appeared 25(71.4); 50(76.9); to ompA, 18(51.4), 41(63.1); to hgbA; 16(45), 30(47.6) to nanh and 16(45.7), 17(27.0); to pfhA for type A and type B respectively.

The antibiotics susceptibility of 52 isolated which from 25 type B , 25 type A and showed that : Cefotaxime , Cefitrixone, Azithromycin and Tilmicosin founded 100% susceptibility ,followed by Chloromphinocol as 96-92%, Tetracycline 40-32% while Ampicilline32-28 %.

Conclusions of present study are : *P. multocida* endemic in buffaloes in south of Iraq. Recoded of virulence genes of *P. multocida* in buffaloes in Iraq. Cefotaxime, Cefitrixone, Azithromycin and Tilmicosin are the best choice to treatment. PCR assay is best technique to diagnosis and detect.

Keywords: Pasteurella Multocida. Virulence- Genes . Antibiotic susceptibility . Buffaloes . Marshes



I. Introduction

Pasteurella multocida, a Gram negative pathogenic bacteria and it can produce many types of diseases to many species of animals. hemorrhagic septicemia(HS) are important economic disease caused by *P. multocida* because it fatal to buffaloes in many cases, it also causes(HS) in cattle but less than buffaloes and it is also etiological agent of pneumonia in bovine , , (Ara *et al.*,2016;).

P. multocida is found as a normal flora in respiratory tract but under stress or other infection like para influenza virus infection ,this will lead to enhance *P. multocida* infection so(HS) outbreak mostly occur in raining season (; Ahmed *et al.*,2015; Constable *et al.*,2017)

Clinical finding of (HS) which caused by *P..multocida* type B:2 or E:2 (B in Asia, E in Africa) strains appear as rapid increase of temp., difficult in respiration ,at same time serious then become mucoid discharge from nasal orifices , mouth frothing, and submandibular edema was observe , then after hrs. animal will be recumbence then death in less than 7 hours. While the infection with *P. multocida* type A: mostly include respiratory disease.(Rhinitis to Pneumonia.) and may death in some cases and it called bovine resp. disease.(BRD) but in peracute cases suddenly death with clinical finding Septicemia is a hallmark in all disease circumstance. incubation period between 72 hours to 5 days (OIE , 2012).

There are Several pathogen-specific factors in *P. multocida* act with host to cause infection. These factors called virulence- genes, and they are very important for pathogenesis, resistant to antibiotic, and vaccine development (Khamesipour *et al.*, 2014)

The nonspecific use of the antimicrobial to treatment any bacterial infection as a randomly treatment of nonspecific dose or nonspecific period this will be induce antimicrobial resistant . also there are many genes of *P. multocida* have resistant act to many antimicrobial. This lead to an increase in dose of antibiotic or replace treatment with new generation of antibiotics and this lead to an increase in the cost of productive animals . Also the antimicrobial resistant may transfer through milk or other animal product to human. and this important point (Khamesipour *et al.*, 2014; El Garch *et al.*, 2016)

Aims of study :

1. Investigate the presence of *P.multocida* in buffaloes in marshes in south of Iraq.

2. Confirmation of *P. multocida* by using conventional PCR technique and genotyping by genotypes specific primers for (genotype A, B).and detect some virulence genes

3. Study of antimicrobial susceptibly from isolations

II.Material and methods

Nasal swabs were taken from 393 buffaloes, nasal swabs were added to sterile tubes containing brain heart infusion broth(BHIB) then transported to the laboratory in ice box containers as fast as (Cowan, 2003)



Where 2.5 ml of blood was taken from jugular vein by EDTA tubes just from diseased buffaloes, blood samples added to sterile tubes containing (BHIB) then transported to the laboratory like nasal swabs

The tubes of (BHIB) were put in incubator at $37C^{\circ}$ for 18-24 hrs. then subculture on blood agar as a enrichment media for 18-24 hrs at $37C^{\circ}$ for another 18-24 hrs., then swabs were taken from blood agar (BA) and sub cultured it on blood agar (BA)another time (but as selective media) ,and put in incubator at $37C^{\circ}$ to18-24 hrs. After that, sub cultured on MacConkey agar to 18-24 hrs at 37 C°. The colonies were examined by naked eye to detect the shape, size and color of colony *P. multocida* on blood agar, also the haemolysis effect on the blood agar, in additional to detect the growth on MacConKey agar .After that colonies were examined microscopically by Gram stain by smear from pure colony from blood agar put it on a slide, then stained it according to procedure of Gram stain .then biochemical tests (Urease test/ Indol test / TSI test / Oxidase test / Catalase test/) (Quinn *et al.*, 2011)

PCR assay was performed for detection and genotyping of *P. multocida* based on amplification of capsular biosynthesis gene and detection of virulence genes this protocol was producing by (Townsend *et al.*, 1998)

The test isolates were subjected to *in vitro* antibiotic sensitivity as per the method described by Bauer *et al.* (1966)

Statistical analysis:

Statistical analysis were done by Chi-square test between parameters.

III. Results

The study recorded two form of colonies from freshly isolated of *P. multocida* were roughly and small and other colonies appeared mucoid and large ,but color was greyish, glistening, translucent, approximately one mm in diameter on blood agar after 24 h incubation at 37C°. Gram staining revealed, Gram negative, short and ovoid coccobacilli.

Also found that biochemical tests results were oxidase, catalase, indole, nitrate reduction and ornithine decarboxylase positive and urease negative. *P. multocida* didn't ingrowth on MacConkey agar and were found to be non-haemolytic on blood agar.

Capsular PCR to detect P. multocida type

The capsular PCR serotypes of *P. multocida* was successfully optimized and applied to confirm the serotypes of *P. multocida*. The reference strains of *P.multocida* serotype A, and B yielded the expected results in the capsular PCR serotypes – all strains of different serotypes gave the 460 bp band specific for *P. multocida*. The serotype A strain gave the 1,044 bp band characteristic of this serotype. Figure 1. The serotype B reference strain gave the 760 bp which are the expected results



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Figure(1): PCR product analysis of capsule genotype A in *Pasteurella multocida* isolates. Where M: marker (2000-100bp), lane (2-6) positive isolates at (1044bp) PCR product size.



Figure (2): PCR product analysis of capsule genotype B in *P. multocida* isolates. Where M: marker (2000-100bp), lane (2-7, 9,10,13-15) positive isolates at (760bp) PCR product size.

Prevalence of P. multocida types

Prevalence of *P. multocida* types in marshes area which it appear 35 samples 35% to type A and it significant variation at ($P \le 0.05$) than types (B) which found 65 samples 65% also it significant variation at ($P \le 0.05$) Table (1). Table (1) Prevalence of *P. multocida* types.



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	Total	Types (A)	Types (B)
Samples	100	35*	65*
Prevalence	100%	35%	65%

*Donates a significant variation at (P≤0.05)

Also distribution of the capsular typing P. multocida isolates between type of sample and location of isolation and clinical sings appeared (32,43) of type (A),(B) respectively from nasal swabs of diseased buffaloes also showed (0,2) of type (A),(B), respectively from blood of diseased buffaloes . At same time appeared (12,22) of type (A),(B)respectively from nasal swabs of health buffaloes

Table (2)the capsular typing of P multocida isolates distribution between type of sample and location of isolation and clinical sings

Animals	Samples	Types (A)	Types (B)
Diseased	Nasal	23	43*
(66)head	Blood	0	2*
	Nasal	12	22
Health (34)head	Blood	0	0
Total heads		35(35%)	65(65%)

* Same heads isolated blood and nasal swabs

Prevalence of virulence- genes of P. multocida types

Prevalence of virulence- genes of *P. multocida* types in Marshes area which it appear 75 samples 75% to OMPA virulence- gene(Fig:3) and it significant higher at (P \leq 0.05) than hgbA virulence- gene(Fig:4) who found 59 samples 59 % also it significant higher at (P \leq 0.05) than nanH virulence- gene (Fig:5) which it appear 46 samples 46 % . when pfhA virulence- gene (Fig:6) who found 33 samples 33 % it significant lowest at (P \leq 0.05) than other and Table. (3)



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2 Μ 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 Λ 2000bp 1000bp 500bp 201bp 100bp_

Figure (3): PCR product analysis of ompA gene in *Pasteurella multocida* isolates. Where M: marker (2000-100bp), lane (1-10) positive ompA gene at (201bp) PCR product size.



Figure (4): PCR product analysis of nanH gene in Pasteurella multocida isolates. Where M: marker (2000-100bp), lane (1-9) positive nanH gene at (287bp) PCR product size.



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Figure (5): PCR product analysis of *hgbA* gene in *Pasteurella multocida* isolates. Where M: marker (2000-100bp), lane (1-5) positive hgbA gene at (267bp) PCR product size.



Figure (6): PCR product analysis of *pfhA* gene in *Pasteurella multocida* isolates. Where M: marker (2000-100bp), lane (2-4) positive *pfhA* gene at (286bp) PCR product size.

Table. (3) Prevalence of *P. multocida* virulence- genes

No.	Virulence- genes	Samples	Prevalence	Mean ±SE
1	ompA	75	75%	0.75±0.07*



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2	hgbA	59	59%	0.59±0.06*
3	nanH	46	46%	0.46±0.05*
4	pfhA	33	33%	0.33±0.04*

*Donates a significant variation at (P≤0.05)

Prevalence rate of virulence- genes of buffaloes according to clinical sings

Prevalence of *P. multocida* virulence- genes which it appear 49(74.2%);26(76.4%)to ompA, 41(62.1), 18(52.9) to hgbA; 27(40.9), 19(55.9) to nanH and 20(30,3), 13(38.3) to pfhA for Diseased and Non Diseased respectively table (4).

Table (4) Showed prevalence rate of P. multocida virulence- genes of buffaloes according to clinical signs

Clinically	Samples	ompA(%)	hgbA (%)	nanH(%)	pfhA(%)
Diseased	66	49(74.2%)	41(62.1%)	27(40.9%)	20(30,3%)
Non Diseased	34	26(76.4%)	18(52.9%)	19(55.9%)	13(38.3%)
Total	100	75	59	46	33

*Donates a significant variation at (P≤0.05)

Prevalence rate of virulence- genes of buffaloes according to Types

Prevalence of *P. multocida* virulence- genes appeared 25(71.4); 50(76.9); to ompA, 18(51.4), 41(63.1); to hgbA; 16(45), 30(47.6) to nanH and 16(45.7), 17(27.0); to pfhA for Type A and Type B respectively table (5).

Table (5) showed prevalence rate of *P multocida* virulence- genes of buffaloes according to types



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Clinically	Samples	ompA(%)	hgbA (%)	nanH(%)	pfhA(%)
Туре А	35	25(71.4)	18(51.4)	16(45)	16(45.7)
Туре В	65	50(76.9)	41(63.1)	30(47.6)	17(27.0)
Total	100	75	59	46	33

*Donates a significant variation at (P≤0.05)

Sensitivity of antibiotic of P. multocida isolates

Sensitive antibiotics of 25 isolates of serotype B and 25 isolates of serotype A (Table. 6,7) showed that : Cefotaxime , Cefitrixone, **Azithromycin** and **Tilmicosin** were found to be the high susceptible antimicrobial as 100% to serotype A and serotype B, followed by Chloromphinocol as 92% of serotype B isolates were susceptible to it and 96% of serotype A isolates were susceptible to it , and Tetracycline 40% of serotype B isolates were susceptible to it and 32% of serotype A isolates were susceptible to it, while Ampicilline32 % of serotype B isolates were susceptible to it and 28% of serotype A isolates were susceptible to it, also at last vancomycin 0% of serotype B isolates were susceptible to it.

Table.(6) Antibiotic susceptibility of *P. multocida* serotype B isolates

Anti-bacterial agents	No of total serotype B isolates	Serotype B susceptibility to antibiotic agents
		Susceptible Resistant
Totracycling	25	10 15
Tetracycline	23	40% 60%
Amaioillin	25	8 17
Ampicillin		32% 68%
Cefitrixone	25	25 0
Centrixone		100% 0%
Cefotaxime	25	25 0
Cefotaxime		100% 0%
Azithromycin	25	25 0
Azitinomycin		100% 0%



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	25		
.	20	23	2
Chloramphenicol		92%	8%
Vanaamvain	25	0	25
Vancomycin		0%	100%
The second	25	25	0
limicosin		100%	0%

Tab.(7) Antibiotic susceptibility of P. multocida serotype A isolates

Anti-bacterial agents	No of total serotype A isolates	SerotypeA s a	usceptibility to ntibiotic agents
		S	R
Tetracycline	25	8 32%	17 68%
Ampicillin	25	7 28%	18 72%
Cefitrixone	25	25 100%	0 0%
Cefotaxime	25	25 100%	0 0%
Azithromycin	25	25 100%	0 0%
Chloramphenicol	25	24 96%	1 4%
Vancomycin	25	0 0%	25 100%



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Tilmiassin	25	25	0	
TIMICOSIN		100%	0%	

IV. Discussion

Findings of colonies and the biochemical results were agreement with more than one authors like Gadi *et al* ., (2010); Ahmed *et al* ., (2014) and Quinn *et al* ., (2011) whom found same characters to *P. multocida*.

The primers discovering by Townsend *et al* ... (1998) who reported the primer pair for all strains of *P.multocida* (serotypes A, B, D, E and F) and similar ,result recorded by Dey *et al* ...(2007) whom revealed the usefulness of PM-PCR in molecular identification of *P.multocida* isolates. In capsular PCR assay, 15 isolates from cow and 31 of buffaloes origin amplified a product of 760 bp while rest of the cow and buffaloes isolates amplified a gene fragment of 1044 bp

P. multocida is normally found in upper respiratory tract of various animals, because its aerobic to facultative anaerobic, pleomorphic, non-spore forming; encapsulated and Gram-negative bacteria that are inhabitants of the upper respiratory tract of various animals but in experimental evidence has shown that under creation condition associated with debilitation, nutrition and climate factor, these organisms may singly or in concert with other organism flare up to cause severe infection with high morbidity and mortality (Dziva *et al.,* 2008), also it is an important cause of respiratory diseases and also it may be primary pathogens in H.S. or bovine resp. Disease or it may be play a secondary role in the pathogenesis of various diseases (Constable et al., 2017).

There are many studies were give same results on cattle and buffaloes .Also Gadi *et al* ., (2010) in marshes in south of Iraq who recorded and isolated the causative agent of outbreak of HS in buffaloes during 2008 then after bacterial . biochemical and histopathological characters , they proved the causative agent was *P. multocida* type B when isolated from lung. In addition Salah, (2012) on pathologic evaluation of *P. multocida* in Al-Qadisyia which found in her research that the cattle infected by the serotype B which isolated from lung and nasal samples.

Virulence genes play a key role in disease production by bacterial pathogens . Among others, their functions include competence, adherence, synthesis, and export of capsules; and evasion of host immune responses (Nand uri *et al* ., 2009).

In the present study higher frequency of the virulence factors among isolates from buffaloes. Thus they are important role of these factors in disease occurrence. It was pointed out that virulence gene occurrence in *P. multocida* has a strong positive association with the outcome of infection with the organism in bovine (Katsuda *et al* ., 2013)

The study result nearly with (Khamesipour *et al* ., 2014) in Iran who they found the result in buffaloes ompA(90%);hgbA (86%); nanH(80%); and pfhA(80%) from result from slaughterhouse from 333 heads

Also with (Sarangi et al., 2014) in India who they found hgbA (82.6%); nanH(78.3%); and pfhA(95.7%)

On the other hand occurrence of the virulence- genes in apparently healthy respiratory system could possibly



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indicate early infection or contained infection which couldn't lead to disease. It was previously reported that this facultative anaerobic bacterium is commonly found in clinically healthy calves (Lainson *et al* ., 2013)

The study result agreement with (Kamran *et al* ., 2014) who found randomly distribution of virulence- genes between diseased and non-diseased when he study on 4 health buffaloes and 7 diseased positive to P. multocida from 400head.

Our result nearly from Khamesipour *et al* ., (2014) how found ompA(87%)(100%);hgbA (87%)(100%) ; nanH(87%)(80%); and pfhA(82%)(100%) to for type A(32head) , and type D(5head) respectively. When they work on *P. multocida* isolated from cattle in Iran.

Also Sarangi *et al* ., (2014) how reported that hgbA (82.6%);(82,3%) ; nanH(78.3%)(82.3%); and pfhA(95.7%)(94.1%) to for Type A(5head) , and Type B (17 head) respectively When they work on *P. multocida* isolated from buffaloes in India

The imprudent use of antimicrobials bears a high risk of selecting resistant bacteria, promoting the spread of resistance genes located on plasmids and transposons and consequently, reducing the efficacy of the currently available antimicrobial agents for the treatment of food producing animals. (Lion *et al* ., 2006)

The present study revealed that the isolates were 100 % sensitive to the following antimicrobials is in conformity with the reports published by various researchers. They are Tilmicosin (McClary *et al*., 2011;El Garch *et al*., 2016), Azithromycin (McClary *et al*., 2011; Lion *et al*., 2006) Cefitrixone Cefotaxime (El Garch *et al*., 2016;) (100%) then chloromphinocol between 96 -92% (Al Shemari 2013) then tetracycline(40-32%) and Ampicillin (32-28%) (Kamienski and Keogh 2006)

The results of current study showing that no significant different between types of *P. multocida* and it response to treatment ,such observations were also reported by Khamesipour *et al* ,.(2014); and McClary *et al* ., (2011)

Conclusions

1. *P. multocida* is endemic in buffaloes in south of Iraq.

2. Prevalence of virulence- genes appear ompA higher then hgbA then nanH and in last pfhA, and no significantly variation of prevalence of virulence- genes between infected and non-infected buffaloes.

3. The *Pasteurella multocida* best choice of treatment are Cefotaxime , Cefitrixone, Azithromycin and Tilmicosin

Recommendations

Production of vaccine from local isolated serotypes that contain different virulence genes and study the efficacy in laboratory and field animals.



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