

# Survey of aminoglycoside acetyl transferase genes in multi-drug resistance *Acinetobacter*

## Abstract

*Acinetobacter baumannii* is a gram-negative, non-fermenting coccobacillus that its species are opportunistic pathogens and cause nosocomial infections. Bacteria achieve their resistance to the antibiotics through three mechanisms. Aminoglycoside acetyl transferase are member of GCN5 super family as an AMEs for example AAC(3) and AAC(6) N acetylate aminoglycoside on the amine group on position 3 and 6 amino hexose respectively. In this study we are survey present of AAC (3, 6) gen in *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolated from Iranian hospital patient. A total of 43 non-duplicated *Acinetobacter* clinical isolates were collected from the Tehran hospital in 2016. DNA extraction carried out by gram negative DNA extraction kit. Two target genes and their primers used for PCR amplification. Result show that aac (3) IIa gene with 740bp was 68.4% and in gentamicin resistant strain was 66.9% aac (6) Ib gene with 482bp present in 76% of resistant strain (43/33) and in amikacin resistant strain was 72.2% and in gentamicin resistant strain was 70.6%. Previous study showed presence of high variety of resistance gene especially aminoglycoside. This variety explains that other genes may have role in *Acinetobacter* resistance for aminoglycoside. It believes that the ability of this pathogen to harbor diverse genetic elements parallels the experience with *P. aeruginosa*. Genome wide analysis will provide critical insights into this ability.

**Keywords:** *Acinetobacter*, aminoglycoside acetyl transferase, aminoglycoside, PCR

Volume 4 Issue 1 - 2018

Saleh Soleimani,<sup>1</sup> Samira Vaziri,<sup>1</sup> Mona Afrasiyabi,<sup>3</sup> Habibollah Nazem,<sup>1</sup> Mohamad Fazilati,<sup>1</sup> Seyyed mohammad Atyabi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of biology, Payamenoor university, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of pilot biotechnology, Pasteure institute of Iran, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Pharmaceutical sciences branch, Islamic azad university, Iran

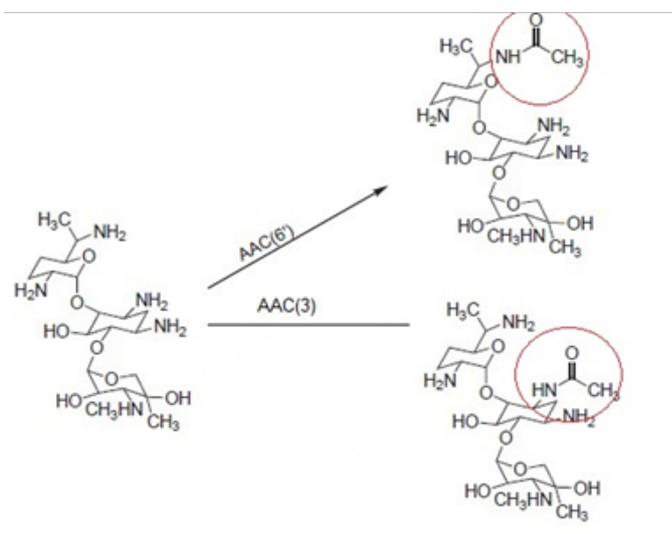
**Correspondence:** Seyyed mohammad atyabi, Department of pilot biotechnology, Pasteure institute of Iran, Iran, Tel +989122061565, Email mohammadatyabi@yahoo.com

**Received:** December 29, 2017 | **Published:** January 29, 2018

## Introduction

*Acinetobacter baumannii* is a gram-negative, non fermenting coccobacillus that its species are opportunistic pathogens and cause nosocomial infections among patients in intensive care unit (ICUs). This bacteria cause various infections such as pneumonia, meningitis, endocarditis, and urinary tract.<sup>1</sup> Three decades ago, *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections treated with traditional antibiotics but today its show resistance to major classes of antibiotics including aminoglycosides, tetracyclines, fluoroquinolones, carbapenems, cephalosporins, etc... At last year's multidrug resistance (MDR) clinical isolates have shown global distribution.<sup>2</sup> Since Discovery and use of antibiotics, resistance to these agents has been observed. That has negative effect on the treatment of infectious disease.<sup>3</sup> Bacteria achieve their resistance to the antibiotics through three mechanisms: (1) efflux of the antibiotic from the cell via membrane-associated pumping proteins. (2) modification of antibiotic binding target molecule such as special protein or ribosomal RNA or by reprogramming of biosynthetic pathways. (3) by modifying enzymes that selectively modified and destroyed of antibiotic activity. These mechanisms require new programming by the cell in response to the presence of antibiotics.<sup>4</sup> Acetyl transfer, is a common mechanism for inactivation of antibiotic that employed by bacteria. O-acetylation or N-acetylation is biologically stable. The aminoglycoside antibiotics bind to the A-site of the ribosome and as a result, impair the codon-anticodon decoding mechanism and blocking of translation fidelity. Aminoglycoside antibiotics bind to 16S rRNA molecule.<sup>5</sup> Aminoglycoside acetyl transferase are member of GCN5 super family of protein include the histone acetyl transferase that are classified based on their region specificity of acetyl transfer on the aminoglycoside structure. For example AAC (3) and AAC(6) N acetylate aminoglycoside on the amine group on position 3 and 6 amino hexose respectively. Genes encoding these enzymes are widespread in plasmids, transposons, and

integrons (Figure 1).<sup>6</sup> In this study we are survey present of AAC (3, 6) gen in *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolated from Iranian hospital patient.



**Figure 1** Reaction catalysed by AACs.

## Methods and materials

A total of 43 non-duplicated *Acinetobacter* clinical isolates were collected from the Tehran hospital in 2016. Biochemical tests were used for identification at the species level in 43 gram negative bacteria that had negative reaction on oxidase test and lack of lactose fermentation and TSI tests Alk/Alk.<sup>7-9</sup> The strains were isolated from trachea (60%) and sputum (40%). Multi drug resistance tests carried

out for several antibiotics groups but in this analysis aminoglycoside (amikacin, gentamicin) resistance strains selected for study. Antibiotic susceptibility testing was performed using disc diffusion method (Kirby-bauer) on Muller Hinton agar. The criteria used

were in accordance with the guidelines established by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).<sup>8</sup> DNA extraction carried out by gram negative DNA extraction kit. Two target genes and their primers used for PCR amplification are listed in below Table 1.

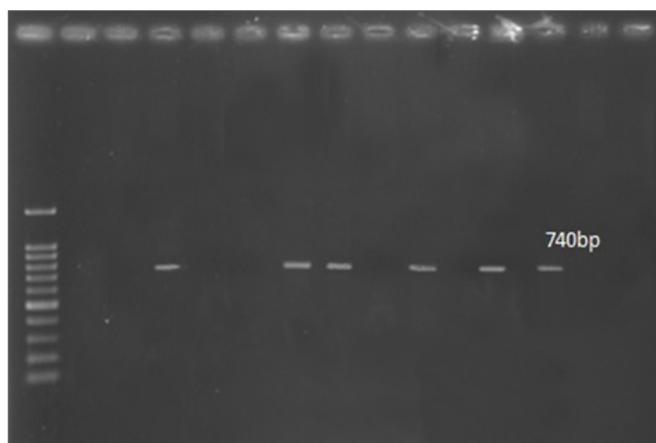
**Table 1** Two target genes and their primers used for PCR amplification

| Primer name | Primer sequence (5to3)     | Genes     | Bp    | Reference |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| aac(3)IIa   | CGGAAGGCAATAACGGAG For     | AAC(3IIa) | sz740 | 10        |
|             | TCGAACAGGTAGCACTGAG Rev    |           |       |           |
| aac(6)Ib    | TTGCGATGCTCTATGAGTGGCT For | AAC(6Ib)  | 482   | 11        |
|             | CTCGAATGCCTGGCGTGTTT Rev   |           |       |           |

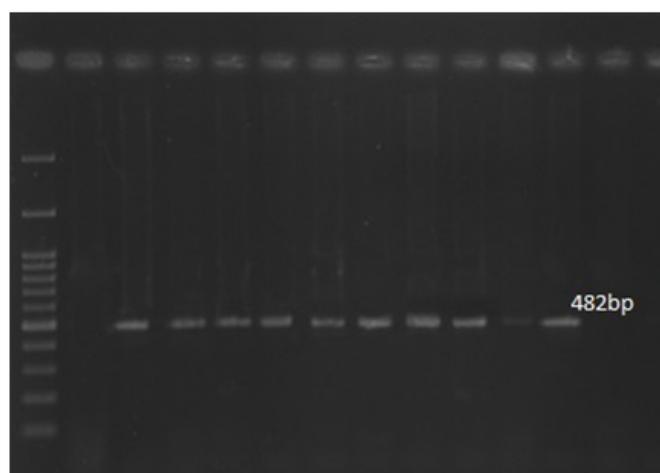
PCR condition included denaturation at 94°C for 2min; 36 cycles consisting of 94°C for 45s, annealing at 58°C (for aac(6)Ib) and 54°C (for aac(3)IIa) for 45s, and 72°C for 45s; and a final extension at 72°C for 5mins.<sup>7</sup> PCR product electrophoresed on agarose gel 1% for aac(3)IIa and agarose 1.5% for aac(6)Ib. 100bp-1kbp DNA ladder was used to assess PCR product size and treatment 10min with ethidium bromide and imaging with UV illuminator.<sup>9</sup>

## Result

*Acinetobacter* spp isolated were recovered from 43 patient that in ICUs and some other part of hospital. The strains were isolated from trachea (60%) and sputum (40%). Multi drug resistance tests carried out for several antibiotics groups. Isolated *Acinetobacter* spp has high resistance to all groups of antibiotics. Aminoglycoside resistance for amikacin, was 95% and for gentamicin was 93%. Aac (3)IIa gene with 740bp was 68.4% and in gentamicin resistant strain was 66.9%. aac (6)Ib gene with 482bp present in 76% of resistant strain (43/33) and in amikacin resistant strain was 72.2% and in gentamicin resistant strain was 70.6%. Figure 2 & 3 show result of PCR product electrophoresis the last sample from right related to negative control and sample without band related to negative sample for *Acinetobacter* and band show present of gene in bacteria first column from left related to DNA ladder band.



**Figure 2** aac(3)IIa gene present in *Acinetobacter* with 740bp.



**Figure 3** aac(6)Ib gene present in *Acinetobacter* with 482bp.

## Discussion

*Acinetobacter* spp isolated were recovered from 43 patients. The strains were isolated from trachea (60%) and sputum (40%). Antibiogram result showed high rate of resistance to all groups of antibiotics. Resistance to aminoglycoside due to inactivation of antibiotics by modifying enzyme such as acetyl transferase, phosphotransferase, and adenyl transferase.<sup>10-12</sup> Presence of aminoglycoside resistance gene such as aphA6 aacC1 and aadA1 in clinical isolated *Acinetobacter* was reported at below published.<sup>13</sup> A variety of aminoglycoside 3, 6-*N*-acetyl transferase genes from *Acinetobacter* species have been reported to date.<sup>14</sup> In *Acinetobacter* species, AMEs are common especially AAC(6)-I and APH(3)-II.<sup>15</sup> Previous study showed presence of high variety of resistance gene especially aminoglycoside resistance gene in *Acinetobacter* and its reason for multi drugs resistance of *Acinetobacter* in this study resistance for Amikacin and gentamycin were 95% and 93% respectively and resistance gene rate were for two gene aac(3)IIa gene with 740bp was 68.4% and in gentamicin resistant strain was 66.9%. aac(6)Ib gene with 482bp present in 76% of resistant strain (43/33) and in amikacin resistant strain was 72.2% and in gentamicin resistant strain was 70.6%. It shows that other genes may have a role in *Acinetobacter*

resistance for aminoglycoside. Resistance to so antibiotics perhaps the intrinsic impermeability of these outer membranes coupled with the close relationship of *A. baumannii* to the soil and aquatic environment has made it possible for these organisms to acquire highly effective resistance determinants in response to multiple challenges.<sup>16</sup>

## Conclusion

It believes that the ability of this pathogen to harbor diverse genetic elements parallels the experience with *P. aeruginosa*. Genome wide analysis will provide critical insights into this ability. Wasteful use of antibiotic cause to appearance of resistance strain of bacteria to the existence antibiotics and this makes treatment difficult also the cost and duration of treatment increased.

## Acknowledgements

None.

## Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

## References

- Moradi J, Hashemi FB, Bahador A. Antibiotic resistance of Acinetobacterbaumanniiin iran: a systemic review of the published literature. *Osong public health res perspect*. 2015;6(2):79–86.
- Oh yj, Song SH, Baik SH, et al. A case of fulminant community acquired Acinetobacter baumannii pneumonia in korea. *Korean j intern med*. 2013;28(4):486–490.
- Levy SB. *The antibiotic paradox*. UK: Perseus Publishing; 2002. 335 p.
- Jackowski S. Biosynthesis of pantothenic acid and coenzyme A. *Eco Sal Plus*. 1996;2(2):687–694.
- Wright GD. Bacterial resistance to antibiotics: Enzymatic degradation and modification. *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews*. 2005;57(10):1451–1470.
- Vetting MW, Magnet S, Nieves E, et al. A bacterial acetyltransferase capable of regioselectiveN-acetylation of antibiotics and histones. *Chem Biol*. 2004;11(4):565–573.
- Lin YC, Hsia KC, Chen YC, et al. Genetic Basis of Multidrug Resistance in Acinetobacter Clinical Isolates in Taiwan. *Antimicrobial agents and chemotherapy*. 2010;62(2):2078–2084.
- Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute Performance standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing: fifteenth informational supplement, M100–S15. USA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2014.
- Moniri R, Farahani RK, Shajani G, et al. Molecular epidemiology of aminohlycosides resistant in Acinetobacter SPP. With emergence of multidrug-resistant strains. *Iranian J publ Health*. 2010;39(2):63–68.
- Wu Q, Zhang Y, Han L, et al. Plasmid-mediated 16SrRNA methylase in aminoglycoside-resistantenterobactriaceae isolates in shghai, china. *Antimicrobial agents and chemotrapy*. 2008;53(1):271–272.
- Over U, Gur D, Unal S, et al. The changing nature of aminoglycosiceresistance mechanisms and prevalence of newlyreconizedresistance mechanisms in turkey. *Clin microbial infect*. 2001;7:470–478.
- Lambert T, Rudant E, Bouvet P, et al. Molecular basis of aminoglycoside resistance in Acinetobacter spp. *J Med Microbiol*. 1997;46:731–35.
- Shaw KJ, Rather PN, Hare RS, et al. Molecular genetics of aminoglycoside resistance genes and familial relationships of the aminoglycoside-modifying enzymes. *Microbiol Rev*. 1993;57(1):138–63.
- Doi Y, Wachino J, Yamane K, et al. Spread of Novel Aminoglycoside Resistance Gene aac(6\_)Iad among Acinetobacter Clinical Isolates in Japan. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2004;48(6):2075–2080.
- Pitt TL, Livermore DM, Miller G, et al. Resistance mechanisms of multiresistant serotype 012 Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolated in Europe. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 1990;26(3):319–328.
- D'Costa VM, McGrann KM, Hughes DW, et al. Sampling the antibiotic resistome. *Science*. 2006;311(5759):374–377.