

Trends and Risk Factors for Ciprofloxacin Resistance and Extended-spectrum Beta-lactamase Production in Uropathogens from Urology and Non-urology Outpatients

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What's known on the subject? and What does the study add?

The increased rates of antibiotic resistance of urinary pathogens influence the empirical medical management of urological infections in the outpatient setting. In this study, increased ciprofloxacin resistance and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase production were associated with being adult, male and old and isolates of *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp.

Abstract

Objective: This study aimed to identify the patterns and temporal changes of ciprofloxacin resistance and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) production in uropathogenic isolates obtained from urology and non-urology outpatients.

Materials and Methods: In this cross-sectional study, electronic data of urine culture and antimicrobial susceptibility test results of samples collected in urology and non-urology outpatient departments from 2008 to 2016 were retrospectively analysed to identify correlations between basic demographic features and clinical settings.

Results: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) was the most prevalent (70%) uropathogenic isolate in a cohort of 7.973 patients consisting of 82.8% women, 70.7% adults and 15.7% urology outpatients. Overall, resistance to ciprofloxacin was found in 16.3% of the patients. Ciprofloxacin resistance was associated with being male and old, observed more frequently in urology outpatients, detected in 19.2% of *E. coli* isolates and increased to 54.5% among ESBL-producing bacterial strains ($p<0.05$). ESBL production was observed in 12% of all isolates. Increased ESBL production was associated with old age and isolates of *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. ($p<0.05$). Statistical analysis using multivariate generalised linear mixed models (mGLMMs) to assess the relationship between the outcomes predicted a significantly higher ESBL production in *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. isolates and in geriatric patients. Furthermore, mGLMM analysis predicted a significantly increased likelihood of ciprofloxacin resistance in older adult male patients, especially in *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* spp. isolates. Moreover, a high rate of ESBL production was observed, reaching over 15% in 2015 ($p<0.05$). The rates of ciprofloxacin resistance remained $>10\%$ and peaked in 2015 (20.2%, $p<0.001$). However, in 2016, the rate of ESBL production and ciprofloxacin resistance started to decline, displaying significance only regarding the latter ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion: Empirical ciprofloxacin treatment of community-acquired urinary tract infections carries a higher risk of an unsuccessful outcome in male, geriatric and urology outpatients. Empirical antibacterial therapy for urological infections in the outpatient setting should be conducted based on patient risk profiles and contemporary local resistance data.

Keywords: Urinary tract infections, antibiotic resistance, ciprofloxacin, extended-spectrum beta-lactamases, uropathogens

Introduction

The increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria restricts the utility of empirical treatment of community-acquired urinary tract infections (CAUTIs). Current monitoring

of the regional pattern of bacterial resistance is essential in managing appropriate treatments of urological infections. The European Association of Urology guidelines strongly recommend against using fluoroquinolones to treat uncomplicated cystitis, but stated fluoroquinolones as the first-line regimen (empiric

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or sensitivity-directed) of complicated UTIs, pyelonephritis, prostatitis and epididymitis/orchitis (1). If there is a lack of a coordinated strategy for judicious use of antimicrobials, quinolones may often be prescribed for the empirical treatment of CAUTIs in various clinical settings, contrary to the guidelines (2).

Remarkably high rates of fluoroquinolone resistance have been observed globally in *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains, which are common causes of healthcare-associated and community-acquired UTIs (3,4). Although incidences vary by geography, multinational studies have reported fluoroquinolone-resistant *E. coli* isolates in 20% of uncomplicated and more than 50% of complicated CAUTIs (4,5).

Extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) are a heterogeneous group of enzymes responsible for resistance against beta-lactam antibiotics, which are among the most frequently used antibiotics in outpatient settings worldwide (6). ESBL-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* spp. commonly show cross-resistance to other groups of antibiotics, such as fluoroquinolones. The close relationship between ESBL production and ciprofloxacin (CIP) resistance is particularly troublesome because it narrows the range of alternative therapies for isolates harbouring both mechanisms at the same time (7).

In this study, the primary aim was to determine the current regional situation and temporal changes in antimicrobial resistance in common uropathogens. This study set out to explore the rates of CIP resistance and ESBL production in urinary isolates obtained from outpatients and examine the relationship between patterns of resistance with demographic features and clinical settings.

Materials and Methods

In this cross-sectional study, the electronic database of urine culture and antimicrobial susceptibility test results of samples collected in outpatient departments of Acibadem Kadiköy Hospital affiliated to Acibadem Mehmet Ali Aydınlar University (Istanbul, Türkiye) from 2008 to 2016 was analysed retrospectively. Outpatients were defined as paediatric (<18 years old), adult and geriatric (>65 years old) individuals who visited hospital-based outpatient clinics. Urine samples were sent to the in-hospital laboratory for culture and sensitivity tests.

The inclusion criteria were as follows: any age, presentation of a urine sample to the in-hospital laboratory as an outpatient who has positive cultures for common urinary pathogens during the study period, CIP susceptibility and available ESBL activity data. All cultures were collected from outpatients with medical requests from the urology department and all other outpatient

clinics from midstream urine samples, except for children aged <2 years old who had collections by sterile collector vials or urethral catheterisation.

This study analysed CIP susceptibility and ESBL activity data exclusively for uropathogens, namely, *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* spp., *Proteus* spp., *Enterococcus* spp., *Enterobacter* spp., *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* and "other" rare isolates. Data collected during the study period were analysed to determine the prevalence, tendency of uropathogens to CIP resistance and ESBL production and to examine risk factors among outpatient groups.

Patients were excluded from the study if they had more than one culture collected <30 days apart (to eliminate contamination caused by recurrent or resistant UTIs, and multiple samples were sent on a patient during treatment), urinary growth of non-uropathogenic bacterial strains and >2 strains simultaneously or any bacterial growth with a density <10⁵ CFU/mL in adults and <10³ CFU/mL in children whose sample was taken by urinary catheterisation.

Bacterial growth was expressed as the number of CFUs/mL. Identification of bacteria, antibiotic susceptibility tests and detection of ESBL production was performed by Phoenix (Becton Dickinson, USA) automated system, following the standard procedures defined by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (8).

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using the R Statistical Software. Descriptive statistics were used to summarise data. Binary logistic regression analyses were used for univariable comparisons. Multivariate generalised linear mixed models (mGLMMs) with logit link function were used to assess the relationship between outcomes (presence of ESBL production and CIP resistance as dependent variables) and exploratory variables (gender, age, uropathogen, outpatients and year as independent variables). The reference categories for statistical (mGLMM) analysis were "female" for gender, "<18 years old" for age, "others" for uropathogens, "non-urology" for outpatients and "2008" for years. A p-value <0.05 was considered significant.

Ethics Approval

This is a non-interventional research based on a retrospective chart review of electronic data. Approval for the study protocol was obtained from the Acibadem MAA University Institutional Ethics Committee (no: 2020-12/4). The study was conducted according to the criteria set by the Declaration of Helsinki. Waiver of patient consent was approved by local institutional ethics committee. All data were analysed anonymously, and the waiver of informed consent did not and will not have adverse effect on the rights and health of the patients.

Results

Among 7973 urinary isolates, 82.8% belonged to female patients and 70.7% belonged to adult and geriatric patients. Isolates from the urology outpatients comprised 15.7% of the cohort. *E. coli* was the most prevalent (70%) uropathogen isolated, followed by *Klebsiella* spp. (10.8%), *Enterococcus* spp. (7.5%), *Proteus* spp. (3.7%), *Enterobacter* spp. (2%), *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* (1.2%) and others (4.9%). Table 1 displays the summary statistics of the cohort and uropathogens.

Overall, ESBL production was observed in 12% and CIP resistance was found in 16.3% of the isolates. The rate of CIP resistance was 54.5% among all ESBL-positive uropathogens and 58.4% in ESBL-positive *E. coli* isolates, whereas it remained at 11.1% among ESBL-negative isolates.

Patterns of ESBL Activity

ESBL production was markedly higher in the geriatric group ($p < 0.001$). No difference was found in the rate of ESBL activity related to gender or between isolates from urology and non-urology outpatient clinics ($p > 0.05$). ESBL production was significantly increased (15%) in *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. isolates ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2). The rates of ESBL production among isolated uropathogens throughout the study period are given in Table 2, where a high rate of ESBL production reaching $> 15\%$ in 2014 and 2015 stands out ($p < 0.05$) (Figure 1).

The mGLMM analysis was performed to assess a range of factors on ESBL production, and the final model was found significant for prediction ($F = 19.236$, $p < 0.001$) (Table 3). The statistical

analysis revealed that the risk of ESBL production of isolates was significantly higher in patients aged > 65 years [odds ratio (OR) (95% confidence interval (CI) 2.095 (1.702, 2.580), $p < 0.001$]. The risk of ESBL positivity was lower in 2012 [OR (95% CI) 0.624 (0.428, 0.909), $p = 0.014$] (Table 3). Among uropathogens, *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. were associated with higher prevalence of ESBL production ($p < 0.001$). Further analysis showed that the probability of ESBL production remained significantly high from 2014 through 2016.

Patterns of CIP Resistance

Male sex and old age among patient groups were significant factors for CIP resistance ($p < 0.05$). CIP resistance was more often observed in isolates from urology than those delivered from non-urology outpatient clinics (19.6% vs 15.7%, $p < 0.05$). The statistical analysis also detected a remarkably high (19.2%) level of CIP resistance in *E. coli* isolates ($p < 0.001$) (Table 2).

During the study period, the rates of CIP resistance constantly remained $> 10\%$. From 2012 to 2015, a continual rise was noted, reaching the highest rate in 2015 (20.2%, $p < 0.001$). However, in 2016, the rate of CIP resistance significantly decreased to 12.7% ($p < 0.05$) (Figure 1).

The mGLMM analysis was performed to assess the effects of numerous factors on CIP resistance, and the obtained model was significant ($F = 30.810$, $p < 0.001$). The results established a relationship of elevated risk of CIP resistance with male sex [OR (95% CI) 1.357 (1.140, 1.616), $p = 0.001$] and increased age. The probability of CIP resistance was higher in adults (18-65 years) [OR (95% CI) 2.013 (1.685, 2.405), $p < 0.001$] and the highest in the geriatric group [OR (95% CI) 7.544 (6.151, 9.254), $p < 0.001$].

		n (%)
Gender	Female	6604 (82.8)
	Male	1369 (17.2)
Age	Paediatric (0-17)	2337 (29.3)
	Adult (18-65)	4654 (58.4)
	Geriatric (>65)	982 (12.3)
Outpatients	Urology	1252 (15.7)
	Non-urology	6721 (84.3)
Uropathogens	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	5580 (70)
	<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	864 (10.8)
	<i>Proteus</i> spp.	292 (3.7)
	<i>Enterococcus</i> spp.	599 (7.5)
	<i>Enterobacter</i> spp.	156 (2)
	<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	95 (1.2)
	Others*	387 (4.9)

*Rare isolates referred as "others" include *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Morganella morganii*, *Serratia marcescens* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*

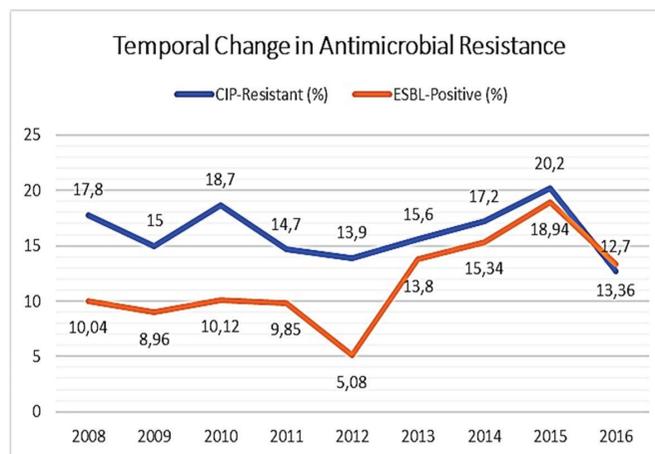


Figure 1. Frequency of ciprofloxacin resistance and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase production of uropathogens isolated from urine samples of outpatients evaluated from 2008 to 2016 For ciprofloxacin resistance: $p < 0.05$ in 2015 and 2016

For extended-spectrum beta-lactamase production: $p < 0.05$ in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015

The likelihood of CIP resistance was significantly increased in isolates of *E. coli* and *Enterobacter* spp. ($p < 0.001$). The relative declines in the risk of CIP resistance in 2013 [OR (95% CI) 0.766 (0.597, 0.983), $p = 0.036$] and 2016 [OR (95% CI) 0.631 (0.488, 0.815), $p < 0.001$] were significant (Table 3).

Discussion

This study was carried out to determine the recent local prevalence of uropathogens and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns by assessing CIP resistance and ESBL activity in isolates. Data collected from urology and non-urology outpatients in

Table 2. ESBL production and CIP resistance status of urinary isolates according to patient features, bacterial strains and years

	ESBL (-)	ESBL (+)	p	CIP-resist. (-)	CIP-resist. (+)	p
	n (%)	n (%)		n (%)	n (%)	
Gender						
Female	5805 (87.9)	799 (12.1)	0.564	5563 (84.2)	1041 (15.8)	0.003**
Male	1211 (88.5)	158 (11.5)		1109 (81)	260 (19)	
Age						
Paediatric (0-17)	2091 (89.5)	246 (10.5)	<0.001**	2166 (92.7)	171 (7.3)	<0.001**
Adult (18-65)	4148 (89.1)	506 (10.9)		3906 (83.9)	748 (16.1)	
Geriatric (>65)	777 (79.1)	205 (20.9)		600 (61.1)	382 (38.9)	
Clinics						
Urology	1087 (86.8)	165 (13.2)	0.163	1006 (80.4)	246 (19.6)	<0.001**
Non-urology	5929 (88.2)	792 (11.8)		5666 (84.3)	1055 (15.7)	
Uropathogens						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	4755 (85.2)	825 (14.8)	<0.001**	4509 (80.8)	1071 (19.2)	<0.001**
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	734 (85)	130 (15)	0.004 **	798 (92.4)	66 (7.6)	<0.001**
<i>Proteus</i> spp.	291 (99.7)	1 (0.3)	<0.001**	275 (94.2)	17 (5.8)	<0.001**
* <i>Enterococcus</i> spp.	599 (100)	0 (0)	0.991	492 (82.1)	107 (17.9)	0.287
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp.	155 (99.4)	1 (0.6)	0.002**	148 (94.9)	8 (5.1)	<0.001**
* <i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	95 (100)	0 (0)	0.996	93 (97.9)	2 (2.1)	0.002**
*Others	387 (100)	0 (0)	0.992	357 (92.2)	30 (7.8)	<0.001**

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$
 †Excluded from the analysis because of insufficient ESBL (+) observation, i.e. OR values could not be computed. ESBL: Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase, CIP: Ciprofloxacin

Table 3. Multivariate generalised linear mixed model analysis of the relationship between the outcomes (presence of ESBL production and CIP resistance) and exploratory variables (gender, age, uropathogen, outpatient clinic and year)

	ESBL (+)			CIP Resistance (+)		
	Beta	OR (95% CI)	p	Beta	OR (95% CI)	p
Gender (Male)	0.163	1.177 (0.970, 1.427)	0.098	0.305	1.357 (1.140, 1.616)	0.001**
Age (18-65)	-0.151	0.860 (0.726, 1.019)	0.081	0.700	2.013 (1.685, 2.405)	<0.001**
Age (>65)	0.740	2.095 (1.702, 2.580)	<0.001**	2.021	7.544 (6.151, 9.254)	<0.001**
Services (urology)	0.112	1.119 (0.928, 1.349)	0.240	0.102	1.107 (0.940, 1.304)	0.223
Uropathogens						
<i>E. coli</i>	1.974	7.200 (5.006, 10.357)	<0.001**	1.335	3.799 (2.591, 5.571)	<0.001**
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	1.901	6.690 (4.487, 9.975)	<0.001**	0.286	1.332 (0.854, 2.077)	0.207
<i>Proteus</i> spp.	0.241	1.273 (0.602, 2.690)	0.528	0.328	1.388 (0.767, 2.513)	0.278
<i>Enterococcus</i> spp.	‡-	‡-	‡-	1.014	2.756 (1.795, 4.230)	<0.001**
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp.	0.199	1.220 (0.475, 3.133)	0.679	0.074	1.076 (0.509, 2.275)	0.847
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	‡-	‡-	‡-	-0.370	0.691 (0.234, 2.039)	0.503

GLMM (with logit link function), OR: Odds ratio, CI: Confidence interval, ESBL: Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase, CIP: Ciprofloxacin
 * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$
 †Excluded from the analysis because of insufficient ESBL (+) observation, i.e. OR values could not be computed

a 9-year interval were retrospectively examined. This study confirms that *E. coli* is the predominant uropathogen isolated in CAUTIs. The frequency rate (70%) was similar to the rate observed in other prevalence studies that examined data from patients clinically diagnosed with UTI.

Recent multinational, prospective surveillance studies in Europe established an *E. coli* prevalence of 74%-76.7% in women with acute uncomplicated UTI (9,10). International studies that are methodologically comparable to the present study have reported *E. coli* prevalence of 56.8%-70.4% (11,12). A previous study conducted in Turkey reported that *E. coli* is the causative agent in 90% of the uncomplicated CAUTIs and 78% of the complicated CAUTIs (13). Differences regarding prevalence could be attributed to a broader selection of outpatients with uncomplicated and complicated UTIs in the current cohort. The microbiology of complicated UTI is characterised by a greater spectrum of bacterial strains and an increased likelihood of antimicrobial resistance compared with acute uncomplicated UTI (14).

Resistance Patterns

The pattern of CIP resistance was the main focus in this study owing to its key role in the management of complicated urological infections. We identified an overall CIP resistance rate of 16.3% among common uropathogens, which increased to 19.2% among *E. coli* isolates and 54.5% among ESBL-producing bacterial strains. Surveillance studies have demonstrated widely fluctuating rates of CIP resistance in different geographical areas (4). A large multicentre surveillance study, with a similar methodology to this study, reported a 5.5% of CIP resistance rate in North America (15). A meta-analysis of observational studies revealed an estimated pooled CIP resistance of 27% in CAUTIs caused by *E. coli* (5). For uncomplicated CAUTIs, rates of CIP resistance ranged from 0% to 14.7% in Europe, with the lowest in Nordic countries and Austria and highest in Portugal and Spain (9). In Turkey, results from earlier studies demonstrated a 25%-38% frequency of CIP resistance among urinary pathogens (13,16). Overuse or misuse of antibiotics is known to propagate bacterial multidrug resistance. A positive correlation was found between widespread prescription of quinolones and antibiotic resistance, limiting their effectiveness in the treatment of UTIs. Moreover, in communities, frequent use of prescription drugs without medical advice may contribute to increasing bacterial resistance (2).

ESBLs frequently carry resistance genes for additional antibiotic classes including fluoroquinolones (17). Hence, ESBL activity of Gram-negative bacteria may be viewed as a surrogate to multidrug resistance. ESBL production ranges widely from 2.6% to 100% in various geographical areas, highest in the Asia-Pacific region and moderate to low in Europe and North

America (4). A study from Turkey reported a 17.4% rate of ESBL-producing *E. coli* in adults with CAUTI (15). In the present study, the level of ESBL production in *E. coli* isolates observed was 14.8%. As one of the significant findings emerging from our data, among ESBL-positive isolates, the CIP resistance coexisted in 54.5%, in contrast to 11.1% among ESBL-negative isolates. Studies have demonstrated that CIP resistance is more common in ESBL-positive uropathogenic *E. coli* isolates in CAUTIs (7,16). ESBL production is also higher in *E. coli* isolates in complicated CAUTIs than in uncomplicated cases (15,18). Taken together, these data suggest a close correlation between ESBL production and fluoroquinolone resistance in uropathogenic bacteria. In regions where ESBL-producing Gram-negative community-acquired uropathogens are common, enhanced efforts for accurate determination of ESBL activity in combination with antibiotic sensitivity is warranted, along with restriction of fluoroquinolones in empirical treatments.

In the present study, isolates from older (geriatric > adult), male, adult urology outpatients were related to higher CIP resistance. Additionally, isolates of *E. coli*, leading pathogen in community-onset urological infections, were more likely to exhibit CIP resistance and ESBL production. A higher risk of ESBL production was further related to the older age (>65 years) of outpatients, which is known as one of the common risk factors for community-onset ESBL-producing *E. coli* or *Klebsiella* spp. infections (3,18-22). The incidence of UTI is increased in elderly patients owing to their immune status and aging-related physiological and anatomical changes. Elderly patients are more likely to be immunocompromised, have co-morbidities and are hospitalised more often than younger patients. Such conditions expose them to frequent or high consumption of antimicrobial drugs, which brings about an increment of resistance to antimicrobial agents (20-23).

Assessment of regional, population-based resistance patterns data and patient-specific risk factors data is key to establishing country-specific guidelines on empirical antibiotic treatment recommendations (24).

In the present study, the 19.2% CIP resistance rate in *E. coli* isolates raises a concern regarding the clinically meaningful susceptibility threshold for fluoroquinolones in CAUTIs. Statistical modelling of our results can infer that an empirical CIP treatment of CAUTI carries a higher risk of an unsuccessful outcome in a male, geriatric, urology outpatient.

Temporal Changes in Antimicrobial Resistance

We observed an increasing level of CIP resistance among uropathogens during the study period with a peak (20.2%) in 2015. Surprisingly, a significant decrease was noted in CIP resistance in 2016. Likewise, ESBL production remained stable at approximately 10% until 2013 and thereafter increased to

20% in 2015. A brief decrease in ESBL production occurred in 2016, albeit without significance. The present results provided additional and contemporary evidence regarding the persistent problem of antimicrobial resistance in CAUTIs, which represents a challenge to urology practice. Comprehensive reviews indicate a continuous, worldwide increase of antimicrobial resistance. In southern European countries as well as in the USA, a gradual increase in the resistance of *E. coli* to fluoroquinolones has been reported (24). In Switzerland, an analysis of urinary *E. coli* specimens obtained from 1997 to 2007 found an increasing trend in CIP resistance from 1.8% to 15.9% (25). A gradual rise in resistance of *E. coli* strains to CIP from 8% to 11% in 2009-2011 is noted in Australia (26). Studies on antimicrobial resistance have revealed that irrational prescription habits and high consumption of fluoroquinolones lead to the dissemination of quinolone resistance in the community (22,24). The high quinolone resistance in our region may be due to increased fluoroquinolone consumption over the years. In 2013, a "Rational Drug Use National Action Plan" was issued by the Turkish Ministry of Health, implementing several integrated interventions to survey, contain and prevent antimicrobial resistance emergence and spread. It could be argued that the significant decrease in CIP resistance in the last year of the study period may be attributed to the positive result of the plan; however, further research should be undertaken to investigate the consequences of this initiative.

Study Limitations

This study has some limitations. First, hospital and laboratory-based surveillance data obtained from a single centre may overestimate the rates of antibiotic resistance. Uncomplicated UTIs in the outpatient setting may be treated empirically without sending a urine culture sample to the laboratory. Cultures are usually performed if the patient fails to respond to treatment, has recurrent episodes of UTI or has complicated UTI. Second, data are retrospectively analysed, and the investigation is limited by the lack of uniform clinical information on previous antibiotic treatment, previous hospitalisations and interventions, whether urine samples came from patients with asymptomatic bacteriuria, uncomplicated or complicated UTIs. Since our data lacked information on symptomatology or clinical history of patients, we excluded uncommon urinary isolates to omit cases that may not have represented CAUTIs. The analysis of in vitro microbiological data alone may have altered uropathogen prevalence.

The strengths of our study are the large sample size, use of only common community-acquired uropathogenic isolates to avoid selection bias and the very stringent classification of electronic surveillance data.

Conclusion

It is essential to know the current, local bacteriological environment and resistance patterns as well as risk factors to guide the physicians in choosing the appropriate antibiotic treatment for infections. The increased rates of CIP resistance and ESBL production of urinary pathogens undeniably influence the medical management of urological infections in the outpatient setting. Determined efforts regarding a comprehensive policy and detailed action plans on prudent use of all antibiotics, including CIP should be developed and enforced by regional multidisciplinary teams.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: Approval for the study protocol was obtained from the Acibadem MAA University Institutional Ethics Committee (no: 2020-12/4).

Informed Consent: Waiver of patient consent was approved by local institutional ethics committee. All data were analysed anonymously, and the waiver of informed consent did not and will not have adverse effect on the rights and health of the patients.

Peer-review: Internally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: B.Ö., K.F.N., L.T., A.Ş., Concept: B.Ö., K.F.N., L.T., A.Ş., Design: B.Ö., K.F.N., L.T., A.Ş., Data Collection or Processing: B.Ö., K.F.N., Analysis or Interpretation: B.Ö., K.F.N., L.T., A.Ş., Literature Search: B.Ö., Writing: B.Ö.

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