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**Epidemiology of multi drug resistant organisms in pigs in Lebanon**

Iman Dandachi¹,², Elie Fayad¹, Bassel El-Bazzal³, Ahmad Sleiman¹, Jean-Marc Rolain², Ziad Daoud¹

¹ Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences, University of Balamand, Amioun, Beirut, Lebanon
² Unité de recherche sur les maladies infectieuses et tropicales émergentes (URMITE), UM 63, CNRS 7278, IRD 198, INSERM 1095, IHU Méditerranée Infection, Faculté de Médecine et de Pharmacie, Aix-Marseille-Univ, Marseille, France
³ Ministry of Agriculture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Abstract**

Introduction: Livestock are nowadays considered potent reservoirs of multi drug resistance. Enteric resistant organisms in animals can be transmitted to humans and be causative agents of infections with therapeutic challenges. The aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of multi drug resistant organisms in Lebanese swine farms.

Methodology: In May 2017, 94 fecal samples were collected from pigs in the south of Lebanon. Three media supplemented with cefotaxime, ertapenem, colistin were used for the screening of ESBL, carbapenemase producers and colistin resistance respectively. MALDI-TOF was used for bacterial identification. Double disk synergy test, ampC disk test and carpa np test were used for the detection of ESBL, ampC and carbapenemase producers respectively. RT-PCR was performed for the screening of beta lactamase and mcr colistin resistance genes.

Results: 77/94 fecal samples, showed growth on the medium supplemented with cefotaxime. In total 11 strains were isolated: 94% were identified as *E.coli*, 6% other organisms such as *E. fergusonii* and *K. pneumoniae*. Phenotypic tests showed that 72% of isolated strains were ESBL producers while 28% were ampC beta lactamase producers. RT-PCR analysis revealed that blaCTX-M was present in 45% of isolated strains, blaTEM in 26% and blaSHV in 10%. In parallel, 22 colistin resistant *E.coli* strains and 1 *K.pneumoniae* carrying mcr-1 were isolated.

Conclusions: This study showed the importance of swine farms as reservoirs of resistance in Lebanon. The emergence of colistin resistance in pigs is worrying. A re-evaluation of antibiotic consumption in pigs is therefore warranted.

**Key words:** pigs; ESBL; *Escherichia coli*; mcr-1.


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**Corresponding author**

Prof. Ziad Daoud
POBox:33, Amioun, Lebanon
Phone: (961) 06.930250, ext 3819
Fax: +961.6.930250 (ext 3819)
Email: ziad.daoud@balamand.edu.lb

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