

ZMPB ALLELIC VARIATION IN STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE ISOLATES CAUSING MENINGITIS IN INDIAN POPULATION (ID 1138)

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Presenter

P R Sowmya, India

Authors

P R Sowmya, India Nagaraj Geetha, India Varun S, Stephen D. Bentley, United Kingdom Rebecca Gladstone, Norway Stephanie Lo, United Kingdom Robert F. Breiman, United States of America Lesley McGee, United States of America KL Ravikumar,

Abstract

Background

Streptococcus pneumoniae is a leading cause of meningitis. Intense inflammatory response observed in meningitis is partially attributed to zinc metalloprotease encoded by *zmpB* in pneumococcal strains. We aimed to study allelic variations of *zmpB* among isolates obtained from Meningitis patients

Methods

36 cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) isolates collected across the country from 2009-2016 were sequenced on Illumina platform. The CRL in-house bioinformatics pipeline was used to extract gene sequences, alignment and phylogeny analysis. SeroBA was used to determine serotype. Allelic variations of *zmpB* gene was analyzed by comparing the identity with the virulent strain *S. pneumoniae* TIGR4.

Results

36 pneumococcal isolates belong to 24 serotypes with 19F(n=5) as dominant type. Non-PCV13 vaccine serotypes constituted 50% of the isolates(n=18). The isolates were assigned to 28 sequence clusters, among them GPSC10(n=4) & GPSC2(n=3) were predominant. 32 of 36 isolates showed 21 to 88% of sequence variation, while remaining 4 isolates showed sequence similarity of 98% with the TIGR4. Allelic variations did not affect the protein coding region analysis and conserved domains of ZmpB protein was identified in all isolates.

Conclusions

The findings provide insight on the allelic variations of *zmpB*, indicating there is a high degree of polymorphism in the sequence of *zmpB* in pneumococci causing meningitis.