

TITLE: SENSITIVITY PROFILE OF CLINICAL ISOLATES OF *Klebsiella pneumoniae* OBTAINED IN HOSPITAL OF THE CITY OF PELOTAS, RS, BRAZIL.

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Klebsiella pneumoniae is an enterobacterium frequently involved in cases of nosocomial infection associated with the urinary and respiratory tract, which can lead to cases of meningitis and septicemia. The resistance of microorganisms to antibacterials is considered a public health problem according to the World Health Organization (WHO), mainly due to the continuous and indiscriminate use of these drugs. The present study aims to evaluate the sensitivity profile of clinical isolates of *K. pneumoniae* obtained from a hospital in the city of Pelotas, RS, Brazil. The following antibacterials were evaluated: ampicillin (AMP), amoxicillin + clavulanate (AMC), amikacin (AMI), cephalothin (CFL), ciprofloxacin (CIP), ceftriaxone (CNT), cefepime (CPM), ceftazidime (CFO), gentamicin (GEN), imipenem (IMP), levofloxacin (LEV), meropenem (MPM) and ampicillin + sulbactam (APS), compared to 28 isolates of *K. pneumoniae*. The analysis of the sensitivity profile of these isolates was determined using the disc diffusion technique (DD), according to the methodology proposed by Kirby & Bauer (1968). After 18 hours of incubation at 37 ° C, the diameter of the inhibition halos was measured in millimeters and interpreted as a sensitive, intermediate and resistant profile, according to the CLSI (2012) criteria. Analyzing the susceptibility profile of the antibacterials tested, we observed that the carbapenems imipenem and meropenem, along with the aminoglycosides amikacin and gentamicin, showed the best activity, inhibiting 75%, 69%, 71% and 57% (21, 19, 20 And 16) of the isolates, respectively. The others inhibited less than 40% of the isolates. Regarding the resistance profile, the highest percentages were found for ampicillin and cephalosporins cephalothin and ceftriaxone, with 96%, 93% and 89% (27, 26 and 25) of the resistant isolates, respectively. For ampicillin + sulbactam resistance was observed in 71% (20) of the isolates. For the quinolones ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin, the percentages of resistance were 64% (18), similar to those found for cephalosporins cefepime and ceftazidime (64% and 61%, respectively). The other antibacterials presented values around or below 40% of resistance. Thus, we conclude that the determination of the level of microbial resistance has great importance to guide the therapeutic protocols, therefore the genetic analysis will allow us to understand and to trace the epidemiological profile of these isolates.

Key words: antibiogram, clinical isolates, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*