

Frequency and sensitivity pattern of Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamases in a tertiary care hospital laboratory of Pakistan

Madam, Two classes of ESBLs are normally prevalent. TEM and SHY types showing resistance to ceftazidime and variable resistance to cefotaxime and CTX-M types manifesting resistance to cefotaxime and variable resistance to ceftazidime.¹ Phenotypic confirmatory tests therefore cater for this by advocating testing both the antibiotics.² The authors in the study tested only cefotaxime and its combination with clavulanic acid which is against the current recommendations of NCCLS. Secondly withdrawal of anyone of the antibiotics from the phenotypic confirmatory test renders the results doubtful because one class of ESBLs have not been evaluated at all.³ The NCCLS recommendation of testing both antibiotics dates back to the year 2000.⁴ We are not aware of the NCCLS recommendations of 1999 as cited in the study. No disclaimer has been notified that new recommendations are now in vogue. It is felt that clinical laboratories in the country may be misled by the perception carried

from this study that only Cefotaxime and its combination with clavulanic acid needs to be tested for detecting ESBLs.

References

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