MOLECULAR DETECTION OF ADHESIVE MATRIX MOLECULES FOR Staphylococcus aureus ISOLATED FROM DIFFERENT SAMPLES Falah. A. Jafaar Nuha. J. Kandala Researcher Prof.

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ABSTRACT

The Staphylococcus aureus is a ubiquitous Gram-positive bacterium, which may resident in various parts of body as a ngiormal flora, but this bacterium can also cause community and nosocomial infections, which enhanced by different virulence factors. Hence, the goal of the recent work is isolation and identification of S. aureus form different sources and investigate the capability of these isolates to synthase microbial surface components recognizing adhesive matrix molecules (MSCRAMs). For achieving this aim, a total of 326 samples were obtained from various clinical sources, including wounds, blood, acne, skin, vagina and gum. Among these samples, only 100 isolates were confirmed as S. aureus, after subjecting to conventional identification techniques as well as molecular detection of *nuc* gene utilizing PCR technique. The molecular investigation of *mecA* gene was carried out for confirmation of the methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA). The results show 70 isolates were MRSA and the rest of these isolates were regarded as methicillin-sensitive S. aureus (MSSA). The investigation of virulence factor presence was carried out by molecular detection of nine genes (*fnbA*, *fnbB*,*eno*, *ebps*, *fib*, *bbp*,*clfA*, *clfB*, and *cna*), which encode to MSCRAMs of S. aureus. The findings revealed that the majority of MRSA isolates harbored *clfA* (52%% of total isolates), followed by eno, clfB, fib, bbp, fnbA, fnbB, ebps, and cna with (35, 34, 33, 25, 22, 21, 19 and 16%), respectively. This study indicates that different of MRSA isolates may harbor one or more these genes in different distribution.

Keywords: MRSA, virulence factor genes, MSCRAMs.

جعفر وقندلا

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التحري الجزيئي عن الجزيئات المصفوفة اللاصقة لعزلات بكتيريا المكورات العنقودية الذهبية السريرية المقاومة للميثيسيلين

المعزولة من عينات مختلفة

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المستخلص

بكتريا المكورات العنقودية الذهبية هي بكتيريا موجبةلصيغة كرام واسعة الانتشار يمكن ان تتواجد في أجزاء متنوعة من الجسم كبكتريا طبيعية لكنه ممكن لهذه البكتريا ان تسبب عدوى في المجتمع والمستشفياتبوجود عوامل ضراوة مختلفة. لذا هدف هذا البحث هو عزل وتشخيص بكتريا المكورات العنقودية الذهبية من مصادر مختلفة وتحري قدرة هذه العزلات على انتاج مكونات السطح الميكروبية التي تتعرف على جزيئات المصفوفة اللاصقة (MSCRAMs). ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، تم حمع 326 عينة من مصادر سربرية مختلفة شملت الجروح والدم والجلا والمهبل واللثة, 100 عينة شخصت على انتاج مكونات السطح الميكروبية التي تتعرف على جزيئات المصفوفة اللاصقة (MSCRAMs). ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، تم حمع 326 عينة من مصادر سربرية مختلفة شملت الجروح والدم والجلا والمهبل واللثة, 100 عينة شخصت على انها بكتريا المكورات العنقودية الذهبية، اعتمادا على طرقالتشخيص التقليدية بالإضافة الى التحري الجزيئي للمورثكاس باستخدام تقنية تفاعل على انها بكتريا المكورات العنقودية الذهبية، اعتمادا على طرقالتشخيص التقليدية بالإضافة الى التحري الجزيئي للمورثلس باستخدام تقنية تفاعل على انها بكتريا المكورات العنقودية الذهبية، اعتمادا على طرقالتشخيص التقليدية بالإضافة الى التحري الجزيئي للمورثلاس باستخدام تقنية تفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل. تم الكشف الجزيئي على المورث المشفر للمقاومة للميثيسيلين MRSA. تم التحري عن المورثات المشفرة لبعض عوامل الضراوة من خلال الكشف الجزيئي عن تسع مورثات (MSCRAMS). ولتحري على المورث المشفر للمقاومة للميثيسيلين MRSA. تم التحري عن المورثات المشفرة لبعض عوامل الضراوة من خلال الكشف الجزيئي عن تسع مورثات (MRSA). اظهرت النتائج ان غالبية العزلات معور مرابل ورابلة على مورثات المشر المقاومة للميثيسيلين MRSA. والم شرور المرابل في تشغو الى عرفرة المورث المشفر للمقاومة للميثيسيلين MRSA. تم التحري عن المورثات المشور المورث المفرة لبعض عوامل الضراوة من خلال الكشف محمو معز له معور أله مالمورث المشفر للمقاومة للميثيسيلين موموم والم أمر ورابل الملامي المورثات المفرة لبعض عوام الحواوة م المقومة للميثيسلين معروثات (MRSA مائمة, *fib, fnbB, eno, ebps, fib, bbp, clfa, clfa, ورابق و ولو واله ولما و ولما و ولما و ولوا و وولع و ولما و ولما و ولما و ولام و ولام و ولما و ولام و ولوا و ولوم و مرام و ولام و ولم و مرام و ولام و*

الكلمات مفتاحية: MRSA, جينات عوامل الضراوة، MSCRAMs.

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INTRODUCTION

The Staphylococcus aureus is a ubiquitous Gram-positive bacterium, which may resident in various parts of body, especially skin and mucous membrane, as a human normal flora (8,44). In some cases, this bacterium can cause both community and nosocomial infections, fatal pneumonia. including bacteremia. osteomyelitis, infective endocarditis, mild skin and soft tissue infections (28). Cells of S. aureus is arranged in "clusters of grapes" as shown in microscopic field with size (approximately $\sim 0.8 \mu m$ in diameter). This bacterium can aerobically or anaerobically grow at 37°C and neutral pH (7.4). On blood agar, β-hemolysis characteristic was observed as a clear zone around their colonies (1, 19). Methicillin resistance Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is recognized as S. aureus strain that possessed multi-drug resistant ability against various types of β -lactam antibiotics, including derivatives of penicillin (oxacillin, methicillin, etc.). This ability can develop via either a natural selection or acquired as a result of horizontal gene transfer (21). At molecular scale, the *mecA* gene is show its responsibility for encode the penicillin-binding protein 2a (PBPa), results in a reduction of binding affinity for β -lactam antibiotics, especially penicillinase-resistant penicillin(29). The MSCRAMMs, which are collection of virulence factors, are the bacterial cell wallassociated proteins, which aid the bacterium for its adherence to extracellular matrix components of host, such as bone sialoprotein, vitronectin, von Willebrand factor, elastin, collagen, fibronectin and fibrinogen (66). About twenty various potential MSCRAMMs expressed by S. aureus were investigated. MSCRAMMs, These including bone sialoprotein-binding protein Bbp (Zhang et al. 2015), elastin-binding protein EbpS (12).fibrinogen binding protein fib (63), collagenprotein(50), fibronectin-binding binding protein fnbA and fnbB (43), fibrinogenbinding proteins ClfA and ClfB (35), as well as α -enolase, which facilitate *S*, *aureus* for attaching to laminin of blood vessel(33). In addition, these molecules are attached to peptidoglycan via covalent links by enzymatic reaction of sortase (22). The goal of the resent workis to evaluate some virulence genes of S.

aureus isolated from different clinical locations in order to detect the distribution of different variants of highly divergent gene encoding the MSCRAMMs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of clinical specimens: A total of three hundred twenty-six clinical samples were supplied from cases with varied infections, including vagina, acne, nasal cavity, wounds, gums and skin, with ensure gained an approval the College of Science Research Ethics Committee based on (CSEC/0122/0045) during the period from February 2022 to April 2022. All these samples were supplied from AL – Karama Hospital in Baghdad.

Bacterial isolation and identification

All samples were isolated from vagina, acne, nasal cavity, wounds, gums and skin, were plated on varied media, including blood agar, MacConkey and mannitol salt agar plates, then incubated at 37° C for 24h. The morphological and biochemical examination were carried out for identification of the bacterial isolates of *S. aureus* (11). In addition, the molecular diagnosis was carried out using PCR technique for *nuc* gene detection to ensure the genus and species of *S. aureus* (51).

Antimicrobial susceptibility test

The disk diffusion method, as specified in Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines, was utilized in order to carry out this test. The antimicrobial discs that utilized in this work were supplied by Himedia/India as antimicrobial disc (symbol, ug/disc):Nitrofurantoin (NIT. 300). Erythromycin (E, 15), Clindamycin (CD, 2), Chloramphenicol (C/30), Gentamycin (GEN, 10), Doxycycline (DO, 30), Ciprofloxacin (CIP, 5), Penicillin-G (P, 10), Tigecycline (TGC, 15), Rifampicin (RIF, 5), Azithromycin (AZM, 15), Linezolid (LZ, 30), Levofloxacin (LE, 5), Tetracycline (TE, 30), Ofloxacin Norfloxacin (OFX. 5). (NX, 10), Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (SXT, 23.75/1.25), Vancomycin (VA, 30) and Oxacillin (OX, 1). The results were represented as sensitive, intermediate and resistant based on (CLSI, 2014, 2022).

Molecular detection of (*nuc* and *mecA*) genes using PCR technique

DNA Extraction: For all isolates, the genomic DNA was extracted using (Geneaid/Korea) kit.

The purity and concentration of extracted genomic DNA were measured and its integrity was estimated using gel electrophoresis method.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) amplification: The thermal cycler machine was utilized for amplification of all PCR reactions (labenet- USA). The reaction mixture was offered as follows: 12.5µl from the Go Tag®Green Master-Mix provided by (Biolabs-England) that contains Taq DNA polymerase, MgCl₂, deoxynucleotides (dNTP), reactions buffer, and two dyes (yellow and green) that allow monitoring of progress throughout electrophoresis, 0.7µl of each (10 pmol) primer, 1µl of template-DNA, and adding sterile D.W to obtain a total volume of 25 microliter. All amplification reactions were carried out in an aseptic laminar air flow

cabinet. The negative control reaction had all of the components but no DNA template so that any contaminating DNA in the reaction would be amplified and detected on an agarose gel (Thermo, USA). Molecular detection of (nuc and mecA) genes utilizing PCR technique In order to conformed the isolates were S. aureus, the presence of nuc gene was investigated (17). The sequence of *nuc* gene primer and amplicon size of these primers were mentioned as in Table (1), whereas the nuc gene amplification steps were listed in Table (2). The detection of mecA gene was investigated using PCR reaction for confirmed the MRSA isolates(Zhang et al. 2005). The sequence of primer and the amplicon size of these primers were mentioned in Table (1), while the *mecA* gene amplification steps were listed in Table (2).

Table1. Oligonucleotide primers sequences and amplicon sizes of *nuc* and *mecA* genes

		····· I. ·····	
Primer	Sequence (5'-3')		Size of amplicon (bp)
nuc–R	AGCCAAGCCTTGACGAA	CTAAAGC	279
<i>nuc–</i> F	GCGATTGATGGTGATA	ACGGTT	
mecA -R	ATGCGCTATAGATTGA	AAGGAT	147
mecA -F	GTGAAGATATACCAAG	GTGATT	
Table	2. The PCR analysis progr	am of <i>nuc</i> and <i>mec</i> .	A primers
The steps	Temperatures (°C)	Period	No. cycles
Initial denaturation	95	5 minutes	
Denaturation	94	30second	
Annealing	56	1minutes	30
Extensions	72	30second	

Final extensions72Molecular Detection of Virulence factorsThe identification of S. aureus virulencefactors genes was performed(20), the PCRreaction was carried out using specific primersfor the investigation of the genes of

MSCRAMMs among 70 MRSA isolates, the sequences and amplicon sizes of primer were supplied as in Table (3) and the program of PCR analysis was mentioned in Table (4).

Table 3.	Primer	sequences and	d amplicon	sizes o	of <i>nuc</i> and	mecA	genes
							B

5 minutes

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Primers	Sequences (5' to 3')	Product size(bp)
Dh.,	F: AACTACATCTAGTACTCAACAACAG-3	574
вор	R: ATGTGCTTGAATAACACCATCATCT-3	5/4
Fno	F: ACGTGCAGCAGCTGACT-3	301
LIIU	R: CAACAGCATCTTCAGTACCTTC-3	501
Fhng	F: CATCCAGAACCAATCGAAGAC-3	199
Enhs	R: AGTTACATCATCATGTTTATCTTTTG-3	100
ana	F: AAAGCGTTGCCTAGTGGAGA-3	102
Clia	R: AGTGCCTTCCCAAACCTTTT-3	192
fh D	F: GTAACAGCTAATGGTCGAATTGATACT	524
IIIDD	R: CAAGTTCGATAGGAGTACTATGTTC	524
fnh A	F: CATAAATTGGGAGCAGCATCA	128
InbA	R: ATCAGCAGCTGAATTCCCATT	128
alfD	R: TTCGCACTGTTTGTGTTTGCAC	204
СПВ	F: ACATCAGTAATAGTAGGGGGCAAC	204
-164	F: ATTGGCGTGGCTTCAGTGCT	266
CIIA	R: CGTTTCTTCCGTAGTTGCATTTG	200
T.,F	F: CTACAACTACAATTGCGTCAACAG	405
F IU	R: GCTCTTGTAAGACCATTTTCTTCAC	405

	Table 4. The PCR	analysis pro	gram of virulence	factor genes
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The steps	Temperatures	Period	No. of cycles
Initial Denaturation	95	5 minutes	
Denaturation	94	30 second	
Annealing	(54,56*,58)	1 minutes	30
Extensions	72	30 second	
Final extensions	72	5 minutes	
1 14		1 11 (14) 5	

* Optimal annealing range

RESEULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identification Isolation and of Staphylococcus aureus: A 326samples were obtained from AL-Karama hospital in Baghdad, as follows: 52 blood samples, 95 wound swabs, 17 acne swabs, 64 skin, 25 nasal cavity, 32 vaginal swabs, 41 gum. Primarily, all bacterial isolates were subjected to morphological examination, include gram staining, culturing on, blood agarandmannitol salt agarplates. Among these isolates, only one hundred sixty isolates were observed as grampositive purple coccus populations in clusters with grape-like under light microscopic, given β -hemolysis on blood agar plates as well as shown their tolerance to the high concentration of NaCl, fermentation of mannitol and form vellow colonies on agar. After performing biochemical examinations, one hundred isolates were given catalase-positive, coagulase-positive and oxidase-negative) for ensuring that these isolates were S. aureus. Hence, the result of examinationswas revealed that only 100 (30.7%) of isolates were S. aureus, represented as follows: 26 blood samples, 39 wound swabs, 8 acne swabs, 7 skin, 5 nasal cavity, 4 vaginal swabs, 11 gum. All these isolates were subjected to further examinations. Various studies were reported that wounds are common source for isolate this bacterium (32,45,29). Despite the fact that most skin infections are self-limiting, they might occasionally serve as a portal for this bacterium to penetrate deeper tissues and the bloodstream. In fact, the most prevalence origin of S. aureus bacteremia is skin diseases (68; Yarovoy et al. 2019). Bacteremia, caused by S. aureus, is a main event for the onset of sepsis, a systemic inflammatory response to infection (4). Significant in vitro evidence points to a probable pathogenetic role for S. aureus in acne vulgaris(42). The rates of S. aureus skin colonization are quite low(60), and compared to other bacteria that colonize the skin, the abundance levels are hardly

detectable(41). Despite this, 76% of all soft tissue and skin infections are produced by S. aureus(38), resulting in ten million nosocomial infections every year (25). The bacteria are typically found in the nasal vestibule of about 35% of people who appear to be in good condition (2). The bacterium can also continue to exist as a typical vaginal resident(58). It has long been known that staphylococci are part of the oral flora. Additionally, a significant of oral infections number (include staphylococcal mucositis, parotitis, angular cheilitis) are caused by these bacteria (34).

Antibiotic susceptibility test

Nineteen antibiotic discs were utilized for evaluation of the antibiotic susceptibility of S. aureus, as mentioned in the Table 1. Based on the results which illustrated in Figure 1.,all examined S. aureus isolates were sensitive to nitrofurantoin NIT. linezolid LZ and tigecycline TGC, but they were resistant to penicillin G. In addition, the majority of these isolates were sensitive to most of antibiotics (Chloramphenicol rifampicin C, RIF. gentamycin GEN, ciprofloxacin CIP, Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole SXT, clindamycin CD, ofloxacin OFX, norfloxacin NX, doxycycline DO and vancomycin with 88, 88, 85, 81, 77, 77, 75, 74, 67%, 96%, respectively). Conversely, 53% and 57% of these isolates were resistant to erythromycin E and azithromycin AZM. A 68% of isolates intermediate were against oxacillin *Staphylococcus* has developed aureus resistance to many antibiotics as a result of the determinants acquisition by the mobile genetic elements and the horizontal transfer of genes (30). S. aureus released a β -lactamase that breakdown the β -lactam bond and destroys the activity of β -lactam antibiotics, including penicillin (18).Gentamicin was first employed in the 1970s to treat major S. aureus-caused hospitalized diseases; however, its application was hampered by the appearance of great resistances that was encoded by mobile genetic elements. Tigecycline is significantly more

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effective than tetracycline and is still effective against tetracycline-resistant bacteria(18). When treating S. aureus bacteremia or endocarditis, rifampicin has been suggested as an adjuvant treatment to be used in conjunction with a glycopeptides or betalactam (in MSSA)(56). In the clinic, semisynthetic macrolides, including telithromycin, clarithromycin, and azithromycin, are utilized for treatment of infectious diseases caused by bacteria other than *S. aureus*(18).Overexpression of chromosomally encoded efflux pumps is a common mechanism by which clinical isolates acquire resistances to fluoroquinolones such as norfloxacin and ciprofloxacin (27).



Figure 1. The antibiotic susceptibility testing for the examined isolates

Although linezolid resistance is still fairly uncommon in clinical isolates, MRSA, including the pandemic ST22-MRSA-IV clone, has been shown to acquire plasmids that resistance determinant encode the of Cfr(59).Linezolid's binding site is highly similar to that of chloramphenicol and probably drugs with other similar structures(67). In the case of conjunctivitis, chloramphenicol is applied topically only. In patients with penicillin hypersensitivity or infections caused by MSSA, clindamycin is an essential treatment agent (55). It is becoming increasingly apparent that SXT, one of many understudied alternatives for MRSA decolonization, may be useful in reducing MRSA infections in some situations. In the case of less severe, community-acquired infections, the scant evidence on its treatment efficacy is promising. It's possible that SXT can be utilized as an alternative, low-cost weapon in the fight against MRSA. Additional clinical trials are necessary to clarify its rapidly efficacy against this evolving pathogen(48). In comparison between the phenotypic and genotypic detection of methicillin-resistance ability of isolates in the current study, only 11 (15.7%) isolates from 70 (100%) of MRSA were resistant to

oxacillin, while the rest of these isolates were intermediate. Proper patient therapy and application of institutional programs to recognize and manage MRSA outbreaks and cross-infection rely on precise and fast detection of MRSA isolates(10). Despite carrying the *mecA* gene, the vast majority of hospital-acquired MRSA strains exhibit homogenous methicillin resistance.(53,13).Some strains of NMDR MRSA have troublesome borderline MICs and show a great heterogeneous resistance to methicillin/oxacillin in vitro. A minor, rapid diagnostic test that could reveal the expression of oxacillin/methicillin resistances in MRSA would greatly facilitate patients in the selection of efficient antibiotic therapy plans and the monitoring of infectious disease outbreaks(13).

Molecular identification and characterization of S. aureus: After the morphological and biochemical examinations of S. aureus, further tests required to confirmed these isolates were S. aureus. In this context, PCR technique was utilized for detection of *nuc* gene which is present only in this species. One of the most distinctive and useful traits that could be used to distinguishes. aureus from other

staphylococcus spp. is the production of an extracellular thermostable nuclease, encoded by the *nuc* gene, which is an effective marker gene for identifying *S. aureus* by PCR (Zhang et al. 2004). The results revealed that all

isolates were carried this gene, which in turn ensure that these isolates were *S. aureus*, as in following Figure (2). It was reported that all *S. aureus* isolates harbored *nuc* gene 70).



Figure 2. Gel electrophoresis in agarose for (279 bp) for *nuc* gene amplification using PCR among *S. aureus* isolates in in agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts

Molecular detection of *mecA* gene for identification of MRSA: The best detection for accurate identification of MRSA is detection of methicillin resistant gene (*mecA*) in the examined isolates using PCR with certain primer sequences as listed in Table (2). Among 100 isolates of *S. aureus*, 70 isolates (70%) were MRSA (*mecA* positive) while 30 isolates (30%) were MSSA (*mecA* negative) (Figure -3). This finding is agreed with (54)who reported that *mecA* gene were

presented in 98.7% of MRSA. Hence, any *S. aureus* possessed this gene, indicated as MRSA. β -lactam resistance was observed due to existence of *mecA* gene according to (7) who reported that this gene existed in all MRSA, which cause the resistance of bacteria by encode to production of protein-binding proteins (PBPs) which have low affinity for β -lactams. In addition, it was reported that all *S. aureus* contain *mecA* gene (2).



Figure 3. Gel electrophoresis for *mecA* gene (147bp) amplification using PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* in agarose (2%) for 90minutes under 70 volts. Lane (1): negative control, lanes (2,3,5,6,8,9,10 and 11): isolates with positive of *mecA* gene and lanes (4,7): isolates with negative result of *mecA* gene

Molecular analysis of virulence factors According to the findings of this study as showed in Table (5) and figures (4,5,6,7,8,9,10), the most prevalent virulence genes from MRSA isolates detected was *clfA*(52%), followed by *eno*, *clfB*,*fib*, *bbp*, *fnbA*, *fnbB*, *ebps*, and *cna* with (35, 34, 33, 25, 22, 21, 19 and 16%), respectively (figure4. there are variations in distribution of virulence factor genes among the isolates of MRSA, one wound isolate among 70 MRSA isolates were positive to all virulence genes (*fnbA*, *fnbB*,*eno*, *ebps*, *fib*, *bbp*,*clfA*, *clfB*, and *cna*), while two isolates (from wound and blood) harbored eight of these genes., but one acne isolate harbored seven of these genes. whereas 8

isolates showed negative results among all virulence factor genes. S. aureus can attach and colonized with existence of the clumping factor. Several researches were reported the prevalence of these clumping factors in S. aureus which isolated from various sites. Klein et al. revealed 91.8% of bacteria contain clfB (31). Whereas Atshan et al. detected clfA. B genes in all strains(6). Furthermore, it was observed that *clfA* gene presented in approximately 20% of mastitis-causing S. aureus(37). In addition, Ghasemian et al. reported that regardless of where an infection may have occurred, every MRSA strain possessed clfA and clfB. Indeed, clfAB and fnbAB genes are common in all S. aureus which isolated from Sepsis and the strongbiofilm producing bacteria. The *fib* gene was observed in all strains of S. aureus(9). Both of eno and can genes be prevalent in bacteria with 82% and 63%, respectively(20). Another study showed that *cna* gene present in 78.4% of isolates (40) and in 46% of isolates(5). By contrast, only 9% of bacteria (isolated from catheters and blood infection) shows the presence of *bbp* gene. The most common virulence genes were *ica*, *ebps*, *bbp*, *cna*, *clfB* and *clfA*, in isolates of *S. aureus* that related with catheter(74). Only one isolate was harbored *bbp* as what reported by (62). It has been shown that the infection source can have a major impact in determination of the patterns and expressions of the most important types of genes required for S. aureus attachment (20).

Gene	clfA	clfB	fnbA	fnbB	ebps	fib	bbP	cna	Eno
Source									
Wound	23	17	9	14	10	19	17	6	16
Blood	14	11	5	6	3	8	4	6	11
Acne	5	1	4	1	1	3	2	2	3
Skin	1	2	2	-	2	1	2	2	2
Nasal	3	3	2	-	3	2	-	-	2
Cavity									
Vagina	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gum	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	52	34	22	21	19	33	25	16	35
No. (%)									
No. (%)									

Table 5. The distribution of the studied virulence factors in MRSA isolates

70 samples

The initial stage in any infection is for the pathogen to attach to components of the host epidermal surface (like keratinocytes. fibrinogen or fibronectin). The virulence proteins of S. aureus attach to collagen and bone matrix with the facilities of a group of wall-anchored adhesins of staphylococcal cell, known as MSCRAMMs(14). Staphylococci stick to the extracellular matrix of host via MSCRAMMs on the surface of S. aureus(66). Staphylococcus aureus adheres to fibrinogen, elastin, and fibronectin (Fn) via FnBPA and B. By adhering to Fn in the extracellular matrix of the tissues, FnBPs aid S. aureus in colonizing and infecting the host. The bacterium S. aureus adheres to and then invades a broad ranges of mammalian cells, like keratinocytes (36), osteoblasts (3). endothelial cells (52), fibroblasts (65) and epithelial cells (16). In addition, it is well established that the attaching of S. aureus to platelets is a key event in the progression of endocarditis infection. There are two distinct phases to this procedure. In the first step, staphylococci engage with resting platelets, activating the integrin GPIIb/IIIa to stimulate intracellular signaling. Furthermore. vegetations and thrombi on the heart valve's surfaces are formed in part by active platelets aggregating together. From the exponential phase of growth onward, the FnBPs expressed on the Staphylococcal surfaces are the primary platelet activating factors(61). It is hypothesized that FnBPs cause biofilm development by facilitating the creation of hemophilic, Zn^{2+-} manv low-affinity, dependent connections between the A domains of FnBPB or FnBPA on neighboring cells(24). It has been reported that part A of FnBPs appears to be a fruitful target for the development of staphylococcal vaccines due to its strong immunogenicity of this part. In addition, role of these FnBPs in several diseases. include infective endocarditis.

pneumonia, bacteremia and Sepsis, has been reported in different studies (61). Figure (4) show both of *fnbA* and *fnbB* genes in several *S*. *aureus* isolates.



Figure 4. Gel electrophoresis for genes amplification utilizing PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* in agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts. A- M: ladder of DNA, NC: Negative control, lanes (1-5) positive result for *fnbA gene* (128 bp) bands B-M: ladder of DNA, NC: Negative control, Lane (6 and 8):isolates show negative result for *fnbB*, lanes (1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10): isolates show positive result of *fnbB gene*(524 bp) bands

The MSCRAMMs, ClfA and ClfB are two proteins from *S. aureus*(35). Clumping factor A is an essential virulence factor in several infection models, including rat experimental endocarditis, murine sepsis and septic arthritis and rabbit infective endocarditis. It is possible that ClfA acts as a virulence factor in certain infections by inhibiting phagocytosis, as well as promoting attachment to fibrin and fibrinogen. It appears that being coated with either immunoglobulin or fibrinogen, or a mixture of both, is sufficient to impede phagocytosis (26). By binding host ligands cytokeratin 10 and loricrin in the nasal mucosa, ClfB was thought to play a key role in enabling *S. aureus* nasal colonization(39). The figure 5 include *clfA* and *clfB* genes among *S. aureus* isolates.



Figure 5.Gel electrophoresis in agarose for gene amplification utilizing PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* in agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts. A-M: ladder of DNA, NC: Negative control, lanes (1-5): *clfA* (288 bp) bands, lane (6): isolate negative result for *clfA*, B- M: ladder of DNA, NC: Negative control, lanes (2,4) isolates harbored *clfB* gene, (1,3,5): isolate not harbored *clfB* gene

Moreover, elastin-binding protein (EbpS), on surface of *S. aureus*, attached into elastin, which is an important structural protein whose primary physiological role is to confer the property of reversible elasticity to tissues and organs(49). Laminin-binding proteins are important bacterial adhesins, since this protein is located in all tissue's types as networks, conferring a greatly cross-linked property to ECM.S. aureus exhibits elastin-mediated adhesion, which is mediated by fibronectinbinding protein A (FnBPA) and elastinbinding protein S (EbpS)(57). In Figure 6, some of *S. aureus* harbored *ebps* genes.



Figure 6. Gel electrophoresis in agarose for (188bp) of *ebps* gene amplification using PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* .NC: negative control, lanes (4,5): positive result ; lanes (1,2,3,6): negative result(no band).

 α -enolase is a multifunctional protein that serves as crucial glycolytic enzymes in the cytoplasm of both eukaryotes and prokaryotes. Multiple cell types express alpha-enolase, which serves as a receptor for plasminogen and thereby concentrates proteolytic plasmin action at the cell surface. While their roles as plasminogen receptors and glycolytic enzymes are well-established, α -enolase also possess other cellular activities and subcellular localizations. In addition, a variety of diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, Alzheimer's and cancer, have been linked to a-enolase expression differences(15). alpha-enolases are plasminogen- and laminin-binding proteins in *Staphylococcus aureus*(33). In this study, several isolates harbored *eno* gene was investigated using PCR as shown in Figure



Figure 7. Gel electrophoresis in agarose for (301 bp) of *eno* gene amplification using PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* in agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts.M: ladder of DNA, NC: negative control, lanes (1-12): positive result of *S. aureus isolates*

Moreover, the collagen (Cn)-binding protein Cna is a prototype of the MSCRAMMs that

has an essential function in staphylococcal pathogenesis, both as an immune evasion

factor and as adherence factor. Septic arthritis has been shown to have cna as a virulence factor, and the degree of adhesion to collagen is correlated with the development of the disease. In addition, Cna binds to complement protein C1q and block the classical pathway of complement fixation(23).*can* genes be investigated in the examined isolates of *S*. *aureus* in this study as observed in the figure (8).



Figure 8. Gel electrophoresis in agarose for (192bp) of *cna* gene amplification using PCR among isolates of *S. aureus*in agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts. M: ladder of DNA, NC: negative control, lanes (4,7): positive result (bands of *can* genes), lanes (1,2,3,5,6): negative result (no *cna* band).

During vascular trauma, different enzymes stimulate clotting of blood through a cascade reaction which converts fibrinogen to fibrin. *S. aureus* interacts with fibrinogen in several ways, producing different proteinous components that attach specifically to this 340kDa plasma protein. Several different

fibrinogen-binding proteins (fibs) from *S. aureus* are synthase. Cell surface-related proteins, the clumping factors of 92 kDa, are the major mediators of adherence to fibrin (46). The figure (9) shows the *fib* genes in *S. aureus* isolates in the current study.



Figure 9. Gel electrophoresis in agarose for (405bp) of *fib* gene amplification using PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* in agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts. M: ladderof DNA, NC: negative control, lanes (1-5): positive result (bands of *fib* gene).

Additionally, it has been reported the specific interaction between bone sialoprotein-binding protein (BbP), an extracellular matrix (ECM) glycoprotein of 59 000 Da, found only in bone and dentine and *S. aureus* cells. This

interaction is may related with the understanding of pathogenetic mechanisms in osteomyelitis. This is explained by some facts: (i) The S. aureus strains that cause infections in bone and joint tissue primarily bind selectively to BbP; and (ii) particularly high concentrations of BSP are found in the osteoid, the newly formed bone tissue of growing bone, which is considered as the most prevalent location for osteomyelitis. S. aureus cellsurface-associated proteins that interact with ECM components are structurally and organizationally similar to the Bbp. FnBPA/B, ClfB, ClfA and Can, are all examples(64). The figure 10 show *bps* genes of *S. aureus* in this study.



Figure 10. Gel electrophoresis in agarose for (188bp) of *bps* gene amplification using PCR among isolates of *S. aureus* in (agarose (2%), for 90minutes under 70 volts. M: ladderof DNA, NC: negative control, lanes (2,3,4): positive result (bands of *bps* gene), lanes (1,4): negative result (no band for *bps*).

The current study concluded that the majority of *S. aureus* was MRSA. The prevalence of *clfA* gene was higher than others genes. Moreover, different of MRSA isolates may harbor one or more these genes in different distribution.

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