DETECTION OF SOME VIRULENCE AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES OF *KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIAE* ISOLATED FROM DISEASED BROILER CHICKENS

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ABSTRACT

Respiratory diseases affected broiler chickens is a problem threat their production and cause agreat loses among them. This research was conducted to identify the extent of the spread of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* at different age's clinically diseased broiler chickens in Gharbia governorate. A total of 400 internal organs (heart, lung, liver, and spleen) were obtained from 100 sick chickens with respiratory symptoms were used to determine the prevalence of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and the susceptibility patterns of isolates to antibiotics using disc diffusion assay. In addition, they were tested for some virulence genes such as, *rmpA*, *magA*, *wcaG* and antibiotic resistance genes (*blaTEM* and *blaSHV*) by using PCR. Bacteriological examination revealed that isolation of *Klebsiella Pneumoniae* with a total prevalence rate reached (13%) as 13 out of 100 examined cases where (27) isolates of *K. pneumoniae* were detected. Lung (13%) had the largest percentage of *K. pneumoniae* isolates, liver (7%), spleen (5%), and heart (2%). All of the isolates were resistance to Ampicillin. 25 (92.6%) to Lincomycin, 24 (88.9%) to Ox tetracycline, 22 (81.5%) to cefotaxime and Doxycycline. 9 (33.3%) to ciprofloxacin, 8(29.6%) to Amoxicillin /clavulanic acid, 7 (25.9%) to Norfloxacin, 6 (22.2%) to gentamicin, and all of the isolates were sensitive toamikacin.

The presence of gyrA and 16S-23S ITS genes in Klebsiella Pneumonia isolates were confirmed by PCR, all isolates tested were positive for $(bla_{TEM}$ and $bla_{SHV})$, negative for magA, rmpA and wcaG genes.

INTRODUCTION

Klebsiella spp. is one of the normal flora of poultry's gut, but it can cause infections if the birds' immune systems are impaired. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is an opportunistic pathogen linked to serious nosocomial infections includes septicemia, pneumonia, and urinary tract infections.

K. pneumonia subsp. pneumonia, K. pneumonia subsp. Ozaenae, and K. pneumonia subsp. Rhinoscleromatis are the three subspecies of K. pneumonia. (Brisse and Verhoef, 2001). Klebsiella pneumoniae is a lactose fermenting bacteria that is Gram negative, encapsulated, non-motile, and has a rod shape, they are facultative anaerobic bacteria that cause infections when a bird's immune system is weak. (Janda and Abbott, 2006). On the cell surface of Klebsiella, there are two types of antigens. Smooth lipopolysaccharide (O-antigen) is the first, while capsular polysaccharide is the second (K-antigen). These antigens play a role in its pathogenesis. Polysaccharide capsule is a major factor in the virulence of *Klebsiella* and is also responsible for the mucoid colony phenotype, (Sikarwar and Batra, 2011). K. pneumoniae can produce several virulence factors as smooth LPS, pilli for adhesion to host cells, capsules which are ant phagocytic, siderophores help this bacterium in its competition with the host for iron uptake (SAljanaby and Alhasani, 2016). The gyrA and gyrB genes, these are made up of two A and two B subunits. For Klebsiella detection, genes encoding subunit A of DNA gyrase (gyrA) is employed (**Brisse and Verhoef, 2001**). This bacterium is found in regions of the environment causing embryonic death and high losses in turkeys and hens (Orajaka and Mohan, 1985).

It has been isolated from chickens where it was the predominant pathogen and was accompanied by respiratory symptoms, septicaemia, peritonitis, salpingitis, air sac disease, omphalitis, artheritis, endopthalmitis, disturbances in intestinal tract and egg production has decreased (Sandra and Duarte, 1998); (Aly et al., 2014) and (Saif et al., 2003).

On the genomic map of *K. pneumoniae* capsule, gene clusters can be found as following: *rmp* A (Regulator of mucoid phenotype A), *Wb* (O-specific polysaccharide), *cps* (Capsular polysaccharide synthesis), *mag* A (Mucoviscosity associated gene A) and *kfu* gene(Iron uptake system gene) (Regue *et al.*, 2005 and Seidler *et al.*, 1975), *rmp* A gene regulates the synthesis of the *Klebsiella* polysaccharide capsule, *mag* A is a member of *K. pneumoniae* serotype *K1 capsular* polysaccharide gene that boosts toits pathogenicity (Fang *et al.*, 2004), *mag* A is involved in serious *Klebsiella* infections as pneumonia, septicemia and bacteremia (Chan *et al.*, 2005 and Chung *et al.*, 2007), *kfu* gene which codes for an iron uptake system, this gene is thought to be particularly significant iniron uptake from the host cell.(Aher *et al.*, 2012) which is a putative pathogenic gene, more prevalent in hypervirulent strains (Ma *et al.*, 2005).On the transferrable areas ofchromosome, *wca*G gene is important for

K. pneumoniae capsule biosynthesis, it is required to convert of mannose to fucose, and this helps bacteria to resist macrophage phagocytosis (Shu et al., 2009). Resistance and virulence do not have mutually exclusive characteristics, and their interaction could be crucial in pathogenicity of K. pneumoniae (Vila et al., 2011). Most of the criteria of virulence and resistance have been transferred across bacteria byhorizontal gene transfer, DNA transfer is likely most essential mechanism for virulence andresistance traits spread and co-selection (Da Silva and Mendonc, 2012).

Gram negative bacilli produce extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs), they are plasmid-mediated enzymes, penicillin and cephalosporin resistance is conferred by extended-spectrum beta-lactamases. Also, these plasmids carry resistance genes to other bacteria (Multidrug resistant bacteria) (Jacoby, 1997).

Transmission of transmissible plasmids, which may also carry virulence genes, is typically linked to antimicrobial resistance. Gaining resistance and virulent features may make the microbe have the ability to endure and survive (**Da Silva and Mendonc**, **2012**). By increasing capsular polysaccharide synthesis, *rmp*A gene provides a hypermucoviscous phenotypic to *K. pneumonia*. Also, the extensive and wrong use of these antimicrobials, it cause the bacteriato develop itself, so that it can overcome these antibiotics (**Wright** *et al.*, **2005**). Therefore, Food contamination with multidrug resistant bacteria is a serious public health concern, transmission of antibiotic- resistant features to pathogenic bacteria could impair clinical treatment (**Van** *et al.*, **2007**). This study sought to examine the virulence and resistance factors of *K. pneumonia*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Samples:

400 samples (heart, lung, liver and spleen) were collected from 100 varying age broiler chickens suffered from respiratory manifestation from some farms in Gharbia governorate, Egypt.

Isolation and identification:

Specimens were inoculated directly onto nutrient broth, incubated at 37°C for 24 h, and then streaked onto MacConkey agar and (XLD) agar and incubated at 37°C for 24hours,mucoid

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lactose fermenting colonies were purified and confirmed by biochemical tests according to (Harada et al., 2013) and (Dashe et al., 2013).

PCR Procedures:

a-DNA Extraction:

DNA extraction from pure isolates (isolate from each organ) were performed according to (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH) with some changes , 200 μ l of sample and 10 μ l of proteinase K and 200 μ l of lysis buffer were incubated at 56°C for 10 minutes . Added 200 μ l ethanol to the lysate. After that, washing and centrifugation to the sample. Using 100 μ l elution buffer to elute nucleic acid.

b-Oligonucleotide Primer:

The primers, which are listed as in (Table 1), **Metabion** (**Germany**). Amplification of genes tested by PCR: 12.5 µl Emerald Amp (Takara, Japan), 1 µl of primer at a concentration of twenty pmol 45 µl H2o, 6 µl of DNA template were added to a 25- µl reaction.

c-Analysis of the PCR Products:

By electrophoresis (Applichem, Germany, GmbH), at room temperature on 1.5% agarosegel in 1x TBE buffer using gradients of 5V/cm to separate PCR products. Each gel slot wasfilled with 20 µl of uniplex PCR products for gel analysis. The fragment sizes were determined using 100 base pair DNA ladders (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH). (AlphaInnotech, Biometra) was used to photograph the gel, data was processed using computer software.

Table (1): Gene sequence of gene primers and phases of cycling conditions.

	Primers sequences	Amplied segment (bp)	Primary denatu ration	Amplification (35 cycles)			Final	
Carget gene				Secondary denaturation	Annealing	Extension		Reference
Makais Baran A	F. CGC GTA CTA TAC GCC ATG AAC GTA	40	APP C	94°C	55°C	72°C	72° C	Brisse and
Klebniella gyrA	R. ACC GIT GAT CAC ITC GGT CAG G	441	94°C 5 min.	30 sec.	40 sec.	40 sec.	10 min.	Verboef, (2001)
magA	F. GGTGCTCTTTACATCAT TGC	1282	94°C5 min.	94°C	50°C	72°C	72° C	
	R. GCAATGGCCATTTGCGT TAG			30 sec.	40 sec.	1.2 min.	12min.	
cosp.A	F. ACTGGGCTACCTCTGCT TCA	535	94°C 5 min.	94°C	50°C	72°C	72° C	Yeh
77901	R. CTTGCATGAGCCATCTT TCA	300	54 C 3 mm.	30 sec.	40 sec.	40 sec.	10 min.	etal, (2007)
I. рне итонів	F. ATTTGAAGAGGTTGCA ACGAT	130	94°C 5 min.	94°C	55°C	72°C	72° C	Turton
163-238 ITS	R. TTCACTCTGAAGTTTC TTGTGTTC	130	94 C 3 mm.	30 sec.	30 sec.	30 sec.	10 min.	stal., (2010)
WeaG	F. GGTTGGGTCAGCAC GTA	169	94°C 5 min.	94°C	58°C	72°C	72° C	Derakhihan
	R. ACTATTCCGCCAATT TGC)4 C J IIIII.	30 sec.	30 sec.	30 sec.	10 min.	st al., (2016)
BlaTEM F	F. ATCAGCAATAAACCAGC	516	94°C 5 min.	94°C	54°C	72°C	72° C	
	R. CCCCGAAGAACGTTTTC		74 0 7 111111	30 sec	30 sec.	30 sec	10 min.	
blaSHV	F. AGGATTGACTGCCT TTTTG	392	94°C 5 min.	94°C	54°C	72°C	72° C	Colom
	R. ATTTGCTGATTTCGCTCG		27 C 2 MIII.	30 sec	30 sec.	30 sec	10 min.	stal, (2003)

Antimicrobial susceptibity testing:

Bacterial resistance profile was identified by disc diffusion assay (CLSI, 2007).

The antibacterial agents which were tested: Ampicillin (Amp10 μg), Oxytetracycline (30 μg), Gentamicin (CN10 μg), Amoxicillin / Clavulinic acid (Amc 20 μg), Doxycycline (DO30 μg), Norfloxacin (NOR10 μg) Cefotaxime (CTX 30μg), Ciprofloxacin (CIP 5 μg), and Amikacin (Ak30μg) and Lincomycin (NY10μg), (Janet and John, 2007).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table (2): Frequency of *Klebsiella Pneumonia* in different organs.

Samples	No. of examined samples	Klel	osiella spp	Klebsiella Pneumonia		
		No	%	No	%	
Liver	100	16	16%*	7	7%*	
Lung	100	29	29%*	13	13%*	
Spleen	100	13	13%*	5	5%*	
Heart	100	7	7%*	2	2%*	
Total	400	65	16.25%**	27	6.75%**	

^{* %} in relation to number of each organ.

Bacterial cultures and identification:

The morphological examination showed that suspected colonies were circular, large and mucoid colonies (**Dashe** *et al.*, **2013**). The biochemical identification proved that, the isolated strains were negative to indole, oxidase, H2S production, methyl red, and coagulase, positive to lactose fermentation, urea hydrolysis, catalase, citrate, voges proskauer, lysine decarboxylase, so they were confirmed to be *K. pneumoniae*. (**Barbara** *et al.*, **1994**).

400 organ samples were collected from 100 clinically diseased broiler chickens (Liver, lung, heart and spleen). Bacteriological examination revealed that isolation of *Klebsiella spp*. with the highest prevalence rate (29%) as 29 out of 100 examined cases and *K. pneumonia* with the highest prevalence rate (13%) as 13 out of 100 examined cases.

A low prevalence rate of *K. pneumonia* has been reported by (**Aher et al., 2012**) at ratio of 5.6% and (**Yimer and Asseged, 2007**) revealed rate of *Klebsiella spp.* at ratio 1.3%. 65 isolates of *Klebsiella spp.* were isolated from 400 organs, 27 isolates of *K. pneumoniae* were recovered from 400 organs, (Four samples per each bird), the greatest isolation rate of *K. pneumonia* was from lung (13%) then liver (7%) then spleen (5%) and the least of them was heart (2%) (Table2). These findings were lower than that reported by (**Aya et al., 2017**) and (**Türkyilmaz, 2006**) who recovered *Klebsiella* species with a prevalence rate 22.78%. 47.1% respectively.

While our findings were higher than the results reported by (Hossain et al., 2013); (Khalda

^{** %} in relation to total number of organs.

et al., 2013); (Aly et al., 2014) and (Younis et al., 2016) with frequency rate (6%, 8.69%, 10.2%, 10% and 15%) respectively. Klebsiella was isolated from the lungs at a higher rate than from other organs. These results corroborate those of (Younis et al., 2016) who said that Klebsiella was isolated with the highest percentage of lungs and disagrees with (Aya et al., 2017) who said that Klebsiella species recovered from liver is the highest percentage. The presence of K. pneumoniae in the internal organs of infected birds may have the presence of concomitant extra intestinal illnesses (Türkyilmaz, 2006). Dashe et al., (2013) recoverd K. pneumoniae from the lungs and liver of 400 seemingly healthy hens with an 8% success rate. Younis et al., (2016) reported that 30 (15%) Klebsiella species isolates were yielded from 200 tissue samples which differentiated into K. pneumoniae 11 % (22/200) and K. oxytoca 4 % (8/200), these results are higher than our results. Aya et al., (2017) isolated (7.78%) K. pneumonia, high isolation rate (64%, 73.33% and 18%) was reported by (Ajayi and Egbebi, 2011), (Younis et al., 2016) and (Kumbish et al., 2006) respectively. Lesser prevalence was noted by (Dashe et al., 2008) and (Yehia and Riyadh, 2013) (1.5% and 3.33%) respectively.

Table (3): Antibacterial susceptibility testing of *K. pneumoniae* (CLSI, 2007).

Antimicrobial.	Resistance	Sensitive
Norfloxacin	7 (25.9%)	20 (74.1%)
Gentamicin	6 (22.2%)	21(77.8%)
Ciproflxacin	9 (33.3%)	18 (66.7%)
Amikacin	- (0%)	27 (100%)
Ampicillin	27 (100%)	- (0%)
Oxytetracycline	24 (88.9%)	3 (11.1%)
Cefotaxime	22 (81.5%)	5 (18.5%)
Lincomycin	25 (92.6%)	2 (7.4%)
Amoxicillin / clavulanic acid	8 (29.6%)	21 (77.8%)
Doxycycline	22 (81.5%)	5 (18.5%)

^{*%:} calculated according to the No. of tested isolates (27).

Disc diffusion assay was used to test 27 K. pneumoniae isolates against ten antibiotic drugs, all of these isolates were ampicillin resistant, 25 (92.6 %) to lincomycin, 24 (88.9%) to oxytetracycline, 22 (81.5%) to cefotaxime and doxycycline. 9 (33.3%) to ciprofloxacin, 8 (29.6%) to amoxicillin / clavulanic acid, 7 (25.9 %) to norfloxacin, 6 (22.2%) to gentamicin, and all of the isolates were sensitive to amikacin as shown in (Table 3). The results showed that 18.5% (5/27) of our strains had multiple resistances (more than three classes of antibiotics). β - Lactam antibiotics are commonly used to treat K. pneumoniae infections; however, one of the most often used resistance medications is beta-lactam antibiotics, which has been a major issue in medical clinics in recent years. (Fang et al., 2004 and Amin et al., 2009).

In our study, antibacterial sensitivity tests revealed that our strains were resistant to various antibiotic groups. The percentage of ampicillin resistance was very high (100%); due to a constitutively generated chromosomal class Ab-lactamase, the majority of *Klebsiella* isolates are spontaneously resistant to ampicillin (Livermore 1995). Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid resistance was found in 29.6% of the isolates that agrees with (Beyene and Tsegaye, 2011) and (Behnam et al., 2014). Younis et al., (2016) who reported that amoxicillin and amoxicillin/clavulanic acid resistance was found in all of their strains in contrast with our finding Veterinary bacterial isolates have been discovered to be resistant to amoxicillin (Brisse and Van Dujjkeren, 2005). About (60.5%) of K. pneumoniae isolates were resistant to amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (Derakhshan et al., 2016). Gentamicin sensitive was found in 77.8% of K. pneumoniae isolates, these results nearly agree with (Behnam et al., 2014); the sensitivity rate they recorded was 65.89%, a low prevalence of K. pneumoniae isolates were sensitive (48.5%) to gentamic (**Derakhshan** et al., 2016). As for antimicrobial resistance to cephalosporin, (Table 3) showed that, the resistance rate for cephalosporin (cefotaxime) was 81.5%, this was roughly in agreement with those reported by (Singh and Goyal 2003) and (Younis et al., 2016), resistance to cephalosporin were (86.67% for cefotaxime, 66.67% for ceftriaxone and 70 % for cefapime), other research revealed that low resistance to cephalosporins (Ullah et al., 2009) and (Derakhshan et al., 2016), (60.0 %) to cefotaxime. Resistance of K. pneumoniae isolates to ciprofloxacin was 33.3% in our research which was almost similar to previous results recorded by (Villegas et al., 2004). Derakhshan et al., (2016) and Younis et al., (2016) recorded a high level of resistance of ciprofloxacin to Klebsiella pneumoniae, (50% and 66.67 %) respectively, this agrees with the results reported by

Ullah et al., (2009). Ciprofloxacin is fluoroquinolone antibiotic (Periti et al., 1998), mutation that occurred in the gyrA gene (It is code for the quinolone activity target)led to resistance to ciprofloxacin (Bagel et al., 1999). Aminoglycosides are effective against gram-negative bacteria, which are significant in therapeutic practice (Ramirez and Tolmasky, 2010). Our isolates were sensitive to amikacin. Klebsiella isolates showing 10 % resistance to amikacin were reported by (Younis et al., 2016). K. pneumoniae had a low incidence of amikacin resistance (7%) according to the study (Gundogan et al., 2011).

As per(**Ullah** *et al.*, **2009**) and (**Derakhshan** *et al.*, **2016**), 63.04 percent and 68.5 percent of *Klebsiella* isolates, respectively were sensitive to amikacin. A high prevalence of *K. pneumoniae* isolates were resistance to Oxytetracycline and Doxycycline (88.9%) and (81.5%) respectively.

These findings support the findings of (Kim et al., 2005) and (Wu et al., 2012), they found substantial numbers of beta-lactam and tetracycline resistance, however, in Iran, the rate of antibiotic resistance in K. pneumoniae was also recorded to be 13%.25 %, 19.6% and 46.6% by (Davies et al., 2016; Bonnedahl et al., 2014; Irajian et al., 2009) and (Mohammadi-mehr and Feizabadi, 2011) respectively. Other research results have found a link between virulence factors production and resistance phenotypes (Da Silva and Mendonc, 2012) and (Mansouri et al., 2011). It's also been discovered that K. pneumoniae isolates that produce ESBL are more invasive and resistant to bactericidal action (Sahly et al., 2004 and Sahly et al., 2008). Virulence genes and class 1 integrons together increases the likelihood of horizontal gene transfer spreading antibiotic resistance and virulence determinants.

Furthermore, virulent strains' accumulation of resistance determinantsmay result in long-term microbe persistence in clinical settings (**Derakhshan** *et al.*, **2016**). Extended spectrum beta-lactamases hydrolyze the β- lactam ring, rendering cephalosporin and penicillin medicines inactive (**Beyene and Tsegaye**, **2011**). Furthermore, some genes are migratory amongst isolates and diffuse all over the environment. It's possible that resistance genes propagate due to a different route of gene transfer, such as horizontal gene transfer between serotypes. (**Madhusudana and Surendran**, **2010**) and (**Sharma and Navin 2006**). In our study, *K. pneumoniae* was multidrug- resistant to fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides and trimethoprim; these results are similar to the results of (**Kumar** *et al.*, **2011**). There are different reasons that lead

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to the resistance of these bacteria to antibiotics, including large component of the genetic and phenotypic diversity of clinical isolates and multiple mechanism of fluoroquinolones. *Klebsiella* resistant to many antibiotics (multiple antibiotic resistance, MAR) is steadily increasing, and this is due to the indiscriminate use of antibiotics in many poultry farms. **Kilonzo-Nthenge** *et al.*, (2008) have approved administering antibiotics at low levels for a long time, some bacterial species become resistant.

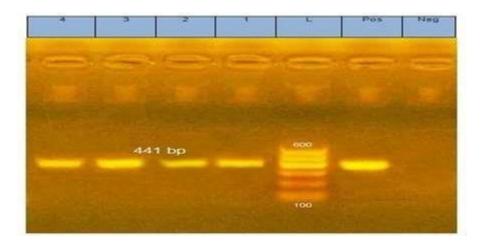


Fig. (1): PCR amplification for gyrA gene at 441 bp, lane (1, 2, 3, and 4) positive samples.

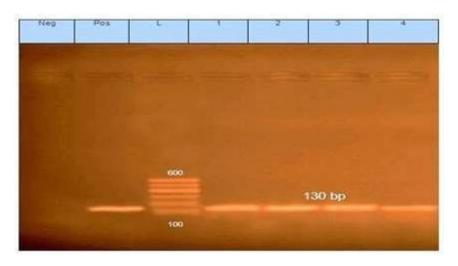


Fig. (2): PCR amplification for 16S-23S ITS at 130 bp, lane (1, 2, 3 and 4) positive for *K. pneumoniae*.

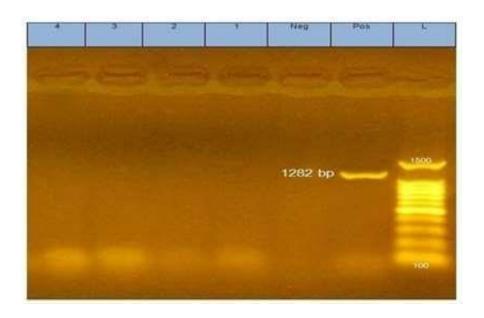


Fig. (3): PCR amplification for magA gene at 1282 bp, (Lane 1, 2, 3 and 4) negative samples.

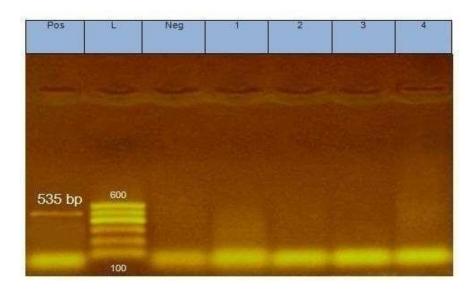


Fig. (4): PCR amplification of rmpA gene at 535 bp, (Lane 1, 2, 3 and 4) negative samples

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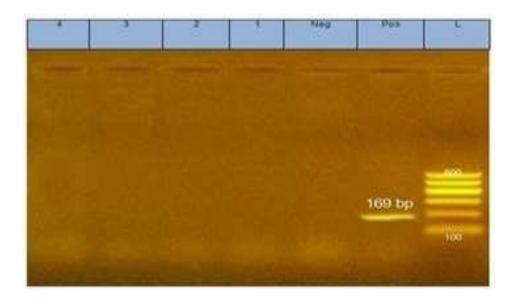


Fig. (5): PCR amplification of *wca*G at 169 bp, (Lane 1, 2, 3 and 4) negative samples.

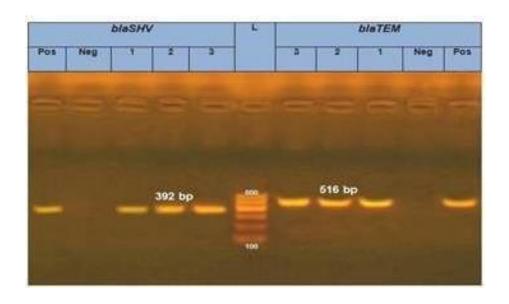


Fig. (6): PCR amplification of bla_{TEM} and bla_{SHV} at 516 bp and 392 bp respectively, (Lane 1, 2, and 3) positive samples for both genes.

GyrA primers were constructed using similarities between the *gyr*A sequence and other bacteria's sequences. They were amplifying a subset of the genes that were commonly amplified to identify mutations in the region that determined quinolone resistance, which was used for *Klebsiella* species. (**Brisse and Verhoef, 2001**). Using primers for the 16S-23S internal transcribed spacer region and genus specific primer sequences (*gyr*A) (Table 1), some strains were validated by polymerase chain reaction, which amplify at 130 bp and 441 bp, respectively Fig. (1, 2). This supported the identification of *K. pneumoniae*. Because related species frequently exhibit identical biochemical characteristics, conventional methods are frequently unreliable. (**Lopes** *et al.*, **2007**).

The entire isolates were tested by PCR (using specified primer sequences), to determine the presence of mag A and rmp A genes that amplify at 1282 bp and 535 bp, respectively, mag A and rmpA, genes were not detected. Fig. (3, 4). Unexpectedly, genes of extracapsular polysaccharides and mucoviscosity, (rmpA and magA) were absent. These results similar to results of (Davies et al., 2016). El-Fertas-Aissani et al., (2013) noted a low incidence of rmpA and absence of the magA from all tested samples. These genes are prevalent in human patients who present with invasive illnesses in some parts of the world and they play a significant role in the virulence of K. pneumoniae related to the invasiveness and resistance. Given the negative outcomes for magA and rmpA, more research is required to determine their exact functions and how they interact with the exopolysaccharides and capsular polysaccharides that make up bacterial surface envelopes (Fang et al., 2004). Although rmpA was present in all serotype K1 and K2 strains and magA was specific to serotype K1 strains, (Yeh et al., 2007) divided all strains into 4 categories: K1 (magA and rmpA positive), K2 (magA negative and rmpA positive), rmpA-positive non-K1/K2 (magA negative), and rmpA- negative non-K1/K2 (magA negative). The presence of these genes may be a sign of a *Klebsiella* isolate's potential for pathogenicity. Bacteria with the magA and rmpA genes in their capsular serotypes K1 and K2 are more invasive and phagocytosis-resistant. According to Yu et al., (2006), rmpA and magA prevalence were 48% and 17%, respectively in Taiwan. According to (Fang et al., 2004; Ku et al., 2008; Cheng et al., 2010 and Yu et al., 2007), the rmpA gene is associated with the presence of phenotypic evidence of mucoidity. According to **Derakhshan** et al., (2016), rmpA was found in 14 of the 200 K. pneumoniae isolates they studied (7.0 percent), rmpA controls extracapsular

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polysaccharide production and promotes expression of hypermucoviscous phenotype, *rmpA* has been linked to a specific liver abscess syndrome (Vila *et al.*, 2011). According to Fang *et al.*, (2005) and Struve *et al.*, (2005), *magA* is a distinct virulence factor that contributes to some *K. pneumoniae* strains' higher pathogenicity.

Using PCR, (**Zamani** *et al.*, **2013**) found *mag*A gene in 4 (3.8 percent) isolates from 101 strains of *K. pneumonia*, whereas (**Struve** *et al.*, **2005**) demonstrated that *mag*A is confined to gene cluster of *K. pneumoniae* capsule serotype K1, according to (**Fang** *et al.*, **2004**), invasive and non-invasive *K. pneumoniae* had 98% and 29% of *mag*A gene, respectively, (**Behnam** *et al.*, **2014**), proved that, 4 (2.31%) of the 173 isolates positive for *mag*A gene, while 169 (97.68%) tested negative, these results explained the fact that, with the exception of liver abscesses, the *magA* gene is rarely seen in other illnesses caused by *K. pneumoniae*.

The low indicator of iron-uptake system (kfu), a unique mechanism on the chromosome of this bacterium to absorb iron, may explain why magA was not detected in our isolates. This system is seen primarily in strains of positive magA that caused hepatic abscesses. (Fang et al., 2005). All strains that were examined displayed at least one gene related to iron absorption when grown in iron-deficient media. Kfu was the most widespread gene. Kfu also plays a significant part in sepsis and respiratory illnesses. (El-Fertas-Aissani et al., 2013).

By *PCR*. All strains were negative for *wca*G gene Fig. (5), which is disagree with (**Derakhshan** *et al.*, **2016**), of the 200 isolates, *wca*G was detected in 47 isolates (23.5%) and *rmpA* in 14 isolates (7.0%). The transferred chromosomal regions include the *wca*G gene (**Shu** *et al.*, **2009**). In relation to beta-lactamases, *bla_{TEM}* and *bla_{SHV}* were detected by PCR, all strains were positive to the *bla_{TEM}* and *bla_{SHV}* genes Fig. (6), this resistance to ampicillin was high correlated to production of acquired beta-lactamases, more than 340 b-lactamases have been described the genes which encoded by ESBLs are located in plasmids, (gene bla *c_{TX-M}*), *TEM* (*bla_{TEM}*), *PER* (*bla_{PER}*), *VEB* (*bla_{VER}*) and *SHV* (*bla_{SHV}*) are the major subgroups (**Jemima and Verghese 2008**), (**Brinas** *et al.*, **2002**) examined the occurrence of *bla_{TEM}* -,*bla_{SHV}* and *blao_{XA}*-type beta-lactamases, suggesting either *TEM* hyperproduction (**Shannon** *et al.*, **1990** and **Wu** *et al.*, **1995**), possible found of inhibitor-resistant *TEM* enzymes. The *Klebsiella* genus is where the broad-spectrum beta-lactamase *TEM-1* with action against penicillins was originally discovered (**Heritage** *et al.*, **1999**). ESBL-containing genes are linked to a number of distinct genomic architectures.

Transposons, insertion sequences, and integrons, among other mobile genetic elements, are key players in the spread of ESBL genes. *TEM*-type *ESBL* genes are acquired via mutation of plasmid-mediated, the primary generator of *TEM*-type *ESBLs*, *TEM*-1 and -2 genes, are found in the *Enterobacteriaceae* family and are found in the earliest known bacterial transposons. (Chong *et al.*, 2011).

The early diagnosis of the infection in vulnerable hosts is made possible by the molecular detection of these genes. Further research is required to contribute to the knowledge of physiological and molecular progression of disease in light of all the findings.

CONCLUSION

- -*K. pneumoniae* is one of the main reasons of respiratory diseases in broiler chickens cause severe losses among them.
- -In spite of the absence of some virulence genes of *K. pneumoniae* under study, the isolated strains' ability to cause respiratory tract illness in broiler chickens was validated, as was their link to clinical symptoms. There is proof that routine antibiotic usage in animal farming causes bacterial antibiotic resistance, which makes infection control and treatment more difficult.

The identification of virulence genes is essential for monitoring, treating and understanding the incidence of *K. pneumoniae* infection.

- These bacteria which are resistant to antibiotics, they spread among humans through direct contact and through animal-derived foods. So, reducing and elimination antibiotic use is essential. This can be accomplished through enhancing animal husbandry practices, curing animal diseases, and making the best use of already available vaccines. High sensitivity to some antibiotics still exists, despite rising resistance over time. The sensitivity of organisms to antibiotics has to be investigated in more geographically diverse investigations. Strict hygienic measures and disinfection programs in broiler chicken farms should be applied.

We should avoid miss use of antibiotics that would increase resistance of bacteria to antibiotics.

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