

# Microbiological Studies on Bacteria Associated with Dental Caries

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**Abstract—** Tooth decay are considered the most common in the world. In spite of the caries of the teeth since childhood, its spread increases with time and this increase is associated significantly with the change of dietary mode of modern humans. The study aims to isolation and identification of important bacteria related to tooth decay, determining the sensitivity of bacteria of certain types of antimicrobial agents and studying the effect of heavy metals on bacterial isolates. A total (50) swabs were collected from mouths of patients from both sexes and their ages range from 1-60 years which are referred to consult the dental clinics and specialized centers, in order to isolate and identify the causative agents that associated with oral diseases. The age group of infection rates showed groups (20-40) and (1-20) were the most infected compared to elder group (40-60) as was the incidence of 44 and 32% respectively. The antibiotic sensitivity test against the isolates showed the chloramphenicol up to 83.05% was the higher effect sensitivity of Gentamicin and Rifampicin up to 81.35%. While streptomycin 16.94% and penicillin G 64.40%. Also, these differences were found have lower effect for isolates against (7) heavy metals, where it showed resistance to Silver nitrate, Iron chloride, Zinc chloride, lead acetate to 100%, while appeared sensitivity to mercury, cadmium and copper sulfate by 100, 86.44 and 1.69% respectively.

**Keywords—** Dental caries; Bacteria; Antibiotic; Heavy metals

## I. INTRODUCTION

Tooth decay is one of the most common infectious diseases affecting millions of people globally [1]. One of the occasional factors for the disease is dental biofilm, which is the bacterial charge that forms permanently on the tooth surfaces [2]. Hazard factors of the disease compose of unsuitable salivary flow, low quality of salivary buffer, incomplete fluoride exposure, and increase consumption of sugar [3]. Caries indicate to the centralize demolition of susceptible dental hard tissues by acidic by products from the bacterial fermentation of dietary carbohydrates [4]. It is a chronic disease that advances tardily in extreme people. It can be seen on smooth, hole and fissured surfaces of the crown and root of a tooth. According to the WHO) 60 – 90 % of school children worldwide have dental cavities [5]. This decay

is the result of the interaction of the oral micro flora plaque, the tooth surface, nourishment and the oral environment over time and results in a carious harm of the tooth enamel [6]. However in recent years overall happening of this disease has fall in industrialized nations, caries average are increasing in developing nations [7]. Moreover, caries spread is not evenly dole out across the population and communities with the highest happening are generally those in lower socioeconomic groups that have finite access to adequate oral health care [8]. In spite of the fact that studies display a decline in caries in the US, 10 billions are spent in this country each year on treatment of tooth decay [9]. In other industrialized nations such as the UK and China, caries prevalence in the past contract has been over 50 % in children. In developing countries, where oral health care is safely low available, caries average are increasing at an alarming rate. Studies done in the past contract in nation such as the Peru, Mexico, Philippines and Taiwan, detected caries in 75 - 90% of children [10]. Mutants streptococci a group of cariogenic bacteria, are implicated in the initiation of dental caries [11]. In addition to Mutants streptococci, Lactobacillus is another group of bacteria that is substantial in the development of caries. Lactobacillus does not avidly colonize on the tooth surface, but it may be transiently found in the oral cavity including the dorsum of the tongue [1]. Lactobacillus is not important in dental caries pointing. While, it is possible to play an important role in the caries advancement [12]. Due to the positive consortium between salivary levels of both of bacterial with caries and the relevance of this combination to carbohydrate exhaustion, counts of Streptococcus and Lactobacillus may, potentially, avail not only as a caries hazard foreteller but also as an indicator of carbohydrate consumption [13]. *Streptococcus mutans* is excessively accepted as one of the most substantial etiologic agents in caries evolution and has been shown to directly cause caries in germfree and specific pathogen free rat models. However, happening of caries have been found without *S. mutans* and high percentages of *S. mutans* have been recovered from non carious persons, *S. mutans* remains the most combined

species associated with caries. Also, in gnotobiotic and specific germfree rodent models, they have the paramount potential for generating caries [14]. Despite *S. mutans* has various properties that raise its cariogenicity, robust biofilm pointing in the presence of dietary sucrose is a stringent component in the development of caries.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to isolation and identification of important bacteria related to tooth decay and diseases of the mouth the other, determining the sensitivity bacteria of certain types of antimicrobial agents, studying the effect of some heavy metal for bacterial isolates .

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

- **Isolation of microbial isolates from patients:** Collection of samples: specimens have been collected in this study from the dental unit in the health center and dental clinics in Gambang ,Malaysia with the assistance of the dentist and by using sterile swabs into the middle nutritious carrier for age 1 to 60 years both of genders, then transferred to Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) laboratory
- **Microbial culture:** Samples from the mouth of patients were cultured on nutrient agar plates and were incubated at 37° for 24 hours then purified and cultured on to agar slants and kept in the chiller until use.
- **Gram stain:** All isolates partially identified using Gram stain reaction for microscopical examination and identification.

### A. Antimicrobial Activity test Using Disc Diffusion Method

#### 1. Antibiotic sensitivity test

All antibiotics used in this study from Mast disc<sup>tm</sup> , Mast Diagnostics , mast group Ltd. , mersey side. UK. Except penicillin G from Oxoid Ltd. Basingstoke. Hampshire England and streptomycin prepared in laboratory. Antibiotic disc( Amoxicillin 10 µg, Neomycin 10µg , Ampicillin 10µg , Tetracycline 10 µg ,Gentamicin 10 µg , Chloramphenicol 10 µg , Penicillin G 10 µg, streptomycin 10 µg , Rifampicin 5 µg. Muller- Hinton agar from Hardy Diagnostics was prepared according to the manufacturers recommendations, autoclaved at 12 °C for 15 minute, then the medium was cooled to 45-50 °C and poured into the plates, allowed to set on a level surface to a depth of approximately 4mm. Inoculums from primary culture plates were prepared by touching 3-5 colonies with a swap and transferred into plate and mixed with two drops of sterile distal water, then spread in three plates. The nine antibiotic discs were placed on to the inoculated plates. Then putted into the chiller for 15 min and then incubated at 37 °C, after overnight incubation ,the diameter of each inhibition zone was measured and recorded in mm [15].

#### 2. Heavy metals activity test

**Prepare concentration:** Prepared concentration 10 µg / ml for (7) heavy metals (Silver nitrate, Iron chloride, Zinc

chloride, lead acetate, copper sulfate, cadmium and mercury) that used in experimental. The stock solution was prepared for concentration and the filter paper disc was prepared and uploaded with 25 µl of heavy metal and continue as previous mentioned [16].

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Patients Isolates

In this study, has been obtained from the mouths of 50 patients in different ages and genders with percentage of 54% males and females , as shown bacteria and yeast (59) isolates in the table and Fig. 1. It has been shown the primary isolation of samples.

TABLE I. PRIMARY ISOLATION OF SAMPLES AND PERCENTAGES

Patients Samples & age (year)	Isolate number	Percentage (%)
Single isolate	33	55.93
Mixed isolate	26	44.07
1-20	16	32
20-40	22	44
40-60	12	24

The impact of age on the infection rates of the tooth caries showed the age groups of (20-40 years) and (1-20 years) were the most of the infected compared to elder group (40-60 years) , as was the incidence of 44% and 32% respectively.

The study confirmed that children and the younger are more susceptible to mouth infection. This may be due largely to reasons related to immune shortages of the infected people in these age groups as well as consciousness of health or other factors related to nutrition and public health that increase the rates of infection in patients of the children and the younger [17] stated that children are more susceptible to the bacteria that cause decay. That necrosis of the infected children appear to have teeth mutans with its different kinds and with high rates. Also, the frequent consumption of sugar play an important role in the infection with emphasis on the role of the mother as a source of transmission of disease from her infected teeth to her baby, where the levels of these bacteria with mothers are similar to those found at their children.

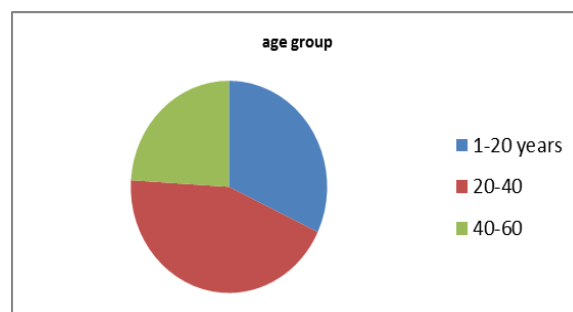


Fig. 1. The percentage of isolates according to age group.

### B. The Sensitivity of Bacteria to Antibiotics.

Data represented in Fig. 2 show the percentage sensitivity of bacterial isolates against nine antibiotics, where it showed they were streptomycin and penicillin G 16.94%, 64.40% respectively. While noted the highest sensitivity to antibiotics was chloramphenicol (83.05%), similarly sensitive for Gentamicin and Rifampicin with (81.35%).

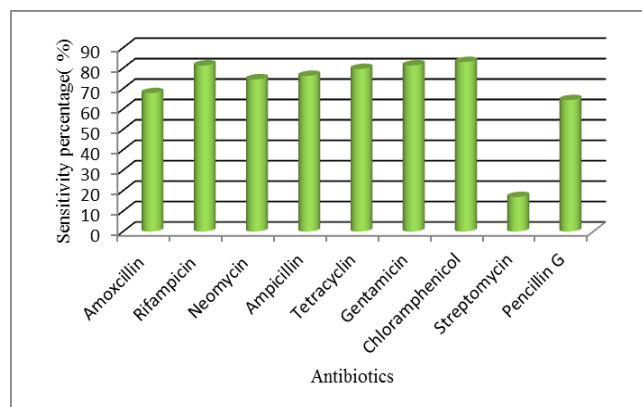


Fig. 2. The percentage sensitivity of bacterial isolates antibiotics.

The current study showed that the chloramphenicol is the best of antibiotic in its influence on the bacterial isolates taken from the mouth, followed by the antibiotic Gentamicin and Rifampicin. The antibiotic tetracycline, Ampicillin, Neomycin, Amoxcillin are less effective on the bacterial isolates. One of the results we have noticed that the bacterial isolates showed variation in their resistance to antibiotics of the group of aminoglycoside, the ratio of sensitive to Neomycin 74.57%. The percentage of sensitive to Gentamicin by 81.35%. The resistance to aminoglycoside antibiotics increased notably in recent times, Livermore and Winstanley, 2001 studied Relationships between antibiotic and mechanism are also presented to allow full interpretative reading for those testing wide panels of drugs versus isolates. This resistance which is due to the formation of the enzyme by resistant bacteria modifies the antibiotic and thus loses its effectiveness or because of loss of outer membrane proteins, which reduces the permeability of the antibiotic inside the bacterial cell. [18]. Evidenced by the results of the current study, the majority of bacterial isolates possessed prescription relatively high resistance to antibiotics represented  $\beta$ -lactam (Ampicillin, Amoxicillin, Penicillin G). The high bacterial resistance to antibiotics  $\beta$ -lactam due to several mechanisms, most notably the ability to produce enzymes which  $\beta$ -lactamase the broken bind  $\beta$ -lactam, change the permeability barrier intimacy between the antibiotic and locations of the target Penicillin Binding Protein, came our results are compatible with Cherian and Manjunath, 2003 during their study that extended spectrum beta lactamase producing enterobacteriaceae in a tertiary care hospital in Trinidad and Tobago [19]. The results of this study also showed the high resistance shown by the bacterial isolates to streptomycin explains the mechanism of

the resistance to this antibiotic, Speculation on this mechanism indicates that the binding of the molecule to the 30S subunit interferes with 50S subunit association with the mRNA strand. This result in an unstable ribosomal-mRNA complex, leading to a frameshift mutation and defective protein synthesis leading to cell death. Syal et al 2013, reported that streptomycin therapeutic concentrations of 10 mg/mL interfere in the Jaffe reaction and acted as non-creatinine chromogen during in their study that referred Streptomycin interference in Jaffe reaction Possible false positive creatinine estimation in excessive dose exposure [20]. The study also shows an increasing resistance to tetracycline, it is believed that this resistance resulted from the presence of plasmids that encode resistance to the antibiotic which moves significantly. Koo and Woo, 2011 [21] during their study that distribution and transferability of tetracycline resistance determinants in *E. coli* isolated from meat and meat products reported that the high prevalence of tetracycline resistant *Escherichia coli* in meat may be due to the high transferability of tetracycline determinants [21]. It is noted during the study that the lowest resistance showed by the bacterial isolates was to chloramphenicol, Gentamicin and Rifampicin. It appeared that most of the bacterial isolates were sensitive to these adversaries and may be due to response to the majority of the isolates of these two adversaries to being of limited use antibiotics at the present time in hospitals, leading to increased resistance to antibiotics can be passed as determinants responsible for drug resistance to antibiotics by plasmids.

### C. The Sensitivity of Bacteria to Heavy Metal

The results shown in Fig. 3 that the resistance and sensitive percentages of bacterial isolates seven heavy metals, where it showed explain the highest resistance to heavy metals, Silver nitrate, Iron chloride, Zinc chloride, lead acetate (100%), while appeared sensitivity to mercury (100%), cadmium (86.44%) and copper sulfate (1.69%).

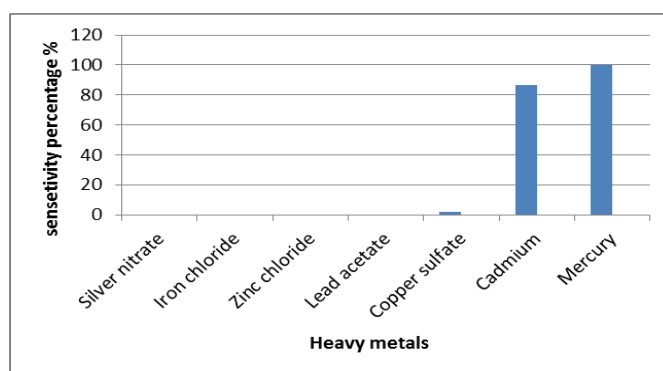


Fig. 3. The percentage of bacterial isolates sensitive of heavy metal.

The results of this study also showed the high resistance shown by the bacterial isolates to silver nitrate. Starodub and Trevors, 1990 reported that Thirty nine percentage of

bacteria *E. coli* resistance silver [22]. That is proof of bacteria resistance silver of a agent modification at intervals the microorganism ordering . silver resistance is stable at intervals a microorganism population and transmissible to sensitive recipient strains by conjugation or transformation in vitro. Silver ,2003 found link between Bacterial silver resistance and molecular biology by uses misuses of silver compounds [23] Bacterial resistance to silver will arise , natural property or through mutation or acquisition of plasmids or transposons segments of DNA which will self replicate and migrate to a replacement position on constant or another body. Gupta et al 1999, reported that Molecular basis for resistance to silver cations in *Salmonella* and they are found that the high resistance silver determinant from a hospital burn ward *Salmonella* plasmid contains nine open reading frames, arranged in three measured and divergently transcribed RNAs. The resistance determinant encodes a plasmid [24]. We have noticed that the bacterial isolates showed resistance for lead , One of the mechanisms that micro organisms use to avoid the toxicity of heavy metals of no biological perform is to limit their movement across the cell envelope . Jarosławiecka and Piotrowska 2014 studied that the main mechanisms of lead resistance , cell exclusion, and ion efflux to the cell exterior and noted the cytoplasm membrane be a natural barrier for lead, since the practical teams of many macromolecules are concerned in binding this metal in gram-negative microorganism, this role is contend principally by lipo polysaccharide, a big part of the outer membrane. In gram-positive microorganism, peptidoglycan beside teichoic and teichuronic acids [25]. Beveridge and Fyfe , 1985 studied the heavy Metals fixation by bacterial cell walls so they were noted the types of cell wall polymers that are responsible for heavy metals binding in walls of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria [26] . Evidenced by the results of the current study, the majority of bacterial isolates possessed prescription relatively high sensitive to Mercury . Mercury is additionally the sole microorganism metal resistance system whose mechanism ends up in large-scale transformation of its target. The mechanisms of different ion to resistances are supported effluent pumps or living thing sequestration .Barkay and Miller, 2003 [27] studied bacterial mercury resistance from atoms to ecosystems so reported that one or more proteins apparently involved in transport genes conferring occur on chromosomes, plasmids, and transposons and their operon arrangements can be quite diverse ,structural genes, several of which are modular. proteins protects host cells from this toxic metal, [27]. The data obtained during this study clearly shows that with sensitive microorganism of cadmium. This may be due largely to reasons related to less concentration from cadmium increase the rates of sensitive isolates . Cohen et al 1990 , studied that the effect of zinc and cadmium ions on *Escherichia coli* and they were noted that exposure of *E. coli* to various concentrations of these ions resulted in an increase of the total protein and the metal binding proteins amount in the cells. The activity of alkaline phosphates was raise in the presence of these ions [28]. The heavy metal Copper was less effective on the bacterial isolates. Michels and Wilks, 2005

[29] reported that Copper alloy surfaces have intrinsic properties to destroy a large variety of microorganisms during their study that effect Copper alloys human infectious disease [29].

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Results of the study showed that the rate of tooth caries was highest in the second age group 44% , The results of tests proved the antibiotic sensitivity , the optimal antibiotic for the tooth caries are chloramphenicol (83.05%), Gentamicin and Rifampicin ( 81.35%). The results of this study showed an increase in the proportion of resistance all heavy metals except mercury (100%), cadmium (86.44%) and copper sulfate (1.69%).

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