RESEARCH ARTICLE

Characterization of Pantone–Valentine leukocidin-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* from skin and soft tissue infections and wounds in Nigeria: a cross-sectional study [version 1; peer review: 2 approved]

Olayemi O. Ayepola¹ , Nurudeen A. Olasupo², Louis O. Egwari¹, Frieder Schaumburg³

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun, Nigeria

²Department of Microbiology, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria

³Institute of Medical Microbiology, University Hospital Münster, Münster, Germany

V1 First published: 30 Jul 2018, 7:1155
<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.15484.1>
Latest published: 30 Jul 2018, 7:1155
<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.15484.1>

Abstract

Background: *Staphylococcus aureus* is a significant pathogen implicated in numerous nosocomial and community-acquired infections. The Pantone–Valentine leukocidin (PVL) can be associated with severe necrotizing diseases such as pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infection (SSTI).

Methods: In total, 96 *S. aureus* isolates were obtained from patients presenting with wounds (n=48) and soft tissue infections (SSTIs, n=48). These were characterized based on their antimicrobial susceptibility profile, the possession of virulence genes (e.g. capsular type, PVL), accessory gene regulator (*agr*) type, and the staphylococcal protein A (*spa*) type. The production of the PVL protein was assessed by western blotting.

Results: All isolates were susceptible to methicillin. The resistance was highest to penicillin (97.9%), followed by trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (85.4%) and tetracycline (10.4%). The PVL gene was found in 83.3% of isolates from SSTIs and in 79.2% of isolates from wound. Of these, 53 (68%) produced PVL as assessed by western blotting. The most prevalent *spa* type was the t084 (78.1%, n=75) and, majority of the isolates carried *agr*2 (82.3%, n=79).

Conclusions: Prevalence of antibiotic resistant PVL-positive methicillin susceptible *S. aureus* strains has severe implications on PVL mediated infections.

Keywords

Staphylococcus aureus, PVL

Open Peer Review

Approval Status

	1	2
version 1
30 Jul 2018	view	view
1. Solayide Abosede Adesida , University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria		
2. Funmilola A. Ayeni , University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria		

Any reports and responses or comments on the article can be found at the end of the article.

Corresponding author: Olayemi O. Ayepola (ola.ayepola@covenantuniversity.edu.ng)

Author roles: **Ayepola OO:** Conceptualization, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Olasupo NA:** Supervision; **Egwari LO:** Resources, Supervision; **Schaumburg F:** Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

Competing interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Grant information: This study was supported by the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) [ASTF 18-2011].
The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Copyright: © 2018 Ayepola OO *et al.* This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. Data associated with the article are available under the terms of the [Creative Commons Zero "No rights reserved" data waiver](#) (CC0 1.0 Public domain dedication).

How to cite this article: Ayepola OO, Olasupo NA, Egwari LO and Schaumburg F. **Characterization of Panton-Valentine leukocidin-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* from skin and soft tissue infections and wounds in Nigeria: a cross-sectional study [version 1; peer review: 2 approved]** F1000Research 2018, 7:1155 <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.15484.1>

First published: 30 Jul 2018, 7:1155 <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.15484.1>

Introduction

Staphylococcus aureus is an important human pathogen that causes significant hospital and community acquired infections¹. *S. aureus* producing Pantone-Valentine leukocidin (PVL) is linked to a broad array of necrotizing diseases such as pneumonia and skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs)². PVL is more frequently associated with community isolates³. PVL is a pore-forming toxin that can kill myeloid cells by forming channels in the plasma membrane, leading to loss of osmotic balance that ultimately lyses the cell⁴. Earlier reports have shown PVL to be one of the most important virulence determinants in *S. aureus* from sub-Saharan Africa⁵. This study was conducted to investigate the presence of virulence genes including *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV, the production of the PVL protein and the antibiotic resistance in methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* strains isolated from wounds and SSTIs between 2010 and 2011.

Methods

Ethical statement

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Ethics Committee of the Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria (CUNG-2010-035). All participants signed a written informed consent before the commencement of the study.

Characterization of isolates

In this study we made use of an already existing database which has been published⁶. The study was conducted in four health facilities in Ogun and Lagos States of Nigeria between June 2010 and May 2011. Samples were collected from patients presenting with SSTIs and wound infections. The isolation and identification of the isolates were done by culture and genotyping. A total of 96 *S. aureus* isolates were obtained from wounds (n=48) and SSTIs (n=48). The Vitek automated systems (bioMérieux, Marcy L'Étoile, France) was employed to determine the antibiotic susceptibility profile. The PVL gene (*lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV), capsular polysaccharides (*cap 5*, *cap 8*), exfoliative toxins (*eta*, *etb*), the toxic shock syndrome toxin (*tst*) and the *agr* type were detected by PCR. All amplifications was done in a thermocycler (Bio-Rad, Munich, Germany). The cycling conditions and primers used are as earlier published. Detection of the *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV gene was carried out using primer sequences: *luk-PV-1* (5'-ATCATTAGGTAAATGTCTGGACATGATCC A-3') and *luk-PV-2* (5' GCATCAASTGTATTGGATAGCAA AAGC- 3')⁷. The negative control was *S. aureus* ATCC 49230 (MSSA) and the positive control was sta 635/636 (a PVL-positive CA-MRSA strain). Primers specific for the variable segment of the *cap* locus. Cap5-f: (5'-GAAAGTGAACGATTAGT AGAA-3') Cap5-r: (5'-GTACGAAGCGTTTGTAGATT-3') Cap 8-f: (5'-GTGGGATTTTGTAGCTTTT-3') Cap 8-r: (5'-CGC CTCGCTATATGAACAT-3') was used for the capsular typing⁸. Sequences specific for exfoliative toxins; *eta*, *etb* and the toxic shock syndrome toxin; *tst* were detected by multiplex PCR⁹. The *agr* types of the *S. aureus* strains were determined by the multiplex PCR strategy¹⁰. Extracellular production of PVL by *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV -positive strains was evaluated by a Western blot using in-house antibodies raised in rabbits

(anti-*lukF*-PV: 334 µg/ml, anti-*lukS*-PV: 900 µg/ml¹¹. The nitrocellulose membrane (Schleicher & Schüll, Dassel, Germany) was first incubated with rabbit anti-*lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV antibodies (in-house antibodies, 1:1000 in TBST) and later incubated with polyvalent goat alkaline-phosphatase-conjugated anti-rabbit antibodies (1:1000 in TBST, DAKO, Germany, D0487). The membranes were washed and the bands visualized using alkaline phosphatase color development substrate (BCIP/NBT, Thermo Fischer Scientific, 34042)¹¹. The production of PVL was determined semi-quantitatively in four categories: no PVL production; low PVL production, high and very high PVL production. The genetic diversity of all isolates was determined by the staphylococcal protein A (*spa*) typing¹². The highly polymorphic region X of the protein A gene, which is composed of a variable number of 24-bp repeats, was amplified by PCR. *spa* types were determined with the Ridom StaphType software version 1.5 beta (Ridom GmbH, Würzburg, Germany). All statistical computations were performed in SPSS Version 25. Data is explored using relevant descriptive analysis alongside chi² to measure any association between antibiotic resistance, virulence genes and *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV. P<0.05 is deemed to be statistically significant.

Dataset 1. Results of Vitek assay, PCR results for virulence genes, *agr* typing and *spa* typing

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211827>

Dataset 2. Results of PCR experiments. Gel photo for amplification of *lukS*-pv and *lukF*-pv gene

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211828>

Dataset 3. Results of PCR experiments. Gel photo for amplification of *agr* group

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211829>

Results and discussion

We analyzed the characteristics of the PVL-positive *S. aureus* isolates as well as the relationship between antibiotic resistance, virulence genes and PVL gene (Table 1). Antibiotic resistance was highest to penicillin (100% in SSTI isolates and 94% in wound isolates), followed by trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (84% in SSTI isolates and 83% in wound isolates) and tetracycline (8% in SSTI isolates and 10% in wound isolates (Table 1). This is consistent with an earlier study which showed similar resistance rates for penicillin (98%), trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (80%) and tetracycline (18%) in Nigeria⁶. All isolates were methicillin-susceptible. The *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV gene was detected in 83.3% (n=40) of SSTI isolates and 79.2% (n=38) of wound isolates. Reports from other African countries have shown high rates of PVL positive MSSA ranging from 17% to 74%⁵. For example, a study in an Algiers hospital reported a prevalence of 72% among clinical isolates¹³. A multi-center study reported that deep-seated SSTIs associated with the PVL gene resulted in more hospitalizations of patients and this led more often to incision and drainage¹⁴. A meta-analysis showed PVL to be consistently associated with SSTIs than invasive diseases¹⁵. In a study

Table 1. Association between PVL gene and antibiotic resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance		PVL Gene		OR (95%CI)	P value
		Absent	Present		
		Count (%)	Count (%)		
Penicillin	R	16 (17.0)	78 (83.0)	0.04 (0.002–0.9)	0.003
	S	2 (100.0)	0		
Oxacillin	R	2 (100.0)	0	23.8 (1.1–519.2)	0.003
	S	16 (17.0)	78 (83.0)		
Gentamicin	R	4 (100.0)	0	48.7 (2.5–955.2)	<0.001
	S	14 (15.2)	78 (84.8)		
Levofloxacin	R	4 (100.0)	0	48.7 (2.5–955.2)	<0.001
	S	14 (15.2)	78 (84.8)		
Tetracycline	R	5 (50.0)	5 (50.0)	5.6 (1.4–22.2)	0.007
	S	13 (15.1)	73 (84.9)		
Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	R	12 (14.6)	70 (85.4)	0.23 (0.1–0.8)	0.012
	S	6 (42.9)	8 (57.1)		
<i>cap 8</i>	Absent	5 (100.0)	0	63.96 (3.3–1226)	<0.001
	Present	13 (14.3)	78 (85.7)		
<i>cap 5</i>	Absent	13 (14.3)	78 (85.7)	0.02 (0.001–0.3)	<0.001
	Present	5 (100.0)	0		
<i>spa</i> type	t064	1 (100.0)	0	<0.000	<0.001
	t084	11 (14.7)	64 (85.3)		
	t159	1 (100.0)	0		
	t194	1 (100.0)	0		
	t2304	0	6 (100.0)		
	t8435	0	4 (100.0)		
	t8441	3 (100.0)	0		
<i>agr</i>	<i>agr1</i>	5 (100.0)	0	NA	NA
	<i>agr2</i>	12 (15.2)	67 (84.8)		
	<i>agr4</i>	1 (8.3)	11 (91.7)		

Note: R=resistant, S=susceptible

carried out in Gabon, PVL-positive isolates were found to occur more in SSTIs, and PVL was also associated with resistance to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole¹⁶

The presence of the PVL gene does not necessarily guarantee that the protein will be expressed and, if it is, toxin levels could vary widely from strain to strain. The production of PVL (in contrast to the sole presence of *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV) was observed in 75% of *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV SSTI isolates and 60.5% of *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV wound isolates. *In vitro* variation in the production of PVL by different strains of *S. aureus* has been reported and this suggests important differences in transcriptional and/or translational control of gene expression¹⁷. In this study, the level of PVL produced by *lukS*-PV/*lukF*-PV positive *S. aureus* isolates varied from strain to strain (Figure 1). It was observed in that

none of the PVL-positive strains harboured other toxin genes such as *eta*, *etb* and *tst*. Seven different *spa* types were identified (Table 1). The most prevalent *spa* type was t084 (78.1%, n=75). An earlier study revealed a significant association of the *spa*-CC 084 PVL-positive isolates with PVL-positive isolates⁶. Typing of the *agr* locus, which controls the expression of many *S. aureus* virulence factors, showed that most isolates (82.3%, n=79) possessed the *agr2*, while none carried *agr3*. Other studies have linked isolates carrying an *agr4* allele to exfoliatin-related diseases and usually carry *eta* and/or *etb*^{18,19}. These were absent in this study.

In conclusion, this study showed that many *S. aureus* isolates in Nigeria carry the PVL genes but few produced PVL *in vitro*. Antibiotic resistance combined with the presence of the PVL genes,

Figure 1. Quantification of Pantone-Valentine leukocidin (PVL) production in PVL-positive *S. aureus* isolates.

has serious implications in the treatment of *S. aureus* infections. This study is limited by the few study locations. A larger study population is needed to provide a better understanding of the clones of *S. aureus* in Nigeria. The results is however significant for regional surveillance.

Data availability

Dataset 1: Results of Vitek assay, PCR results for virulence genes, *agr* typing and *spa* typing. [10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211827](https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211827)²⁰

Dataset 2: Results of PCR experiments. Gel photo for amplification of *lukS-pv* and *lukF-pv* gene. [10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211828](https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211828)²¹

Dataset 3: Results of PCR experiments. Gel photo for amplification of *agr* group. [10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211829](https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.15484.d211829)²²

The results were previously presented at the 4th International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC

2017) Geneva, Switzerland. 20–23 June 2017. Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control 2017, 6(Suppl 3):52. DOI [10.1186/s13756-017-0201-4](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-017-0201-4). Poster 261.

Competing interests

No competing interests were disclosed.

Grant information

This study was supported by the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) [ASTF 18–2011].

The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Mr Bode Onile-Ere for assistance with the statistical analysis.

References

- Holmes A, Ganner M, McGuane S, *et al.*: **Staphylococcus aureus isolates carrying Pantone-Valentine leukocidin genes in England and Wales: frequency, characterization, and association with clinical disease.** *J Clin Microbiol.* 2005; **43**(5): 2384–90.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
- Tristan A, Bes M, Meugnier H, *et al.*: **Global distribution of Pantone-Valentine leukocidin–positive methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, 2006.** *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2007; **13**(4): 594–600.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
- Bocchini CE, Hulten KG, Mason EO Jr, *et al.*: **Pantone-Valentine leukocidin genes are associated with enhanced inflammatory response and local disease in acute hematogenous Staphylococcus aureus osteomyelitis in children.** *Pediatrics.* 2006; **117**(2): 433–40.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
- Yoong P, Torres VJ: **The effects of Staphylococcus aureus leukotoxins on the host: cell lysis and beyond.** *Curr Opin Microbiol.* 2013; **16**(1): 63–69.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
- Schaumburg F, Alabi AS, Peters G, *et al.*: **New epidemiology of Staphylococcus aureus infection in Africa.** *Clin Microbiol Infect.* 2014; **20**(7): 589–596.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
- Ayepola OO, Olasupo NA, Egwari LO, *et al.*: **Molecular Characterization and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of Staphylococcus aureus Isolates from Clinical Infection and Asymptomatic Carriers in Southwest Nigeria.** *PLoS One.* 2015; **10**(9): e0137531.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
- Lina G, Piémont Y, Godail-Gamot F, *et al.*: **Involvement of Pantone-Valentine leukocidin-producing Staphylococcus aureus in primary skin infections and pneumonia.** *Clin Infect Dis.* 1999; **29**(5): 1128–1132.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
- Goerke C, Esser S, Kümmel M, *et al.*: **Staphylococcus aureus strain designation by agr and cap polymorphism typing and delineation of agr diversification by sequence analysis.** *Int J Med Microbiol.* 2005; **295**(2): 67–75.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
- Becker K, Friedrich AW, Lubritz G, *et al.*: **Prevalence of genes encoding pyrogenic toxin superantigens and exfoliative toxins among strains of Staphylococcus aureus isolated from blood and nasal specimens.** *J Clin Microbiol.* 2003; **41**(4): 1434–9.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
- Lina G, Boutite F, Tristan A, *et al.*: **Bacterial competition for human nasal cavity colonization: role of Staphylococcal agr alleles.** *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 2003; **69**(1): 18–23, (accessed July 14, 2018).
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
- Löffler B, Hussain M, Grundmeier M, *et al.*: **Staphylococcus aureus pantone-valentine leukocidin is a very potent cytotoxic factor for human neutrophils.**

- PLoS Pathog.* 2010; 6(1): e1000715.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
12. Mellmann A, Friedrich AW, Rosenkötter N, *et al.*: Automated DNA sequence-based early warning system for the detection of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* outbreaks. *PLoS Med.* 2006; 3(3): e33.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
 13. Ramdani-Bouguessa N, Bes M, Meugnier H, *et al.*: Detection of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* strains resistant to multiple antibiotics and carrying the Panton-Valentine leukocidin genes in an Algiers hospital. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother.* 2006; 50(3): 1083–5.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
 14. Alabi A, Kazimoto T, Lebughe M, *et al.*: Management of superficial and deep-seated *Staphylococcus aureus* skin and soft tissue infections in sub-Saharan Africa: a post hoc analysis of the StaphNet cohort. *Infection.* 2018; 46(3): 395–404.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
 15. Shallcross LJ, Fragaszy E, Johnson AM, *et al.*: The role of the Panton-Valentine leukocidin toxin in staphylococcal disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2013; 13(1): 43–54.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
 16. Kraef C, Alabi AS, Peters G, *et al.*: Co-detection of Panton-Valentine leukocidin encoding genes and cotrimoxazole resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* in Gabon: implications for HIV-patients' care. *Front Microbiol.* 2015; 6: 60.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
 17. Hamilton SM, Bryant AE, Carroll KC, *et al.*: *In vitro* production of panton-valentine leukocidin among strains of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* causing diverse infections. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2007; 45(12): 1550–8.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
 18. Jarraud S, Lyon GJ, Figueiredo AM, *et al.*: Exfoliatin-producing strains define a fourth *agr* specificity group in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *J Bacteriol.* 2000; 182(22): 6517–22.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
 19. Jarraud S, Mougel C, Thioulouse J, *et al.*: Relationships between *Staphylococcus aureus* genetic background, virulence factors, *agr* groups (alleles), and human disease. *Infect Immun.* 2002; 70(2): 631–41.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#) | [Free Full Text](#)
 20. Ayepola OO, Olasupo NA, Egwari LO, *et al.*: Dataset 1 in: Characterization of Panton–Valentine leukocidin-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* from skin and soft tissue infections and wounds in Nigeria: a cross-sectional study. *F1000Research.* 2018.
[Data Source](#)
 21. Ayepola OO, Olasupo NA, Egwari LO, *et al.*: Dataset 2 in: Characterization of Panton–Valentine leukocidin-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* from skin and soft tissue infections and wounds in Nigeria: a cross-sectional study. *F1000Research.* 2018.
[Data Source](#)
 22. Ayepola OO, Olasupo NA, Egwari LO, *et al.*: Dataset 3 in: Characterization of Panton–Valentine leukocidin-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* from skin and soft tissue infections and wounds in Nigeria: a cross-sectional study. *F1000Research.* 2018.
[Data Source](#)

Open Peer Review

Current Peer Review Status:

Version 1

Reviewer Report 27 September 2018

<https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.16878.r38327>

© 2018 Ayeni F. This is an open access peer review report distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Funmilola A. Ayeni

Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

Overview

The authors characterised PVL phenotypically and also investigate the presence of gene coding for PVL production, antibiotic susceptibility and agr production. The study is interesting as it goes further from detection of PVL gene to semi quantify the product.

Introduction

Line 3, remove first `and` or recast in ``such as pneumonia and skin and soft tissue infections``
Spa typing is not part of the stated objectives.

Method

Characterization of isolates

``In this study we made use of an already existing database which has been published<sup>6</sup>.`` It should be clearly stated the data used from the referenced study above.

The Method section should be rewritten so that all previously described method in Ayepola et al (2015) should not be rewritten in the present article but only referred to.

Results and discussion

It will be interesting to also expatiate on the proportion of isolates that are PVL positive molecularly and phenotypically i.e. the isolates with the genes and also producing PVL and those with the genes without PVL.

Spa typing reported in this study should be discussed too in relation to its epidemiological significance.

Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?

Partly

Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?

Yes

Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?

Yes

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Reviewer Report 13 September 2018

<https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.16878.r37150>

© 2018 Adesida S. This is an open access peer review report distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Solayide Abosede Adesida

Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

Title

The *PVL production* did not appear to *correlate with* the presence of the gene. Therefore, the title should be modified to reflect the variability concerning the production of pvl, its detectable level, presence of the pvl genes and resistance rates.

Abstract

The authors investigated 96 *S. aureus* isolates were obtained from patients presenting with wounds and soft tissue infections in four health facilities in two States in Nigeria. Resistance to penicillin, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole was more than 80% and all isolates were susceptible to methicillin. The PVL gene was found in 83.3% and 79.2% of isolates from SSTIs and wound respectively. 53 (68%) produced PVL by western blotting. The most prevalent *spa* type was the t084 (78.1%, n=75) and, majority of the isolates carried *agr2* (82.3%, n=79). The objective (s) of the study was not stated.

Introduction

Change "cel" to "cell"

Methods

1. There should be comma after the statement "In this study"
2. Since the isolates have been described as part of a larger study, in my opinion, extensive presentation of the previous methods used for characterising the isolates is not required. The current emphasis should be on the core findings which have not been presented in the existing or published database (ref.6). I suggest, you present a table summarizing the characteristics of the 96 isolates as obtained in the database.

Results and discussion

Information on pvl production and the presence of the genes is limited for the region under surveillance. In my opinion, this aspect of the work is relatively novel. Therefore, kindly, reconcile your findings on level of pvl production and the presence of the genes. You may also correlate these with the antibiotic resistance and perhaps the other results in the database. However, there is a lot more reports on *S. aureus* from skin and soft skin infection (wounds) with reference to pvl genes/production than you have cited. Please, see Sharma-Kuinkel et al¹, Zhang et al, 2018, www.nature.com/scientific-reports, Hamilton et al. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2007, 45 (2007). Other studies in Nigeria should also be considered to enrich the discussion. Overall, the discussion should be revised appropriately. However, I approve subject to the corrections suggested.

References

1. Sharma-Kuinkel BK, Ahn SH, Rude TH, Zhang Y, et al.: Presence of genes encoding panton-valentine leukocidin is not the primary determinant of outcome in patients with hospital-acquired pneumonia due to *Staphylococcus aureus*. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2012; **50** (3): 848-56 [PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)

Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?

Partly

Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?

Yes

Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?

Yes

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

The benefits of publishing with F1000Research:

- Your article is published within days, with no editorial bias
- You can publish traditional articles, null/negative results, case reports, data notes and more
- The peer review process is transparent and collaborative
- Your article is indexed in PubMed after passing peer review
- Dedicated customer support at every stage

For pre-submission enquiries, contact research@f1000.com

F1000Research